The Arc of New Jersey Presents

Get Out The Vote 2021

A VOTING AND ELECTION GUIDE FOR NEW JERSEY CITIZENS WITH INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES.



The Arc. of New Jersey

985 Livingston Avenue, North Brunswick, NJ 08902 | 732-246-2525 Email: info@arcnj.org | Website: www.arcnj.org

GOTV 2021

In addition to electing the Governor, New Jersey residents will also vote this November for a State Senator and two Assembly members in each of New Jersey's 40 legislative districts, to represent them in Trenton. Members of the Legislature vote on bills and help to craft the State Budget each year. It is important to learn more about who the candidates are in your

district and where they stand on the issues you care about. For current officeholders who are seeking to serve another term, it may be helpful to look at previous voting records and issue areas your legislators have prioritized in the past. If you are unsure who your current representatives are, you can visit this website: njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp. To learn more about candidates that are challenging an incumbent, you can often find more information by visiting a candidate's campaign website. Decisions and actions by both the Governor and the Legislature will have a significant impact on policy and funding choices in the coming years. Proposed laws and budgets that focus on everything from housing, health care, education and state-funded services



are determined by the Governor and the Legislature and that is why it is so important for everyone to exercise their right to vote.

With that in mind, we urge you to use this Guide in the days and weeks leading up to Election Day (Tuesday, November 2, 2021). Within these pages you will learn more about new voting procedures, ballot questions and important dates and deadlines. Also, don't forget to visit The Arc of New Jersey's Get Out the Vote website for additional resources and information: http://www.GOTVNJ.org.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is voting?

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

When is voting?

Voting takes place on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

What is Early Voting?

Early Voting will be open Saturday, October 23rd through Sunday, October 31. This 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. If you always vote by mail but now want to vote early and in person, you must opt-out of your active vote-by-mail status at Vote.NJ.Gov. More information on how to do that, and other Early Voting specifics, can be found here: https://nj.gov/state/elections/assets/pdf/publications/2021-early-voting-english.pdf

What is voting by mail?

The term "absentee ballot" was changed in July 2009 and was replaced by the vote-by-mail ballot law that allows a voter to request a ballot by mail for any reason. Every Active registered voter is eligible to request a vote-by-mail ballot. Counties will begin mailing ballots to voters no later than September 18, 2021, but some counties will begin before then. Voters do not need to provide a copy of their ID in order to cast a vote by-mail ballot except under certain circumstances for first time voters. These voters will receive a notice with their vote-by-mail ballot.

Why should you vote?

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

Who are the candidates?

When they head to the polls this year, residents of New Jersey will elect a Governor, a Lieutenant Governor, a State Senator and two Assembly members. Phil Murphy and Sheila Oliver are the incumbents. That means they are currently in office serving as the Governor and Lt. Governor. They are both Democrats. The challengers from the Republican Party are Jack Ciattarelli for Governor and Diane Allen for Lt. Governor. Ciattarelli is a former Assemblyman and Allen is a former State Senator.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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. You must also be able to understand what it means to vote. 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 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.

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.

How can I vote?

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

- 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 2, 2021. 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.
 Ballots must be placed in drop boxes in your county by 8 pm on November 2. Drop box
 locations can be found at Vote.NJ.Gov.
- Vote-by-mail ballots CANNOT be returned to your polling place for this election. : It must be postmarked on or before 8:00 p.m. November 2 and be received by your county's Board of Elections on or before November 8.
- To vote in-person, go to Vote.NJ.Gov for your polling place, listed on the Polling Locations page.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will I have to wear a mask while voting?

Circumstances may change. As of now, all voters are asked to wear a face covering and observe appropriate social distancing.

Are polling places accessible for people with disabilities?

