



Mental Health
Association in
New Jersey, Inc.



Voter Registration FAQs

Important Highlights:

- You must register to vote at least **21 days** before the election.
- The deadline for registration is **Tuesday, October 13th, 2020**.
 - **EARLIER IF POSSIBLE!!** The sooner you register, the sooner you will receive your mail-in ballot which will allow you to complete and return your ballot in a timely manner.
- **Register completely online at:** <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/register>
- OR fill out a voter registration application and return to your county clerk's office.
- Check if you are **already registered** at: www.njelections.org
- You should re-register if you have moved, changed your name, or recently become a U.S. citizen.
- If you have **moved in the past 2 years**, in order to receive your mail-in ballot you must confirm your new address at: www.njelections.org

1. Where can I register?

In-person and online registration options are available for the 2020 election.

In-Person Registration Locations	Online Registration Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Division of Elections, the Commissioners of Registration office in the County where you live, or your Municipal Clerk 	1. Register online at: https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/register

<p>Find the office address of your County Election Officials at: https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/county-eo.shtml</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Division of Motor Vehicle offices <p>Find your local DMV at: https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/locations/facilitylocations.htm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJ Medical Assistance & Health Services Program • WIC (Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infant & Children) • Work First NJ 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 • County Welfare Agency or County Board of Social Services 	<p>2. To register online, you will need to provide either a current valid Driver's License, a non-driver Identification Card issued by the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission, OR your social security number.</p> <p>OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Download your county's registration form at: https://nj.gov/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml 2. Complete the form, providing all required information. 3. Mail or deliver your completed form to the County Commissioner of Registration or your county's Superintendent of Elections. You can find your location at: https://nj.gov/state/elections/county-eo.shtml <p>*Applications CANNOT be accepted as faxed copies or an electronic transmission of a voter registration form since an original signature is required. The original forms MUST be mailed or delivered to your county's office.*</p>
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*If you are not sure if you are already registered to vote, you can **check your registration** status at: www.njelections.org*

Simply click on the “**Am I Registered**” tab, enter your first name, last name, and date of birth, and the website will tell you if you are or are not already registered to vote.

2. What ID do I need to register to vote?

The voter registration process requires you to provide **one form** of any of the following identification:

- The Last Four Digits of your Social Security Number
- Your New Jersey Driver's License Number
- Your New Jersey non-driver ID number

If you **do not** have any of these IDs, you can provide a copy of **one** of the following with your registration application:

1. Current and Valid Photo ID (driver's license)
2. Document showing Proof of Address (current utility bill, bank statement, government check, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter)

3. Can I register if I am not 18 but will be on Election Day?

Yes, you can! As long as you are a **U.S. citizen** and at least **17 years old**, you can register to vote. However, you **cannot vote** until you are 18 years of age and have been a resident of your county for 30 days prior to the election.

4. When is the last day to register?

October 13th, 2020 - Voters must register 21 days prior to election. This year, the election takes place on Tuesday, November 3rd, meaning that voters must register by Tuesday, October 13th. Voters can either **register in-person by October 13th or postmark their mail-in registration forms for October 13th.**

MAIL-IN BALLOTS

Important Highlights:

- **New Jersey will be automatically mailing mail-in ballots to all registered voters.** This a new provision made exclusively for the November 2020 election, in an attempt to limit the number of people visiting in-person polling locations due to **the COVID-19 pandemic**.
- **You will automatically receive a mail-in ballot as long as you have registered to vote in the state of New Jersey.** You must register to receive a ballot!
- **Mail-in ballots work the same as traditional absentee ballots**, as they will allow all voters to cast their votes without visiting in-person polling locations.
- Traditional absentee ballots **WILL NOT** be used in the November 2020 election.
- It is encouraged that you **return your ballot AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**. This can be done **by mail** or by dropping it off in a **secure ballot box**; you can also return your ballot at **select in-person locations**, including polling locations and your County Board of Elections Office.

5. Who can and who cannot vote in the November 3rd election?

In the state of New Jersey, there are a few restrictions regarding who can and who cannot vote in the upcoming election.

Persons who <u>CAN</u> Vote	Persons who <u>CANNOT</u> Vote
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who have been convicted of felonies <u>CAN</u> vote AFTER they have completed their <u>prison sentence</u>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Must re-register to vote, even if registered before completing their prison sentence. • People serving time for misdemeanors or civil matters <u>CAN</u> register to vote and vote <u>from jail using a mail-in ballot</u>. • Persons in hospitals <u>CAN</u> vote. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Being hospitalized is not enough to take away someone's right to vote. In order to take away someone's right to vote, the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who have been convicted of felonies <u>CANNOT</u> vote WHILE they are serving their <u>prison sentence</u>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They can vote following the completion of their prison sentence. ○ They CAN vote while they complete their parole or probation period. • People who are not legal citizens of the U.S. with proof of citizenship <u>CANNOT</u> vote.

