



Issues Essentials: New Vote-By-Mail Rules -- September 2018

If You Voted By Mail in 2016, You Will Automatically Get A Mail-In Ballot This Year. Here Are Your Options.

Sept. 28, 2018—To expand voter participation in the Nov. 6 midterm election, Gov. Phil Murphy recently signed a law to simplify the vote by mail (VBM) process. Unfortunately, some county notification letters contained incorrect and confusing information. Here are the facts. Be sure to share them with your NJ contacts. Every vote counts!

NOTE: If you have any questions about voting by mail, contact your county clerk ASAP at one of the numbers on page 2 of this handout.

Question 1: I definitely want to VOTE BY MAIL this year. What do I do?

Answer 1a: If you applied for a VBM ballot for the November 2016 election:

A VBM ballot for 2018 will be sent to the address for which you requested it in 2016. (If you are no longer at this address, contact your county clerk; see Page 2.)

When you get the ballot, follow the instructions, then send it in. You're done.

Answer 1b: If you did not apply for a VBM ballot for the November 2016 election:

Click on [this link](#), then scroll down and click the link for your county. Download the form and follow the instructions to return the application to your county clerk. If you can mail the application, it must be received by the clerk's office **7 days** before Election Day. You can also give the application to the clerk in person until **3 P.M. the day before** the election and receive your ballot from the clerk then.

Question 2: I definitely want to vote at my polling place this year. What do I do?

Answer 2a: If you did not apply for a VBM ballot for the November 2016 election:

You're all set! Just go to your polling place and vote by machine as usual.

Answer 2b: If you did apply for a VBM ballot for the November 2016 election:

Vote by Mail anyway. We know that's not your first choice. But the simplest and safest thing to do is to make the best of it this year and avoid confusion at the polls. Think of it this way: you get to relax on Election Day!

Really need that tangible tingle of democracy by voting at the polls? Do not use the VBM ballot that you receive in the mail. Go to your polling place on Election Day, but be aware that you will not be voting by machine this year. Instead, ask for a paper provisional ballot. **This is a real vote!** If the polling site staff refuse to give it to you, look for the Democratic "challenger" at the site or call the N.J. Democratic State Committee for guidance (609-392-3367).



Question 3: I just want to vote AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. What do I do?

Answer: Early voting has started in New Jersey. In-person early voting began Sept. 24 at many county clerks' offices. Just show up and vote! (As of 9/26 some counties were still waiting for their ballots to arrive, so call ahead to make sure your clerk's office is ready to roll.)

County Clerk Offices, NJ 11th Congressional District

Essex County

Clerk: Christopher J. Durkin
Hall of Records
465 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Boulevard
Room 247
Newark, NJ 07102
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
973-621-4921
<http://www.essexclerk.com/>

Morris County

Clerk: Ann F. Grossi
Administration & Records Building
10 Court Street
P.O. Box 315
Morristown, NJ 07963-0315
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
973-285-6120
www.morriscountyclerk.org

Passaic County

Clerk: Walter J. Davison
401 Grand Street
Room 130
Paterson, NJ 07505
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
973-225-3632
http://www.passaiccountynj.org/government/elected_and_appointed_officials/passaic_county_clerk/index.php

Sussex County

Clerk: Jeff Parrott
83 Spring Street
Suite 304
Newton, NJ 07860-2080
Hours: Weekdays: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Every 1st Mon.: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
973-579-0900
www.sussexcountyclerk.or

To Reach County Clerks Elsewhere In New Jersey, Visit:
<https://nj.gov/state/elections/voting-information-local-officials.html>