

The Arc of New Jersey's Get Out the Vote Guide 2010

**Voting Information for
Individuals with Disabilities & Their Families**



Introduction

Elected officials regularly make decisions that are critical to your life, including decisions about health care, education, justice and civil rights. Because of this, the right to vote is one of the most cherished and valuable rights we have. By voicing our opinions as voters, the disability community can make a huge difference in the everyday lives of all individuals with disabilities. While the act of voting does not guarantee that our preferences will prevail, **every choice not to vote is a choice not to participate in the decision-making process** – and we, as a community, must participate in the decision-making. The issues are just too important!

This November, elections will be held to determine all thirteen of New Jersey's Congressional Representatives. There are also special elections being held in two state legislative districts to elect two of our State Senators, and one Assemblyperson.

This publication is meant to answer any questions you might have and to give you the tools necessary to ensure that you can continue to have a say in who will be making some of the most important decisions for our community.

The Arc of New Jersey encourages each and every individual with a disability and their family members to get out the vote and make our voices count on November 2nd 2010!

Important Voting Information

Who Can Vote?

To be eligible to vote in NJ:

- You must be a citizen of the United States.
- You must be at least 18 years of age by the date of the election.
- You must have the capacity to vote.
- You must be registered to vote.
- You must be a resident of NJ (and your county) at least 30 days prior to the election.
- You cannot be serving a sentence or on parole or probation for an indictable offense.

Capacity to Vote

The question of capacity to vote can be a confusing one. Remember:

- It is **not** legal to deny someone the right to vote based on the fact that he or she has an intellectual or other disability.
- It is **not** legal to deny someone the right to vote based on the fact that he or she has a legal guardian.
- It is **not** legal to deny someone the right to vote based on the fact that he or she lives in an institution, developmental center or group home.

- It is **not** legal to deny someone the right to vote based on the fact that he or she receives services or supports related to a disability.

In practice, individuals with disabilities should be able and prepared to explain why they are at the polls on Election Day and be able to follow the voting procedures with a reasonable amount of support.

Remember: the ***Voting Rights Act*** specifically states that any voter requiring assistance in voting must be allowed to receive that assistance from a person of his or her choice (other than the person's employer or union). So if you think you may need any kind of accommodations or assistance with voting, it is good to think about that in advance and contact your County Board of Elections prior to Election Day to discuss the matter and head off any potential problems.

Registering to Vote

To vote in any election, **you must be registered at least 21 days prior to the election.** Since this year's elections will be held on Tuesday November 2nd, the registration deadline is **October 12th**. Registration can be done in person or through the mail with your County Commissioner of Registration. (*See page 4 for an updated list of the County Commissioners of Registration in NJ*). Voter registration forms can easily be found at your Municipal Clerk's office, local library, local chapter of The Arc, other state agencies or online at: <https://ssl.capwiz.com/thearc/e4/nvra/?action=form&state=NJ>.

Remember that the forms must be filled out and **mailed** in. *Faxes and email are not acceptable* because an original signature is required.

What if I Can't Vote in Person?

In New Jersey, any voter may vote using a *Vote by Mail Ballot* for any election. You do not need a reason to request a Vote by Mail ballot. However, it is important to remember that voting by mail has ***two steps***. First, you must fill out the application to receive a Vote by Mail ballot. Second, once you receive the ballot (which is identical to the ballot at the polls on Election Day) you must fill it out and mail it back to cast your vote. Filling out the application by itself does not constitute a vote! Also, remember that once you've applied for a Vote by Mail ballot, you cannot vote at the polls on Election Day (even if you never filled out the ballot and returned it).

Applications for Vote by Mail ballots must be received by the County Clerk's office by noon at least 7 days before the elections if done through the mail or by at least 3pm the day before the election if done in person. **Therefore, if you would like to vote via Vote by Mail ballot in this year's election, your application must be mailed in and received by October 26th or you must hand deliver it by 3pm on November 1st.**

After filling out your ballot you must either mail it or if you prefer you can drop it off at your County Clerk's Office but either way the ballot must be **received before 8pm on Election Day!**

For a Vote by Mail ballot application go to the following link http://www.njelections.org/mail-in_doe.html

How do I find out more about the candidates?