<p>individual challenging the person's capacity must prove by clear and convincing evidence that the person does not have the capacity to vote.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As per NJ law, people in hospitals are allowed to authorize someone to drop off their completed ballot for them- this person will be asked to present ID upon delivering the ballot. ○ Someone who has been placed in a psychiatric hospital has the right to vote unless it has been specifically revoked. ● College students <u>CAN</u> vote. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When registering to vote, you can list your dorm, off-campus address, or home address as your primary address to receive your mail-in ballot. ● Homeless persons <u>CAN</u> vote. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When registering to vote, you can list a shelter, park, or any place you usually stay as your primary address to receive your mail-in ballot. 	
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6. Can I vote by mail?

Yes! Due to concerns regarding the coronavirus pandemic, mail-in ballots are encouraged for voting in the 2020 election. In fact, **all registered New Jersey voters will be automatically mailed a mail-in (absentee) ballot by October 6th for the November 3rd 2020 election.**

7. What is the difference between an absentee ballot and a mail-in ballot?

- *Absentee ballots **WILL NOT BE USED** in the November 2020 election. *
- An **absentee ballot** is an official form that allows voters who are either unable or unwilling to visit in-person polling locations to still cast their votes in an election.
- Normally, voters must complete an application to request an absentee ballot and provide a valid reason as to why they cannot vote in-person.

- The **mail-in ballots** that will be sent out by the state of New Jersey for the November 2020 are a unique feature for this year's election. ***Due to the coronavirus pandemic, they are meant to limit the number of people voting in-person.***
- **The mail-in ballots work the same as traditional absentee ballots-** they will give all registered NJ voters the opportunity to vote without attending in-person polling locations, due to the health and safety concerns caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

8. How can I vote by mail?

- The state of New Jersey will be automatically mailing vote-by-mail ballots to all registered NJ voters for the November 2020 election. **To vote by mail, you must complete your ballot (providing all required information) and return it either in-person or by mail.**
 - If you need to register to vote and receive your vote-by-mail ballot, you can download your county's voter registration application here:
<https://nj.gov/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml>.
 - If you need to update your address to receive your vote-by-mail ballot, you can do so here: <https://www.headcount.org/registertovote/>. You must update your address no later than **October 13th, 2020**.
- In case you do not receive a mail-in ballot, it takes only a few minutes to request one online, which you can do at: <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>.
 - You must select the ballot application for the county in which you currently live.
 - The ballot must be requested 7 days prior to the election, so the deadline to complete the request is **Tuesday, October 27th, 2020** for the upcoming November election.

NOTE: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, **New Jersey will be automatically sending mail-in ballots to all registered NJ voters for the November 3rd 2020 election.** While this provision may make it unnecessary to complete the mail-in ballot request online, completing the process is still easy and will further ensure that you receive your ballot.

9. How do I fill out my ballot?

The following are detailed instructions that will tell you how to complete, sign, and seal your mail-in ballot:

1. Completely color in the circles next to your choices in pencil, blue, or black ink. **DO NOT** put a **check** (√) or an “**X**” – the counting machine will not be able to read a check or an X.
2. Answer the three state ballot questions on the back of the ballot.
3. Fold the ballot and insert it into the **Certificate envelope**. This envelope will have a red bar on its flap and will say “Certificate of Mail-In Voter” with a signature line beneath it. Seal the envelope well.
4. Sign your name on the outside of the Certificate envelope the same way you would sign your name in the poll book and as printed on your ballot. *If your name is printed on your ballot with your middle name or initial, you must include it in your signature. * Do not rip off the Certificate flap.
5. If someone assisted you in filling out your ballot, that person must fill out and sign the assisted portion which is on the underside of the Certificate envelope flap.
6. Seal the Certificate envelope (**unsealed envelopes will be rejected**) and insert it into the 1st class postage paid return envelope. Make sure your return address and bar code are visible through the envelope window. Make sure the envelope is sealed.

10. How do I have to sign my ballot? What if I sign my ballot incorrectly?

You must sign your ballot with your name exactly as it is printed on your ballot. If you normally use a nickname but your full name is printed on your ballot, you must sign your ballot with your full name.

You should try to sign your name using the same signature you have used when voting in past elections, or as you signed your driver’s license. **Do not get creative with a new signature-** try to sign your name the same way you always have.

11. Can my mail in ballot be challenged?

Yes, it can. Mail-in ballots will begin being counted by your **County Board of Elections** on **October 23rd**. If you have not completed your ballot according to instruction, the election board can determine it to be **VOID**. If your signature is challenged, the election board must contact you by mail within 24 hours of receiving your ballot so you can complete a new signature form. This may be needed if your signature changed, if you registered online via signing a tablet, or if your ballot signature looks different. This will give the voter a chance to address their challenged ballot, and get their vote counted. This again demonstrates why it is critical to accurately sign, complete and mail the ballot as early as possible.

12. How do I return my completed mail-in ballot?

Mail-in ballots can be returned either **in-person** or by **mail**.

