

Vote By November 3rd Frequently Asked Questions Hunterdon County, New Jersey

Abridged; for a complete list, click here:

<https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/Election2020.htm>

Who is going to automatically receive a Vote By Mail (VBM) Ballot?

All *active registered Voters* will automatically be mailed a VBM Ballot.

Under the (EO#177) all ballots are to be mailed to voters no later than October 5, 2020. The order does not modify the requirement set forth in the Uniformed and Citizens Absentee Voting Act (45 days before a Federal Election).

What is the difference between an Absentee Ballot and a Vote by Mail Ballot?

The term “Absentee Ballot” was repealed in July 2009 and was replaced by the Vote by Mail Ballot Law signed by Governor Corzine C2009 P.L.79 that allowed a Voter to request a Ballot by Mail for any reason. This same law has been amended several times over the past few years.

Do I have to vote for the Party I am registered with?

No this is a General Election and you may vote for the candidate(s) of your choice. You may only vote for the number of candidate(s) seeking the office that you are casting a vote for. Example – office of President – Vote for One – you may only vote for one. Voting for more than one creates an Over Vote which discards the vote cast for that contest. Please remember to go to the back of your ballot where you will find any State, Local or School questions to be voted upon.

When will the ballots be mailed?

As ballots are mailed, mailing dates will be posted on:

The Hunterdon Vote 2020 website: <https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/Election2020.htm>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Hunterdoncountyclerk/>

What should I do if I do not receive a ballot?

If you do not receive a ballot within 7 business days of your posted mailing date-please contact the County Clerk’s office immediately at (908) 788-1214 or (908) 788-1378.

How do I return my VBM Ballot?

There are four ways you may return your ballot.

1) You may return your ballot directly to the Hunterdon County Board of Elections located in the Historic Court House, 3rd Floor, 71 Main Street, Flemington, NJ. If someone other than the voter is delivering the ballot to the Board of Elections, make sure that they fill out and sign the Bearer Section on the left-front side of the return envelope.

2) You also may deposit your ballot in any of the 12 secure drop boxes located throughout the county that has daily pick-up. Current law allows a voter to return their own ballot and an additional three ballots.

HUNTERDON COUNTY VOTE BY MAIL DROP BOXES

Twelve (12) Vote-By-Mail drop boxes are or will be installed and located throughout Hunterdon County on or before 10/5/2020. For a complete list, click here: <https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/Election2020.htm> (See drop box Information.)

In Lambertville, the drop box will be located at:

Phillip J Pittore Justice Center, 25 S Union St., Lambertville NJ 08530

Drop boxes will be available for ballot drop off until 8pm, close of polls Election Night, November 3, 2020. All boxes monitored by video surveillance and ballots will be picked up daily by a member of the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office and delivered directly to the Board of Elections.

3) Your ballot will include a return postage-paid envelope, (no stamp necessary) which will be included in the VBM Ballot packet that you will receive. You may mail your ballot through the US Postal Service.

Applies to Post Office, Secure Drop Boxes, Hand Delivery to Board of Elections: No person shall serve as an authorized bearer for more than three qualified voters in an election.

4) You may take YOUR ballot - you may not take anyone's ballot but your own - to your polling place on Election Day, November 3rd, 2020. There will be procedures in place to return your ballot.

What is the deadline for returning your VBM Ballot?

If you are using the US Postal Service, the ballot must be postmarked on or before November 3, 2020 and received by the Board of Elections by 8 pm on November 10, 2020 to be considered valid and to be canvassed.

If you are using one of the secure drop boxes, the deadline for delivering your ballot is 8:00 pm on November 3, 2020.

If you are delivering your ballot in-person to your polling place on Election Day, you may deliver it and submit your completed ballot to your polling place on Election Day from 6am to 8pm on the day of the Election.

Does the Board of Elections require identification if I choose to deliver my VBM Ballot directly to them?

