

# Get Out The Vote 2019

A Voting and Election Guide for New Jersey Citizens with  
Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities and their Families



*Achieve with us.®*

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# GOTV 2019

Mark your calendars because November 5, 2019 is Election Day and voting gives you a very important opportunity to participate in our country's democratic process. Voting is a way of making your voice heard and gives you the chance to elect someone to office who will represent your interests. This year, New Jersey will elect 80 people to the State Assembly. The State Assembly is the lower house of the New Jersey Legislature. Along with the State Senate, the Assembly votes on pending legislation and the annual budget. They hold hearings throughout the year on various policy matters and in combination with the Senate, they represent one third of the State's government.

With this in mind, it's critical for you to vote as the members of the Assembly will advance legislation throughout the year that impacts you. Whether we're talking about developmental disability services, healthcare, transportation or the state's budget, the representatives you elect to the Assembly will directly impact the issues you care about. In New Jersey, we elect two representatives per district to the Assembly and you should spend time learning about the candidates seeking office in your district.

We created this 2019 Get Out the Vote Guide to help you learn more about the process before heading to the polls. We hope this Guide will serve as a resource to you and we invite you to seek out additional resources at: [www.gotvnj.org](http://www.gotvnj.org).



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Who are the candidates?

Voters in November will elect two members to the State Assembly. Members of the General Assembly serve two-year terms. Following the election, the Assembly will choose a presiding officer known as the Speaker. (For residents who live in District 1, please note that because of a vacancy in the upper House, you will elect a State Senator in addition to two members of the Assembly. District 1 includes all of Cape May County, and parts of Cumberland and Atlantic Counties.)

- Visit <http://bit.ly/2019DistrictList> to determine which district you live in.
- Visit <http://bit.ly/2019AssemblyCandidates> to view the full list of Assembly candidates.

## What is voting?

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

## When is voting?

Voting takes place on Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

## What time is voting?

Voting starts at 6 a.m. and ends at 8 p.m.



## 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 the 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 can I register to vote?**

You can register to vote by mailing in the Voter Registration Application to your county clerk. You can also register to vote in person at the Office of the County Commissioner of Registration. The registration deadline to vote is 21 days prior to the November General Election which is **October 15, 2019**. For more information on registering to vote, visit this site: <http://bit.ly/2019RegisterToVote>.

### **How can I vote by mail instead of in person?**

If you want to vote by mail, you must first be a registered voter.

#### **- Download a Vote By Mail Application online at: <http://bit.ly/NJVoteByMail>**

A voter may also apply for a Vote By Mail Application in person at the Clerk's office in your county. Keep in mind, the County Clerk cannot accept faxed or emailed copies of an Application for a Vote by Mail Ballot, unless you are a military or overseas voter, since an original signature is required.

When your Vote By Mail Ballot arrives, it will include instructions. Your Mail-In Ballot must be received by the County Board of Election before close of polls on Election Day. **Also, if you have already asked for a Vote by Mail Ballot, you may NOT vote in person during that election.**

**Please note:** The new law mandates that all voters who voted by mail for any election in 2017 and/or 2018 be sent a Mail-In Ballot for the 2019 General Election and all future elections, even if they did not request one. If these voters do not wish to receive Mail-In Ballots for the 2019 General Election and all future elections, they must notify the County Clerk in writing to opt out. According to State law, any voter who has not opted out and receives a Mail-In Ballot will not be permitted to vote on a voting machine on Election Day. These voters will be limited to voting the Mail-In Ballot they receive or a paper provisional ballot at the polls on Election Day.

### **What do I need to vote in person?**

You must bring proof that you live in your county before you can register to vote and cast your vote on Election Day. Proof can include a driver's license, a student ID, a government issued ID or a document with your name and address on it such as a bank statement or government issued check like a Social Security check. If you did not provide identification to the county commissioner of registration, or if the identification information could not be verified (i.e., your driver's license number or the last four digits of your social security number), you may be asked to show identification at the polling place when you go to vote.

### **Where do I vote?**

Polling places are typically set up at schools, libraries or firehouses in your town. Registered voters are assigned a specific location to vote. To find your polling place, and to check if you are registered, visit the NJ Division of Elections web site at <http://bit.ly/2019PollingLocations>. The web site will also let you know if your polling place is ADA compliant or accessible.

