



The Arc of New Jersey Presents

Get Out The Vote

2022

**A VOTING AND ELECTION GUIDE
FOR CITIZENS WITH
INTELLECTUAL AND
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
AND THEIR FAMILIES.**

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GOTV 2022

When New Jersey residents go to the polls this year, they will decide who to send to the US House of Representatives. In New Jersey, there are 12 Representatives. The census information for each state determines this number. These elected officials can also be called Congressmen and Congresswomen. They will vote on federal



issues and budgets that will impact your life as a person with a disability or as a family member supporting and caring for a loved one with a disability. Members of Congress make decisions about Medicaid funding, about Social Security programs like Supplemental Security Income, and about critical items like Home and Community Based Services. They also make critical determinations about special education funding via the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and they are an integral part of determining affordable housing monies and mental health services. With all this in mind, it is important to research the candidates who

are running for office. The person you elect will have a big say in public policy for you or your loved ones in New Jersey, and also on federal laws that will affect those with IDD across the country. If you're not sure who represents you, we encourage you to use the links included in this document and on our Get Out the Vote website: <http://www.GOTVNJ.org>, to learn more. There you will find candidate websites, information on how to register and the ways to locate a polling place or ballot drop-box near you. There is no more important way of making your voice heard than by casting a ballot. The State of New Jersey offers a number of different ways to vote so be sure to choose the option that works for you.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is voting?

Voting is your right. Voting is your choice. Voting is your voice.

Why should you vote?

Voting allows you to elect people that will represent you and fight for the issues you believe in.

When is voting?

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2022, but there are other ways of casting a ballot before the big day!

How can I vote?

You can vote in person, by mail or by using a secure ballot drop box. Here is some important information about each of these options:

1. Drop Box: A ballot drop box is a secure, locked structure operated by election officials where voters may deliver their ballots from the time they receive them in the mail up to the time polls close at 8 pm on Election Day, November 8, 2022. There will be at least 10 drop boxes located throughout each county, which will be available 24 hours a day. Drop boxes will be under surveillance by security cameras and collected daily by county election officials. To find the location of the ballot drop boxes in your county visit: XYZ. Ballots must be placed in drop boxes in your county by 8 pm on Election Day.
2. Mail: Your vote-by-mail ballot MUST be postmarked on or before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day and be received by your county's Board of Elections on or before the sixth day after the close of the polls. You can also deliver your vote-by-mail ballot in person to your county's Board of Elections Office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.
3. In-Person voting: You can vote in person at your polling place, from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day or you can choose to vote during the 9-day Early Voting period detailed more below. Find your polling location here:
<https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-polling-location.shtml>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the timeline for voting?

Early Voting will start on Saturday, October 29 and will run through Sunday, November 6. This fairly new option allows registered voters to cast their ballot in person, using a voting machine, during a nine-day period prior to Election Day. Every county will provide registered voters with this option. Hours for Early Voting will be Monday-Saturday, 10 am to 8 pm and Sunday, 10 am to 6 pm. No appointment is necessary. Here are some other important dates to keep in mind as we approach Election Day:

- **October 18 - Voter Registration Deadline for General Election (21 days before election)**
- **November 1 - Deadline to apply for a Mail-in Ballot by Mail for the General Election**
- **November 4 - Deadline for Application to Receive General Election Mail-In Ballots by Electronic Means for Qualified Overseas Civilian and Military Voters**
- **November 7, by 3 pm - Deadline for In-Person Mail in Ballot Applications for General Election**
- **November 8 - Deadline for Post Office Receipt of Mail-In Ballots from the General Election**

What is voting by mail?

Any voter may apply for vote-by-mail by completing the [Application for Vote-By-Mail Ballot](#) and returning the application to their [County Clerk](#). After completing the Vote-By-Mail Ballot, you can mail it back, place it at one of your county's Ballot Drop Box locations, or return it to your County Board of Elections Office. Counties will begin mailing ballots to voters 45 days before an election, but some counties may begin prior to that. Please remember: Your Vote-By-Mail ballot CANNOT be returned to your In-Person Early Voting Poll Location or your Election Day Poll Location.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who are the candidates?

This year, the ballot will include candidates for the House of Representatives. New Jersey has 12 congressional districts. Each district is made up of one Representative and two U.S. Senators. The Representatives elected will serve in Congress and vote on federal laws. To view a list of candidates, click here: <https://nj.gov/state/elections/election-information-2022.shtml>

Who can vote?

To vote you must be a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years old and registered to vote.

You cannot vote if you are in jail, on parole or on probation. 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. Only a judge can declare that an individual lacks capacity to vote. 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, group home, supported apartment or other residential facility assisting individuals with disabilities. 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. A voter with a disability cannot be required to answer questions or fill out a form to “prove” his or her mental capacity.

How do I know if I’m registered to vote?

Visit this site to determine if you are registered: <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/registration-check>

How can I register to vote?

To register, you must complete a Voter Registration Application and/or Party Affiliation Form. Mail or deliver the Voter Registration Application and/or Party Affiliation Form to the County Commissioner of Registration or Superintendent of Elections for your county.

To find your county, click here: <https://nj.gov/state/elections/county-eo.shtml>.

To register to vote online, click here: <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/register>.

You will need your current and valid Driver’s License or non-driver Identification Card, or your social security number.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are polling places accessible for people with disabilities?