YES. A voter delivering their own ballot is required to produce identification. If a Bearer is delivering the voter's ballot, they too must produce identification. Contact the Board of Elections at (908)788-1190 to find out what identification is acceptable. Current law allows a voter to return their own ballot and an additional three ballots.

What should I do if I lose my VBM Ballot, it is destroyed, I mismarked, or I do not believe I received it?

If your VBM Ballot is lost, damaged, mismarked or you do not believe you received it, you may request a duplicate from the County Clerk's Office. You may also visit the County Clerk's Office up until 8 pm on Election night to request a duplicate ballot.

When is the deadline to register to vote?

The deadline to register to vote is October 13, 2020. Registration must be mailed and postmarked by October 13, 2020. You may also deliver your Registration to your Municipal Clerk or to the Hunterdon County Board of Elections by 9 pm on October 13, 2020.

(<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/elections/voter-registration-english-hunterdon.pdf>)

Will I be receiving a Sample Ballot?

NO, because you will be receiving a VBM ballot, which will be the ballot that you will cast your vote. Copies of Provisional Paper Ballots will be available at the polling location and on the Hunterdon Vote 2020 Website.

<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/Election2020.htm>

How can I tell if my ballot has been received?

You can register with the New Jersey Secretary of State's Voter Public Access which provides you- the Voter- with your own voter information and history. Sign up at <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/auth/sign-up>. Your voter ID number can be found on your ballot label or by calling the Board of Elections at (908) 788-1190 or the County Clerk at (908) 788-1214.

Will I be permitted to vote in-person on the voting machine if I go to my polling place?

NO. You will not be permitted to vote on the machine if you go to your polling place. Voters who appear at the polling location will be permitted to vote *Only* on a *Provisional Paper Ballot*.

A Provisional Paper Ballot is like voting on your VBM Ballot

We urge you to use your VBM Ballot, as Provisional Ballots are counted last and must be checked against the VBM Ballots that have already been cast before they are accepted and canvassed.

The Governor's Executive Order allows voters to return their Mail-In Ballots to their polling place on Election Day (this is new to this election) and hand them to a Poll Worker following specific guidelines provided by the Secretary of State. These ballots will be counted starting the day after the election.

How will I vote if I am disabled and require an accessible ballot?

If you have a disability and need an accessible ballot, please contact the Hunterdon County Clerk's Office at (908) 788-1214 or you may go to your assigned polling place, which will provide access to an in-person accessible voting device on Primary Election Day.

Do all VBM Ballots get counted?

Ballots that are properly cast are canvassed and counted. Two common errors causing ballots to be rejected are: **1. neglecting to sign the Certification**, and **2. the tampering of the Certificate of Election**. *Do Not Detach the Certificate and attempt to tape it. If your Certificate is detached or damaged, request a new Certificate* by contacting the County Clerk's Election Office (908) 788-1214 or (908) 788-1378

Will I be notified if my VBM ballot is rejected?

YES. The Board of Elections will notify you following the Election with the reason why your ballot was not counted.

When will we know the results of the November 3, 2020 General Election?

Due to the challenges of this election and the time allotted to receive ballots and counted by the Board of Election; the results may not be available until the end of November. Every effort will be made to provide results as quickly as possible. The goal is to be accurate. County Clerks are required to transmit official result to the Secretary on or before November 23, 2020.

Where can I get the most accurate and current information regarding Hunterdon County's General Election?

The information is fluid and changes. Please visit Hunterdon Vote 2020 <https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/Election2020.htm> or following the Hunterdon County Clerk on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Hunterdoncountyclerk/> to get the most current and accurate information.

For questions about Vote By Mail Ballots and Reissuance of Ballots, contact Mary Melfi, County Clerk, at (908) 788-1214 or countyclerk@co.hunterdon.nj.us.

For questions about registration, party affiliation, drop boxes and polling places, contact Beth Thompson, Hunterdon County Board of Elections, at (908) 788-1191 or elections@co.hunterdon.nj.us.