### **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 (b) 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.

### **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](http://www.GOTVNJ.org)  
for additional content and resources!**



# Ballot Questions

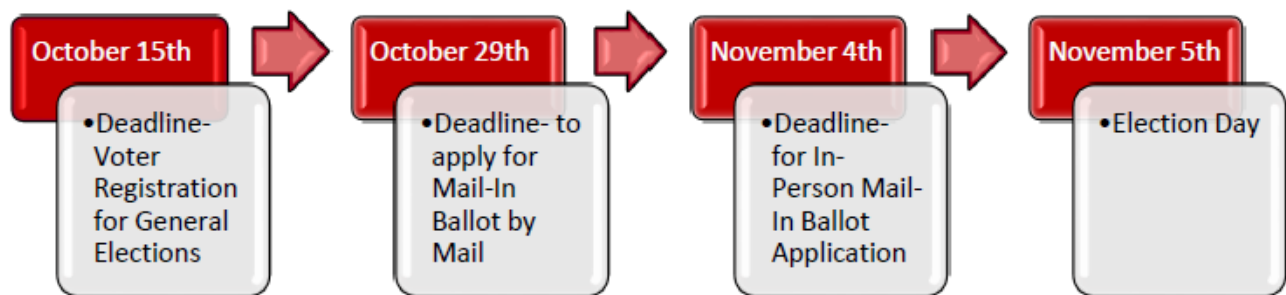
This year's ballot asks voters to decide on a Constitutional Amendment.

The Constitutional Amendment, if approved, would allow eligible veterans who live in continuing care retirement communities to receive the value of the \$250 property tax deduction currently granted to veterans who reside in a private residence.

To read the question and see how it will appear on the ballot when you head to the polls, visit this link: <http://bit.ly/2019BallotQuestions>.

For more information about this issue, visit this site: <http://bit.ly/VeteransTaxBreak>.

## Dates to Remember



**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!**

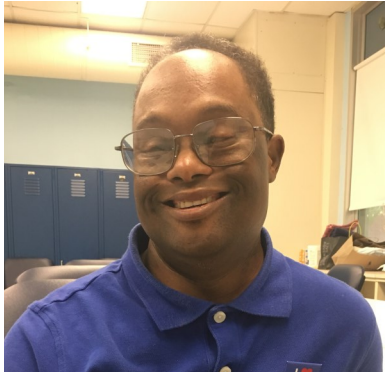
**October 15** - Voter Registration Deadline for General Election (21 days before election)

**October 29** - Deadline to apply for a Mail-In Ballot by Mail for General Election (not less than 7 days prior to election)

**November 4 – by 3:00 p.m.** - Deadline for In-Person Mail-In Ballot Applications for General Election (up to 3:00 p.m. on the day before election)

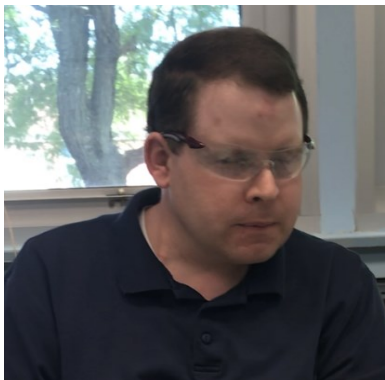
**November 5** - Election Day!

# In Their Own Words - Why I Vote!



**Glenn, *Self-Advocate***

"I like to vote. I voted in the last presidential election. My mother and I go to our polling place together. I check the ballot and hit the button to make sure my vote is counted. I think it's important for people to vote."



**Matt, *Self-Advocate***

"I registered to vote when I was 18. My Dad comes in the voting booth to help me since my vision is not good. I like to vote because it helps me and my friends. You should register and get out to vote. Ask for help from your friends and family."



**Jonathan, *Self-Advocate***

"Voting is important because you can make decisions on who you want to vote for. I've voted before and I liked it. It was a little hard but I had help. You should vote with another person who knows about it and ask for help."