In this year's election, we will be voting to determine all thirteen of New Jersey's Congressional Representatives, two of our State Senators, and one seat in the Assembly.

The list beginning on page 5 of this booklet shows the candidates running in the election this November. Please remember that voting is based on which district you live in, **so it is critical that you know your voting district ahead of time.**

Once you know who the candidates are, it is important to get to know as much as you can about them. Finding out their position on the issues that matter to you is critical to making an informed decision about who to vote for! With an incumbent, make sure to check out their past voting record on disability-related legislation, any legislation they might have sponsored or co-sponsored affecting the disability community, and what their past positions have been on budgetary initiatives affecting the disability community. The same should be done for the opponent in whatever law making capacity s/he has had. Think about what issues are most important to you and vote with that in mind.

Many candidates will have a website with information on their platform (how they feel about the issues). While candidates that are not part of a larger campaign may not always have a dedicated website, most at least have some sort of internet presence via a social networking site (such as Facebook, Myspace or Twitter), so if you are a member of one of those sites already, you might try looking there for information as well.

To find information about the candidates, go to <https://ssl.capwiz.com/thearc/e4/> and enter your full address. Some municipalities are split between voting districts so it is advisable that you enter your exact street number and mailing address information as you may be in one district and the person who lives a block over from you could be in another district. This link will allow you to access all the candidates' websites to learn more about them as well as to learn which voting district you live in.

Also remember that staff members in candidate offices are always happy to answer any questions you might have. As always, please feel free to give us a call at (732) 246-2525 if you have any additional questions.

Make your opinion count and vote on November 2nd!

COMMISSIONERS OF REGISTRATION

<p>Atlantic County 1333 Atlantic Avenue, 4th Floor Atlantic City, NJ 08401 609-343-2246</p>	<p>Bergen County One Bergen County Plaza, Room 380 Hackensack, NJ 07601 201-336-6100</p>
<p>Burlington County 755 Eayrestown Road, P.O. Box 6000 Mount Holly, NJ 08060 609-265-5111</p>	<p>Camden County 7250 Westfield Avenue, Suite A P.O. Box 268 Pennsauken, NJ 08110 856-661-3555</p>
<p>Cape May County 10-12 W. Mechanic Street, PO Box 5000 Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08210 609-465-1050</p>	<p>Cumberland County 555 Shiloh Pike Bridgeton, NJ 08302 856-453-5801</p>
<p>Essex County 465 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. 4th Floor, Room 417 A Newark, NJ 07102 973-621-5061</p>	<p>Gloucester County P.O. Box 352 Woodbury, NJ 08096 856-384-4500</p>
<p>Hudson County 257 Cornelison avenue, 4th floor Jersey City, NJ 07302 201-369-7740</p>	<p>Hunterdon County P.O. Box 2900 Flemington, NJ 08822 908-788-1190</p>
<p>Mercer County 640 S. Broad Street, P.O. Box 8068 Trenton, NJ 08650-0068 609-989-6750</p>	<p>Middlesex County 777 Jersey Avenue New Brunswick, NJ 08901 732-745-3471</p>
<p>Monmouth County 300 Halls Mill Road Freehold, NJ 07728 732-431-7785</p>	<p>Morris County Administration Building, P.O. Box 900 Morristown, NJ 07963 973-285-6715</p>
<p>Ocean County 129 Hooper Avenue, P.O. Box 2006 Toms River, NJ 08754 732-929-2167</p>	<p>Passaic County 311 Pennsylvania Avenue, Room 103 Paterson, NJ 07503 973-881-4516</p>
<p>Salem County 94 Market Street Salem, NJ 08079 856-935-7510 ext.8330</p>	<p>Somerset County 20 Grove St., P.O. Box 3000 Somerville, NJ 08876 908-231-7084</p>
<p>Sussex County 83 Spring Street, Suite 304 Newton, NJ 07860 973-579-0950</p>	<p>Union County 271 North Broad Street Elizabeth, NJ 07208 908-527-4122</p>
<p>Warren County 413 Second Street Belvidere, NJ 07823 908-475-6313</p>	