A voter with a disability has the right to vote privately and independently, have an accessible polling place and accessible voting machines, seek assistance from workers at the polling place who have been trained to use the accessible voting machines and to bring someone to help you vote. Under federal and state law, voters with disabilities have the right to receive “reasonable accommodations” at polling places. If you are blind, if you have a disability or if you cannot read the ballot on the voting machine, you can have someone of your choice assist you with the voting machine. You are also entitled to assistance. Two board workers of opposite political parties may help you. You have the right to have both workers assist you, or one worker - it is your choice. If you encounter accessibility difficulties, you can report and communicate that experience to the NJ Division of Elections by using this web site:

<https://nj.gov/state/elections/voting-access-feedback-form.shtml>

Voters should not be asked for “proof” of their disability in order to receive accommodations. Animals assisting people with disabilities must be allowed to accompany the person into the building and into the booth.

How will I know if my ballot was received?

You can check on the status of your vote-by-mail ballot using the Track My Ballot Portal online here: <https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-track-my-ballot.shtml>

You can contact your County Clerk. That contact information is here:

<https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-county-election-officials.shtml>

First-time users have to create an account and will need either a Voter ID, a Driver’s License Number, or the last 4 digits of their Social Security Number to validate voter registration status.

What should I do if I go to vote and am told I can’t vote because I have a disability?

If you are a voter with a disability and you have a question or you encounter an issue trying to vote on Election Day, call Disability Rights NJ hotline **(866) 493-0023** from 8 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday, or from 6 am to 8 pm on Election Day. or email at voterhotline@disabilityrightsnj.org.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is congressional redistricting and how will it impact me?

Congressional redistricting is the process of redrawing the boundary lines of a state's congressional districts. This process takes place every ten years and the goal is to create districts that are as equal in population as possible. In New Jersey, 106 municipalities will shift into new congressional districts. This will impact more than 1.4 million New Jersey residents. With this in mind, it's important to know if you will be voting in a new congressional district when you go to the polls on Election Day. This NJ.com article helps break down the changes. <https://www.nj.com/politics/2022/05/big-change-nj-14m-getting-new-congress-person-under-new-map-use-our-district-tracker-before-voting.html>

You can also input your address into this map to find out what district you are in. <https://stirzize.carto.com/builder/fff4900a-d4b7-4175-89da-a6e9e152d679/embed>

Want to know more about the candidates?

Don't forget to visit our website, www.GOTVnj.org for additional content and resources!

****Information for NJ residents who live in State Legislative Districts 12 and 28****

While the majority of voters heading to the polls in November will only decide who to elect to the US House of Representatives, residents of State Legislative Districts 12 and 28 will also vote in state races. This is because a lawmaker for each of those districts is not able to complete their term. In District 12, Assemblyman Ron Dancer passed away in July, and in District 28, Senator Ron Rice announced his retirement from the Legislature, effective August 31, due to health issues. The openings created from these departures require a special election. A special election ensures residents of the District have a representative that will finish the remainder of an absent legislator's term. If you are not sure if you live in District 12 or 28, you can find which towns are included in each, by visiting this site: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts>.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

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Voting is very important to my family and me. My Mom told me about my great grandparents and women that weren't allowed to vote that marched and were sometimes hurt trying to register for the right to vote. My grandma, my dad's mom, was arrested marching so that everyone, every kind of person would be able to vote. It is important that we get to know all about the people who are asking us to put them in office. I belong to a County Disability Caucus where we talk about the candidates and how they vote on things that are important to Individuals with Developmental Disabilities. My mother is on a health care and housing board and she also talks to me about how important those things are and education, so we read up on how the political people feel about those things. I enjoy lobbying them in person, like when the Arc counselors and self-advocates made visits to their offices to have the R word removed from Arc years ago. My favorite was the trip with Arc of New Jersey to ask Senator Booker to save our Lifeline, Medicaid. It's important that we vote for people who want to help everyone to be all that they can be and have safe, healthy living for all. Voting encouraged me to become involved in my community and to volunteer with self-advocacy. VOTE and take someone with you.

-Yusef Quarles, Self-Advocate



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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

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As a thirteen-year-old female during the era of Bloody Sunday and the passing of the Voting Rights Act, I could not wait to exercise my right and duty to cast my first vote in the 1970 New York governor's race. Growing up with a family that participated in the campaign for voting rights, and a bipartisan household, this was my first lesson in examining and comparing the incumbent candidates voting records and the challenging candidates' knowledge and sentiments with the concerns that impacted all of the people. I listened to candidates' speeches on their solutions to the day-to-day household issues, liberty and quality of life which were some of the main concerns of the people. These lessons and experiences taught me that every vote counts and serves as a strong message to legislators: "We are here." As a parent of an individual with an Intellectual Developmental Disability, I feel that every family and family member's vote is a voice for our loved one and the IDD community to maintain and create innovative, robust programs, "goods and services," and a safe, healthy living environment. Familiarity with the candidate's empathy, examining their records and having an opportunity to speak in person on the unique matters that impact the IDD community and their families is the information I consider when casting my vote. How legislators have or will vote on matters that provide services and the system of delivery of those services necessary in the IDD community, is paramount. The vote allows us to reach out to elected officials to apprise them of concerns as time and age often changes those needs of our loved one, families and the IDD community. We must continue our civic duty, keeping in mind that your vote will assist the IDD community in reaching their fullest potential. Your vote gives voice to the power of choice on how our loved ones will thrive and live their daily lives. Voting is not a privilege. It's a duty. Many gave their lives.

-Joyce Quarles, Family Member

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