

**I-866-OUR-VOTE  
(1-866-687-8683)****Disclaimer:**

This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision making.

**VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS****1) How can I register to vote?**

The voter registration application can be downloaded from the New Jersey state election website at [http://njelections.org/form\\_pdf/Voter-reg-app\(web\)10.18.07.pdf](http://njelections.org/form_pdf/Voter-reg-app(web)10.18.07.pdf). The form is also available in Spanish, Cantonese, Gujarati, Korean, and Mandarin. Your application must be filled out and mailed or delivered to the Superintendent of Elections or Commissioners of Registration office in the county where you live. For further details on where to send your application, see [http://njelections.org/loc\\_officials\\_doe.html](http://njelections.org/loc_officials_doe.html). You can use the same voter registration application if you have changed your name or address since you last registered to vote.

You may also register in-person at the Division of Elections, the Commissioners of Registration offices, the Division of Motor Vehicle offices, the Municipal Clerk offices, and at the following agencies if you are applying for assistance:

- New Jersey Medical Assistance and Health Services Program,
- WIC (Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infant & Children),
- Work First New Jersey Programs,
- Division of Developmental Disabilities,
- Office of Disability Services - Department of Human Services - Public Offices,
- Armed Forces of the United States Recruitment Offices,
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services - Department of Labor,
- Commission of the Blind & Visually Impaired, or
- County Welfare Agency or County Board of Social Services.

**2) Can I register using the National Voter Registration Form?**

Yes. It can be downloaded at: <http://www.eac.gov/voter/Register%20to%20Vote>. You must be certain that your name, address, and date of birth are legibly completed and that the form is signed.

**3) Can I register to vote using a photocopied voter registration form?**

Yes. Copies of the New Jersey Voter Registration Application are acceptable. However, the signature on submitted applications must be original. Faxed copies or electronic transmissions of the completed form are not acceptable.

**4) Is all of my voter registration information publicly available?**

No. The county clerk will provide copies of the voter registry to any voter who asks for \$0.25 per copy of the list of voters of each election district. The county clerk also automatically gives copies of the registry lists to each district board, the superintendent of elections of the county, the chairmen of the county committees of each political party, the municipal clerk of each municipality in the county, and the county board. Upon request, the county clerk will also give the lists to the chairman of the State committee for any political party. The voter lists cannot include your signature. Additionally, use of voter registration lists for commercial or charitable solicitation of the voters listed is prohibited. Failure to following this prohibition will result in a fine of \$500.

In addition to the county clerk, the commissioner of registration must also provide a copy of the registered voters list in any or all election districts in a county to any voter requesting it. The voter will be charged the cost of reproducing the list not to exceed \$375.

Also note that there is an exception for victims of domestic violence, see **Question 7** below.

**5) Are there restrictions regarding pre-filling information on registration forms?**

There are no restrictions on pre-filling information; only the signature must be original. See **Question 3**.

## **COMPLETING VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS**

**6) How long must I live in New Jersey before I am eligible to register to vote?**

You are eligible to register to vote in the county in which you currently live if you will have been a resident there at least 30 days before an election.

**7) Are there any restrictions on the address I use to register to vote?**

In general, your statement that an address in New Jersey is your residence is sufficient to demonstrate that it is your domicile such that you can register to vote there.

Use of a P.O. Box is not permitted. Homeless persons may complete the address portion of the registration form by providing a contact point or the location where they spend most of their time.

Lodging houses, inns, or hotels may be used as voting residences if you tell your landlord, proprietor, lessee, or keeper of your intent to claim the place as your voting residence and the landlord, proprietor, lessee, or keeper files a sworn statement with the superintendent verifying that you live there.

If you were the victim of domestic violence or stalking, have obtained permanent restraining orders against a person, and fear death or bodily injury from that person, you are allowed to register to vote without disclosing your street address. This also applies to your immediate family members. If this applies to you, you can leave the space for a street address on the registration form blank and instead attach a copy of the restraining order and a note with a mailing address, P.O. box, or contact point where you receive mail.

**8) Can I vote in New Jersey if I am here as a student?**

Yes. Students who plan to return to their previous residences are still allowed to register to vote at their college residences.

**9) Do I need to show ID at any point in the voter registration or voting process?**

No, provided you registered in person.