One accessible polling machine adapted for audio must be available at every polling place to allow voters with a visual impairment to verify and cast their votes in private and without assistance. Polling places should be integrated settings, meaning that all people (with and without disabilities) should vote together in the same space. People with disabilities have the right (1) to reasonable accommodations that make it possible for them to vote, and (2) to use auxiliary aids (such as Assisted Listening equipment, registration forms in Braille and large print, ramps to access the polling area) to ensure that communication is effective. You can also either (a) ask a friend, family member or staff member to enter the booth with you, or (b) ask for help from poll workers at your polling place on Election Day. If you had difficulty voting at your polling place due to accessibility issues, you can report these concerns to the New Jersey Division of Elections by completing this form at this link: https://nj.gov/state/elections/voting-access-feedback-form.shtml

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 or you can contact your County Clerk. That contact information is here: https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-county-election-officials.shtml

Voters can track their vote-by-mail ballot through the Track My Ballot Portal here: https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-track-my-ballot.shtml. First-time users have to create an account and will need either a Voter ID Number, a Driver's License Number, or the last 4 digits of SSN 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 have a problem on Election Day with being allowed to vote or getting assistance with voting, call Disability Rights NJ at 1-800-922-7233.

Want to know more about the candidates?

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

BALLOT QUESTIONS

Changes to New Jersey's State Constitution require approval from voters. This year's ballot will include 2 public questions to amend the State Constitution. They are as follows:

Public Question #1

Do you approve amending the Constitution to permit all groups that are allowed to conduct bingo or raffles to use the net proceeds from those games to support their groups? The Constitution permits certain groups to conduct games of chance such as bingo or raffles. Those groups are veterans, charitable, educational, religious, fraternal, civic, and senior citizen groups; volunteer fire companies; and first-aid or rescue squads. The net proceeds from those games of chance may only be used for educational, charitable, patriotic, religious or public-spirited uses. However, veterans and senior citizen groups may also use the proceeds from those games to support their groups. This amendment would permit all of the groups authorized to conduct games of chance to use the net proceeds from conducting bingo or raffles to support their groups.

Public Question #2

Do you approve amending the Constitution to permit wagering through casinos and current or former horse racetracks on all college sport or athletic events? Currently, the State Constitution prohibits wagering on college sport or athletic events taking place in New Jersey. It also prohibits wagering on an event in which a New Jersey college team participates. This amendment would allow the Legislature to pass laws permitting wagering on any college sport or athletic event. It would permit wagering even if a New Jersey college team participates in the competition. Such wagering would be permitted only through casinos and current or former horse racetracks.



IMPORTANT VOTING DATES

Election Day will be here before you know it. With that in mind, don't forget to mark the following dates on your calendars to ensure your vote counts!

October 12 - Voter Registration Deadline for General Election (21 days before election)

Saturday, October 23rd through Sunday, October 31 - Early Voting

October 26 - Deadline to apply for a Mail-in Ballot by Mail for the General Election

November 1, by 3 pm - Deadline for In-Person Mail in Ballot Applications for General Election

November 2 - Deadline for Post Office Receipt of Mail-In Ballots from the General Election and Deadline for in Person Submission of General Election Mail-In Ballots to County Boards of Election



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Family Perspective



"Since our daughter Dani turned 18 and registered to vote we have made voting a cherished family event. We review the sample ballots, investigate the candidates and the issues in order to decide the impact on our family. This is particularly important as Dani has intellectual and developmental disabilities, so we are ever mindful of the need for adequate funding for the programs and services that keep her safe and allow her to lead a joyful life with as much independence as possible. Voting has looked very different over the years, whether we are bringing our mail-in ballots to the post office, voting in person as a family (and showing off our 'I voted' stickers) or safely voting during the pandemic at a drop box."

"Dani is now 30 and we are so proud of the powerful self-advocate she has become. We now recognize names on our ballots because we have met with many of our elected officials to advocate for the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. While much more work needs to be done, we also see the positive impact of our votes and our advocacy. The election results do not always go the way we wish but we know that our efforts, our votes, are making change happen and that keeps our hopes for the future alive."



"Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time." ~Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

Lauren Zalepka, Parent

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Self-Advocate Perspective



"I think all the news does is get people mad. You should vote so you can do something about it, and not just get mad. I vote because anything different means legislation. As a voter you can name the politicians who make that legislation. We can make lasting change in legislation and leave the past behind by voting. I have really felt scared about the future, it's my right to vote for change. At home I can tell my truth, but politicians do it for me now that I vote."