# In Their Own Words - Why I Vote!



## **George, *Self-Advocate***

"I like to vote. Before I vote I get a sample ballot in the mail. Mom and I go on the computer to look at all the candidates on the ballot. I go to the senior center down the street from house to vote. All the people there know me because I vote in every election. I sign my name at the book at the table. I get a paper to give to the person at the voting booth, they tell me when it is my turn to vote. Mom goes into the voting booth in case I need help. I push the button of the people I want to vote for and the vote button and the curtain opens. When I leave I get a sticker that says I voted. I am proud that I can vote."

## **Louis Hoffman - *New Jersey Resident, Family Member and Voter***

"Election Day has long been a favorite day of the year for me because I love to go to the polls with my sister Carolyn. It is a special day where we come together to do our duty for our country. My sister Carolyn is an artist and has worked in schools and food service. She is an active member of a [Chapter of The] Arc and Center for Independent Living. Carolyn has a developmental disability and she has epilepsy which causes her to have seizures most days of the week. Voting has always been important in our family. It is one way we participate in the community. Our parents never told us who to vote for but when we were children they always brought us into the voting booth and explained different decisions that they were making. Our mother and father did not always agree on every issue, but we had lively discussions and debates about the issues. Over the years we got to know the people who ran the polling location. We would always prepare by going to events, reading the newspaper and the League of Women Voters Guide. When we went to the polls, Carolyn and I knew who we were voting for and we especially liked being able to speak with candidates who would come to the polling place."



Carolyn says the more people see individuals with disabilities, the more they will think of our needs when they make important decisions, like who to vote for. If they are someone who is elected they might think about us when it comes to which initiatives and communities to support!"



# Get Involved & Be Heard!

## Join the Self-Advocacy Movement!

Voting is an important way to make your voice heard, but it's not the only way you can speak up for yourself. If advocacy is something you want to get more involved with, then contact the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project to learn more about the Governmental Affairs Ambassador Program. NJSAP staff offer a workshop that helps you learn to communicate with your elected officials about the issues you care about. The workshop promotes self-advocacy in state legislative affairs.

Ambassadors are self-advocates who want to speak up for themselves and other people with disabilities in New Jersey. This program is a way for self-advocates to develop the necessary skills to reach out to legislators, educate them about the issues affecting the lives of thousands of people with disabilities across the state, affect change on multiple levels, and develop an understanding on which candidates can best represent their needs.

Skills being taught in the workshop include: public speaking, writing and delivering testimony, effective communication across multiple platforms, government affairs, and understanding the law-making and budget processes. There will also be "mock hearings" where advocates prepare and present a brief, hypothetical testimony individually or as a group.

### Want more information?

Contact NJSAP Director Ashley Ritchey at 732-743-8345 or [Aritchey@arcnj.org](mailto:Aritchey@arcnj.org)



## Where to Find The Arc in New Jersey

### **The Arc of New Jersey**

Joanne Bergin, President  
Thomas Baffuto, Executive Director  
985 Livingston Avenue  
North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902  
**TELEPHONE:** 732-246-2525  
**FAX:** 732-214-1834  
[www.arcnj.org](http://www.arcnj.org)

### **The Arc of Atlantic County**

Lee Wasman, Chair  
Scott Hennis, CEO  
6550 Delilah Road, Suite 101  
Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234  
**TELEPHONE:** 609-485-0800  
**FAX:** 609-407-6282  
[www.arcatlantic.org](http://www.arcatlantic.org)

### **The Arc of Bergen & Passaic Counties**

Cliff Pettinelli, Chair  
Kathy Walsh, President/CEO  
223 Moore Street  
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601  
**TELEPHONE:** 201-343-0322  
**FAX:** 201-343-0401  
[www.arcbergenpassaic.org](http://www.arcbergenpassaic.org)

### **The Arc of Burlington County**

Susan Fegely, President  
Thomas Parente, 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](http://www.ArcofBurlington.org)

### **The Arc of Camden County**

Don Foulk, President  
Peggy Englebert, Executive Director  
215 West White Horse Pike  
Berlin, New Jersey 08009  
**TELEPHONE:** 856-767-3650  
**FAX:** 856-767-1378  
[www.arccamden.org](http://www.arccamden.org)

### **The Arc of Cape May County**

Majken Mechling, President  
Leslie Long, Executive Director  
822 Route 47  
South Dennis, New Jersey 08245  
**TELEPHONE:** 609-861-7100  
**FAX:** 609-861-0591  
[www.arcofcapemay.org](http://www.arcofcapemay.org)