Returning Your Ballot In-Person	Returning Your Ballot by Mail
<p>Your County Board of Elections must receive it <u>before polls close on election day, November 3rd</u>.</p> <p>You can drop your ballot off at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polling locations- between 6 am and 8 pm on Nov. 3rd <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Find your local polling location here: https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/polling-place-search • Secure drop boxes- open 24/7 now until 8 pm on Nov. 3rd 	<p>Your ballot must be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Postmarked for Election Day, November 3rd, and received by the <u>County Board of Elections by November 10th</u>. 2. <u>If your ballot is not postmarked</u>, it must be received by your County Board of Elections no later than 48 hours after the polls close on Election Day, November 5th. <p>If you would like to track your ballot to make sure your vote is counted, you can do so at:</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are at least 10 secure drop boxes located in each county- you can find your local drop box here: https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/assets/pdf/election-results/2020/2020-drop-box-locations.pdf ● There are cameras on the Ballot boxes. ● County Board of Elections Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Find your County Board of Elections Office here: https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/county-eo.shtml 	<p>https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-track-my-ballot.shtml.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To track your ballot, you must first create a “My Voter Record” account, which you can easily do by providing your Voter ID, NJ Driver’s License Number, or the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number. It is suggested that you use your Voter ID. You can easily find your Voter ID at: https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/registration-check. ● You can also contact your County Election Officials, and they can supply you with your Voter ID. <p>More information about New Jersey’s vote-by-mail process can be found at: https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml</p>
<p>NOTE: You can vote by provisional ballot at your polling place on Election Day. However, know that provisional ballots are counted after all other ballots, so this should be a last resort.</p>	

13. Do I have to be away to get a mail-in ballot?

No! New Jersey **will not** require any voters to provide reasons for receiving a mail-in ballot for the 2020 election.

14. How many stamps does the ballot take?

For the Nov 3, 2020 election, all New Jersey registered voters will be sent an absentee ballot with **pre-paid return postage**- you do not need to attach your own stamps to the envelope to mail your ballot. You can find out more about prepaid postage here:

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200814b.shtml>

15. What if I don't have a stamp, can I drop it off?

Yes! You can drop it off at your local **in-person polling location**, your **County Board of Elections Office**, or you can find **secure ballot drop box locations**.

- You can find your local polling location here: <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/polling-place-search>
- You can find your County Board of Elections Office here:
<https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/county-eo.shtml>
- You can find a ballot drop box in your county here:
<https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/assets/pdf/election-results/2020/2020-drop-box-locations.pdf>.

16. Do I need to show my ID at the polls?

If you registered to vote in New Jersey, **you may be required to present valid ID** only if you are voting for the first time or your registration is incomplete. You can use any ID from this list:

- Valid New Jersey Driver's License
- Valid US Passport
- Store Membership Card
- Rent Receipt
- Valid Employee ID
- Valid Student ID
- Valid Military ID
- Valid New Jersey Non-photo Driver's License
- Sample Ballot mailed to you
- Valid New Jersey Vehicle Registration
- Bank Statement

If you are dropping off your mail-in ballot in-person, **you will be required to present valid ID** and will **sign a record** maintained by your county, which accounts for all mail-in ballots personally delivered to the site at which you dropped off your ballot. You may present any of the following IDs when delivering your ballot in-person:

- Valid New Jersey Driver's License
- Any official ID that carries your full address and your signature

17. Will in-person polling locations be offered for people who do not want to vote by mail?

In person polling locations will be open on voting day for voters to drop off their ballots.

You can either return your ballot by dropping it off to in-person locations or by mail. Even though you cannot vote at in-person polling locations, you can drop your ballot off at polling locations on the day of the election between 6 am and 8 pm. Voting machines will only be available to people who have a disabilities that prevents you from completing a paper ballot.

18. Can my family member or another authorized person drop off my mail in ballot?

- **There are conditions where an authorized person can drop off on your behalf.** These conditions are very specific and should be detailed by the authorities on the final Mail-In ballot you are sent.
- If someone else drops off or mails your ballot without following specific instructions, it could potentially be considered **invalid** – it is safest to drop off your own ballot if you are able to do so.
- NOTE: As stated on New Jersey's official mail-in ballots, **no person** is permitted to serve as a bearer for more than **THREE** qualified voters in an election. This means that no one can drop off more than three completed ballots to secure drop boxes or to in-person drop-off locations.

The following are additional websites to help you find useful information regarding voter registration and absentee ballots, as well as general information about voting in the November 2020 election:

<https://justfacts.votesmart.org/elections/voter-registration/NJ#.XmpWDBNKjGI>

<https://www.vote411.org/>

<https://www.vote.org/>

<https://nj.gov/state/elections/index.shtml>

<https://www.usvotefoundation.org/>

This information for the November 2020 election is dynamic and constantly changing – please check <https://www.mhanj.org/gotv/> website for the latest, updated version of this document.



Voter Registration FAQs

Our Mission:

The Mental Health Association in New Jersey is a statewide non-profit organization that strives for children and adults to achieve victory over mental health and substance use disorders through advocacy, education, training, and services.

Our Pledge:

The Mental Health Association in New Jersey is committed to addressing systematic racism in our nation and within ourselves. Engaging the entire community in the political process – voting, is a major element in this commitment.

Our Website: <https://www.mhanj.org/>