William Aronow, Self-Advocate

"We have the right to vote. We can choose who we want to be in office and learn about what they stand for and how they will help us. If you need help you can get support to fill out the application, or when you are voting. You can also vote by mail if you can't go in person. I like to vote because it gives me an opportunity to see who is going to help people with disabilities."

Pamela King, Self-Advocate



Candidate responses appear here in alphabetical order. Responses are printed unedited and in full.

Jack Ciattarelli



Q: If elected Governor, what steps will your Administration take to ensure proper community-based supports and services are provided and easily accessible to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families who need them?

ANSWER: Over the past year and a half, we've seen what happens when an administration does not prioritize ensuring access to programs and support services for New Jerseyans with IDD. The Murphy Administration refused to reopen adult day care programs for over a year by tying the

reopening process to the Department of Health's stringent COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) metric. In doing so, these critically important services remained closed while facilities in neighboring states were actively serving residents, and while other elements of New Jersey's operations, not held to this same standard, were well on their way to a return to normal. Nobody who has dealt with these important family issues as a councilman and freeholder, as I have, would have ever adopted such an overly strict metric that kept these services closed, but rather would have looked for the safest way to reopen them as soon as possible. This inconsistency in the state's reopening policies reflects Governor Murphy's lack of first-hand experience working person-to-person with constituents in need to find a solution. Tragically, this particular decision had a harmful and, in many ways, discriminatory effect on individuals with IDD and their families, who often rely heavily on adult day care programs.

As Governor, working to serve the most vulnerable among us, including those with IDD, will be a top priority of my Administration. I believe that New Jersey needs a hands-on CEO who is ready to make the changes needed to ensure that our state government is effectively serving all of its residents once again. Such effective policymaking cannot take place without taking into account the needs and circumstances of key stakeholders affected by state government. To that end, my Administration will work closely with advocates including The Arc of NJ and will actively solicit the input of New Jerseyans with IDD and their families to ensure that our state government is doing everything it can to support our residents with IDD. This effort will include the appointment of department heads and senior staff who know their portfolio of issues through years of experience. Building this strong relationship will provide my Administration with thoughtful recommendations for reform and will, together, allow us to tackle small problems before they grow into large ones.

Jack Ciattarelli (cont.)

Additionally, as someone who has previously served as a Somerset County Freeholder (now called County Commissioner), I understand and value the critical role that our county governments often play in providing or facilitating these community-based supports and services. My Administration will spearhead an all-of-government approach that actively works with and assists county-level officials, rather than enacting heavy-handed top-down mandates. Through this cooperative governance, we will strive to ensure that services in each of our 21 counties are up to par, and that no New Jersey family ever has to move to a different part of the state due to a lack of accessible services for family members with IDD.

Q: The service delivery system that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families depend on is not immune to the labor shortage affecting many industries across the state. Direct Support Professionals who provide the hands-on care to people with IDD are essential, but community providers and families are struggling mightily to attract workers to this field. What will your Administration do to address this workforce crisis?

ANSWER: It is critically important that our state has an adequate supply of workers to provide essential services to residents with IDD and families in need of support. Currently, New Jersey lags much of the nation in recovering jobs lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in no small part due policies of the current administration which disincentivized work, including a refusal to cut off extended unemployment benefits for months on end. As Governor, my Administration will explore any and all measures necessary to help our state get back to work. What I propose to The Arc of NJ is what I often say to businesses and other key stakeholders: give me a policy or regulatory solution that would make your lives easier, without harming the environment or the consumer, and my Administration will work to enact that change.

But this question also speaks to one of the key objectives of my campaign – making New Jersey a more affordable and compelling place to live and do business in. For three years in a row, New Jersey has led the nation in outbound migration, with families who have called our state home for decades fleeing due to a lack of affordability. The root cause of our state's affordability issues is the property tax crisis, with New Jersey residents paying by far the highest property taxes in the nation. While the skills of Direct Support Professionals are critically needed in our service delivery system for residents with IDD, these workers are also notoriously underpaid. Therefore, New Jersey will never be able to attract new workers to this profession if we do not address our state's soaring property taxes and underlying affordability crisis. The centerpiece of my policy platform to Fix New Jersey is a comprehensive plan to lower property taxes by implementing a new school funding formula. With a flatter and more equitable distribution of state aid for schools, taken in combination with the rest of my tax reform proposal, we can attract the new residents and workers that our state's economy and service delivery system for residents with IDD and so desperately need.