### **The Arc of Cumberland**

Dante Romanini, President  
Jacquelyn U. Steiner, Executive Director  
1680 West Sherman Avenue  
Vineland, New Jersey 08360  
**TELEPHONE:** 856-691-9138  
**FAX:** 856-563-0221  
[www.arccumberland.org](http://www.arccumberland.org)

### **The Arc of Essex County**

Marnie McNany, President  
Linda C. Lucas, Executive Director  
123 Naylor Avenue  
Livingston, NJ 07039  
**TELEPHONE:** 973-535-1181  
**FAX:** 973-535-9507  
[www.arcessex.org](http://www.arcessex.org)

### **The Arc Gloucester**

David Contino, President  
Ana Rivera, Executive Director  
1555 Gateway Boulevard  
West Deptford, New Jersey 08096  
**TELEPHONE:** 856-848-8648  
**FAX:** 856-848-7753  
[www.thearcgloucester.org](http://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](http://www.archudson.org)

### **The Arc of Hunterdon County**

Kathy Walsh, President  
Jeffrey D. Mattison, Executive Director  
The Concourse At Beaver Brook  
1465 Rt. 31  
Annandale, New Jersey 08801  
**TELEPHONE:** 908-730-7827  
**FAX:** 908-730-7726  
[www.archunterdon.org](http://www.archunterdon.org)

### **The Arc/Mercer, Inc.**

Maria Fischer, President  
Steven Cook, Executive Director  
180 Ewingville Road  
Ewing, New Jersey 08638  
**TELEPHONE:** 609-406-0181  
**FAX:** 609-406-9258  
[www.arcmerc.org](http://www.arcmerc.org)

### **The Arc Middlesex County**

Heidi Bell, President  
Frank Adu, CEO  
219 Black Horse Lane  
North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902  
**TELEPHONE:** 732-247-8155  
**FAX:** 732-247-5590  
[www.arc-middlesex.org](http://www.arc-middlesex.org)

### **The Arc of Monmouth**

Hank Hilton, President  
Robert Angel, Executive Director  
1158 Wayside Road  
Tinton Falls, New Jersey 07712  
**TELEPHONE:** 732-493-1919  
**FAX:** 732-493-3604  
[www.arcofmonmouth.org](http://www.arcofmonmouth.org)

### **The Arc/Morris County**

Katherine Cascioli, President  
William Testa, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 123  
Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950  
**TELEPHONE:** 973-326-9750  
**FAX:** 973-326-1976  
[www.arcmorris.org](http://www.arcmorris.org)

### **The Arc Ocean County Chapter**

Ruth Churchill, President  
Laura Williams, Executive Director  
815 Cedar Bridge Road  
Lakewood, New Jersey 08701  
**TELEPHONE:** 732-363-3335  
**FAX:** 732-363-2285  
[www.arcocean.org](http://www.arcocean.org)

### **The Arc of Salem County**

Nancy Sadler, President  
Patty Irwin, Executive Director  
150 Salem-Woodstown Road  
Salem, New Jersey 08079  
**TELEPHONE:** 856-935-3600  
**FAX:** 856-935-9612  
[www.arcsalem.com](http://www.arcsalem.com)

### **The Arc of Somerset County**

Michael Stefani, President  
Lauren Frary, Executive Director  
141 South Main Street  
Manville, New Jersey 08835  
**TELEPHONE:** 908-725-8544  
**FAX:** 908-704-0850  
[www.thearcofSomerset.org](http://www.thearcofSomerset.org)

### **SCArc (Sussex County)**

Phillip Motyka, Chair  
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](http://www.scarc.org)

### **The Arc of Union County**

Jeannine Hyman, President  
Frank Caragher, Executive Director  
70 Diamond Road  
Springfield, New Jersey 07081  
**TELEPHONE:** 973-315-0000  
**FAX:** 973-315-0002  
[www.arcunion.org](http://www.arcunion.org)

### **The Arc of Warren County**

Karen Woodcock, President  
John Whitehead, CEO  
P.O. Box 389  
Washington, NJ 07882  
**TELEPHONE:** 908-689-7525  
**FAX:** 908-689-4898  
[www.arcwarren.org](http://www.arcwarren.org)



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