If you registered to vote for the first time by mail after January 1, 2003, you must provide either your New Jersey driver's license number, the last four digits of your social security number or a copy of one of the following:

- A current and valid photo identification card,
- A current utility bill, bank statement, government check, or pay check,
- Any other government document that shows the individual's name and current address, or
- Any other identifying document that the Attorney General has determined to be acceptable for this purpose. This includes a driver's license; a student, job, military, government, or store membership ID; a passport; a car registration; a rent receipt; or a sample ballot.

If you registered in person, or if you registered by mail and provided one of the above forms of identification, you do not need to show ID when you vote.

**10) What are the rules regarding missing or illegible information on registration forms?**

You must provide the following information on your voter registration application:

- Type of application;
- Whether you will be 18 years of age by the next election;
- US citizenship;
- Full name;
- Date of birth;
- Address;
- Address of last voter registration, if any;
- Former name if making a change;
- Gender;
- New Jersey driver's license number, last four digits of social security number, or other identifying information set forth in **Question 9**, and
- Signed and dated declaration affirming your citizenship status, address, that you will be 18 years of age on or before the next election, residence in the State and county for at least 30 days before the next election, and that you are not on parole, probation, or serving a sentence due to a conviction for an indictable offense under any federal or state laws.

Your application will be rejected if it is unintelligible, if you did not sign the application, or if your name and address are unintelligible or not properly completed. If other portions of the application are not properly completed, or if the application is distorted or altered such that all of the required information is not provided, it will be declared incomplete and the county commissioner of registration will return it to you for proper completion if the it contains a name and mailing address.

**11) I have changed my name since I originally registered. Can I still vote using my old registration?**

Yes. If you have not re-registered you can still vote under your previous name if you sign the signature copy register with both your registered name and your new name. The commissioner of registration will then revise your name accordingly.

## **REGISTERING OTHERS TO VOTE**

**12) What are the laws regarding third-party registration?**

According to officials in the elections office, at this time the state has no regulations for third-party registrations. However, the office advises that those wishing to run a voter registration drive should contact the persons owning or running that location for any further approval.

**13) Are there any laws regarding submission of voter registration forms by individuals receiving compensation?**

No.

**14) Do I need to obtain special training to conduct a voter registration drive?**

No.

**15) Do I have to be a county or state resident to work on a voter registration drive there?**

No.

## **REGISTRATION DEADLINES**

**16) What is the deadline to register to vote?**

For this year's general election, the deadline is October 14, 2008. The registration deadline is 21 days before Election Day.

**17) Is Election Day registration allowed?**

No. See **Question 16**.

**18) Is the registration form submission deadline different from the voter registration deadline?**

No. See **Question 12**.

**19) Does state election law allow for early or absentee voting?**

New Jersey does not have early voting but does provide for absentee voting. Individuals eligible to vote by absentee ballot are:

- Military personnel who have lived in the state and county for at least 30 days and are absent from the election district due to military service, work, status, or relationship;

- Military personnel, or their spouses and dependents, stationed on a base within the state, who wish to vote in that municipality, and who are registered to vote in the election district where they reside; or
- Any qualified and registered voter of the state who wants to vote by absentee ballot.

## **VOTER REGISTRATION LEGISLATION**

### **20) Is there any pending legislation that affects voter registration? If so, where is it in the legislative process?**

No. For updated information on pending legislation, see [www.njleg.state.nj.us/bills/bills0001.asp](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bills/bills0001.asp).

### **21) Where can I find New Jersey’s voter registration statutes?**

To read more of the New Jersey statutes applicable to voter registration, see Title 19 of the New Jersey Code Annotated and Title 13, Section 17 of the New Jersey Administrative Code, specifically:

- N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:31-1 through 19:31-34 and N.J. Admin. Code §§ 13:17-1.9 on voter registration, and
- N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:57-1 through 19:57-40 and N.J. Admin. Code § 13:17-4.1, 2 on absentee voting.

### **22) Who should I contact if I have further questions?**

The New Jersey Division of Elections can be contacted by phone at (609) 292-3760 or by email at [njelections@lps.state.nj.us](mailto:njelections@lps.state.nj.us). Voters can also call 1-877-NJVOTER for assistance.

### **23) Are there helpful web resources I should know about?**

New Jersey Voter Rights Handbook: <http://www.njelections.org/voter-rights-hb.pdf>

National Campaign for Fair Elections:  
[http://www.nationalcampaignforfairelections.org/pages/new\\_jersey](http://www.nationalcampaignforfairelections.org/pages/new_jersey)

Advancement Project’s “New Jersey Voter Protection Laws in a Nutshell”, Oct 2005:  
<http://www.advancementproject.org/reports/NJnutshell.pdf>