Phil Murphy



Q: If elected Governor, what steps will your Administration take to ensure proper community-based supports and services are provided and easily accessible to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families who need them?

ANSWER: From day one, my administration has been committed to enhancing opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. That's why I was proud to create the Office of the Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental

Disabilities as soon as I took office in 2018. Our Ombudsman, Paul Aronsohn, serves as a critical advocate and source of information for people with IDD and their families. We have also invested necessary resources into strengthening community-based supports and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We've created apprenticeship mentoring programs for people with disabilities, expanding affordable housing options, and launched a grant program to advance inclusive and healthy communities for individuals with disabilities. We expanded NJ TRANSIT's Access Link Paratransit services to ensure that individuals with disabilities have affordable, safe access to transportation. Recognizing the importance of access to outdoor recreation for all New Jerseyans, we established incentive programs to encourage municipalities to build inclusive playgrounds and provided a \$400,000 grant to build the Toms River Field of Dreams complex, a state-of-the-art, fully accessible outdoor complex designed specifically to include individuals with disabilities in outdoor recreation.

My administration has also been committed to ensuring that students with disabilities have access to all the skills and services they need to be successful following graduation, particularly given the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In June, I signed legislation offering an additional year of public education and related services to students with disabilities. Providing an additional year for students who would otherwise age out of special education services allowed us to acknowledge the unique impact of the pandemic on those students, helping to secure a better future for them and their families.

However, we know that our work is far from over. My administration remains committed to providing critical services and resources to individuals with disabilities and ensuring that the most vulnerable among us have access to the support they need. A stronger and fairer New Jersey means a more inclusive New Jersey, and my administration will fight every day to make our state more accessible and inclusive for all.

Phil Murphy (cont.)

Q: The service delivery system that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families depend on is not immune to the labor shortage affecting many industries across the state. Direct Support Professionals who provide the hands-on care to people with IDD are essential, but community providers and families are struggling mightily to attract workers to this field. What will your Administration do to address this workforce crisis?

ANSWER: My administration recognizes the devastating impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on individuals with IDD, and we've worked with the disability advocacy communities in the state to provide necessary support. We have already provided \$24 million of relief funding for wage increases for the direct support professionals who care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in group homes and supervised apartments to ensure that DSPs are adequately compensated for the tremendous work that they did during this crisis to provide critical support to vulnerable individuals.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic took a devastating toll on individuals with disabilities, my administration was taking proactive steps to increase economic opportunity for our direct support professionals. We also passed one of the most sweeping equal pay bills in the nation to address racial and gender disparities in the workforce, which disproportionately impact direct care professionals. Additionally, we expanded earned sick and family leave to ensure that our direct care professionals don't have to choose between taking care of a loved one and receiving a paycheck.

Looking forward, my administration will continue to review ways to recruit and retain direct support professionals. In October 2020, I signed legislation to establish the Special Task Force on Direct Care Workforce Retention and Recruitment, a task force to evaluate job supports and incentives, training opportunities, wages and benefits, educational initiatives, and certification reciprocity rules. I am looking forward to reading the task force's first report, and will consider any and all recommendations made by the task force to address staffing shortages within the direct care workforce.

WHERE TO FIND THE ARC

The Arc of New Jersey

Kevin Sturges, President
Thomas Baffuto, Executive Director
985 Livingston Avenue
North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902
TELEPHONE: 732-246-2525
FAX: 732-214-1834
www.arcnj.org

The Arc of Atlantic County

Scott Hennis, CEO 6550 Delilah Road, Suite 101 Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234 TELEPHONE: 609-485-0800 FAX: 609-407-6282 www.arcatlantic.org

The Arc of Bergen & Passaic Counties

Kathy Walsh, President/CEO 223 Moore Street Hackensack, New Jersey 07601 TELEPHONE: 201-343-0322 FAX: 201-343-0401 www.arcbergenpassaic.org