** Denotes an incumbent*

Candidates for Congress

1st Congressional District: Burlington (part) – Camden (part) – Gloucester (part) Counties

<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Other Party</u>
Robert E. Andrews*	Dale Glading	Margaret M. Chapman Time for Change
		Mark Heacock Green Party
		Nicky I. Petruz Defend American Constitution

2nd Congressional District: Atlantic – Burlington (part) – Camden (part) – Cape May – Cumberland Counties

<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Other Party</u>
Gary Stein	Frank A. LoBiondo*	Peter F. Boyce Constitution Party
		Vitov Valdes-Munoz American Labor Party
		Mark Lovett Marklovett.us

3rd Congressional District: Burlington (part) – Camden (part) – Ocean (part) Counties

<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Other Party</u>
John Adler*	Jon Runyan	Russ Conger Libertarian Party
		Lawrence J. Donahue Your Country Again
		Peter DeStefano NJ Tea Party

4th Congressional District: Burlington (part) – Mercer (part) – Monmouth (part) – Ocean (part) Counties

Democratic Party

Howard Kleinhendler

Republican Party

Christopher H. Smith*

Other Party

David R. Meiswinkle
American Renaissance Movement

Joe Siano
Libertarian Party

Steven Welzer
Green Party

5th Congressional District: Bergen (part) – Passaic (part) – Sussex (part) – Warren Counties

Democratic Party

Tod Theise

Republican Party

Scott Garrett*

Other Party

Ed Fanning
Green Party

James Douglas Radigan
Be Determined

Mark D. Quick
For Americans

6th Congressional District: Middlesex (part) – Monmouth (part) – Somerset (part) – Union (part) Counties

Democratic Party

Frank Pallone, Jr.*

Republican Party

Anna C. Little

Other Party

Jack Freudenheim
Independent

Karen Anne Zaletel
Green Tea Patriots

7th Congressional District: Hunterdon (part) – Middlesex (part) – Somerset (part) – Union (part) Counties

<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Other Party</u>
Ed Potosnak	Leonard Lance*	N/A

8th Congressional District: Essex (part) – Passaic (part) Counties

<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Other Party</u>
Bill Pascrell, Jr. *	Roland Straten	Raymond Giangrosso Independent

9th Congressional District: Bergen (part) – Hudson (part) – Passaic (part) Counties

<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Other Party</u>
Steven R. Rothman*	Michael A. Agosta	Patricia Alessandrini Green Party

10th Congressional District: Essex (part) – Hudson (part) – Union (part) Counties

<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Other Party</u>
Donald M. Payne*	Michael J. Alonso	Joanne Miller Agent of Change Robert Louis Toussaint Action No Talk

11th Congressional District: Essex (part) – Morris – Passaic (part) – Somerset (part) – Sussex (part) Counties

<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Other Party</u>
Douglas Herbert	Rodney P. Frelinghuysen*	Jim Gawron Libertarian Party

12th Congressional District: Hunterdon (part) – Mercer (part) – Middlesex (part) – Monmouth (part) – Somerset (part) Counties

Democratic Party

Rush Holt*

Republican Party

Scott Sipprelle

Other Party

Kenneth J. Cody
Truth Vision Hope

13th Congressional District: Essex (part) – Hudson (part) – Middlesex (part) – Union (part) Counties

Democratic Party

Albio Sires*

Republican Party

Henrietta Dwyer

Other Party

Anthony Zanowic
Independent American

Maximo Gomez Nacer
Gravity Buoyancy Solution

Candidates for General Assembly

5th Legislative District: Camden (part), Gloucester (part) Counties

<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Other Party</u>
Gilbert “Whip” Wilson*	Barbara A. Gallagher	N/A

Candidates for Senate

5th Legislative District: Camden (part), Gloucester (part) Counties

<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Other Party</u>
Donald W. Norcross*	Harry E. Trout	Christopher J. Weag NJ Tea Party

14th Legislative District: Mercer (part) – Middlesex (part) Counties

<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Other Party</u>
Linda R. Greenstein	Thomas Goodwin*	N/A