The Arc of Burlington County

Joanna Nevadomski, Executive Director 115 E. Broad Street Burlington, New Jersey 08016 TELEPHONE: 856-764-9494 TELEPHONE: 609-531-0211 FAX: 609-386-2244 www.ArcofBurlington.org

The Arc of Camden County

Peggy Englebert, Executive Director 215 West White Horse Pike Berlin, New Jersey 08009 <u>TELEPHONE</u>: 856-767-3650 <u>FAX</u>: 856-767-1378 <u>www.arccamden.org</u>

The Arc of Cape May County

Leslie Long, Executive Director 822 Route 47 South Dennis, New Jersey 08245 TELEPHONE: 609-861-7100 FAX: 609-861-0591 www.arcofcapemay.org

The Arc of Cumberland

Jacquelyn U. Steiner, Executive Director 1680 West Sherman Avenue Vineland, New Jersey 08360 <u>TELEPHONE</u>: 856-691-9138 <u>FAX</u>: 856-563-0221 www.arccumberland.org

The Arc of Essex County

Linda C. Lucas, Executive Director 123 Naylon Avenue Livingston, NJ 07039 <u>TELEPHONE</u>: 973-535-1181 <u>FAX</u>: 973-535-9507 <u>www.arcessex.org</u>

The Arc Gloucester

Lisa Conley, CEO
1555 Gateway Boulevard
West Deptford, New Jersey 08096
TELEPHONE: 856-848-8648
FAX: 856-848-7753
www.thearcgloucester.org

The Arc of Hudson County

Yvonne Rosa, Executive Director 3229 Bergenline Ave., Unit #3 Union City, NJ 07087 TELEPHONE: 201-319-9229 FAX: 201-319-9227 www.archudson.org

The Arc of Hunterdon County

Jeffrey D. Mattison, Executive Director Shelbourne at Hunterdon 53 Frontage Rd., Suite 150 Hampton, NJ 08827 TELEPHONE: 908-730-7827 FAX: 908-730-7726 www.archunterdon.org

The Arc/Mercer, Inc.

Steven Cook, Executive Director 180 Ewingville Road Ewing, New Jersey 08638 TELEPHONE: 609-406-0181 FAX: 609-406-9258 www.arcmercer.org

The Arc Middlesex County

Frank Adu, CEO
219 Black Horse Lane
North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902
TELEPHONE: 732-247-8155
FAX: 732-247-5590
www.arc-middlesex.org

The Arc of Monmouth

Robert Angel, Executive Director 1158 Wayside Road Tinton Falls, New Jersey 07712 TELEPHONE: 732-493-1919 FAX: 732-493-3604 www.arcofmonmouth.org

The Arc/Morris County

Salvador Moran, Executive Director
P.O. Box 123
Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950
TELEPHONE: 973-326-9750
FAX: 973-326-1976
www.arcmorris.org

The Arc Ocean County Chapter

Laura Williams, Executive Director 815 Cedar Bridge Road Lakewood, New Jersey 08701 TELEPHONE: 732-363-3335 FAX: 732-363-2285 www.arcocean.org

The Arc of Salem County

Patty Irwin, Executive Director 150 Salem-Woodstown Road Salem, New Jersey 08079 TELEPHONE: 856-935-3600 FAX: 856-935-9612 www.arcsalem.com

The Arc of Somerset County

Lauren Frary, Executive Director 141 South Main Street Manville, New Jersey 08835 TELEPHONE: 908-725-8544 FAX: 908-704-0850 www.thearcofSomerset.org

SCArc (Sussex County)

Richard Lecher, Ph.D., CEO 11 US Route 206, Suite 100 Augusta, New Jersey 07822 TELEPHONE: 973-383-7442 FAX: 973-383-8330 www.scarc.org

The Arc of Union County

Frank Caragher, Executive Director
70 Diamond Road
Springfield, New Jersey 07081
TELEPHONE: 973-315-0000
FAX: 973-315-0002
www.arcunion.org

The Arc of Warren County

John Whitehead, CEO
P.O. Box 389
Washington, NJ 07882
TELEPHONE: 908-689-7525
FAX: 908-689-4898
www.arcwarren.org





www.arcnj.org www.gotvnj.org

