

Executive Order #177
Vote By Mail General Election

November 3, 2020

FAQ



1. Who is getting a Vote by Mail Ballot?

Under Governor Murphy's Executive Order #177, the County Clerk will automatically mail all active registered voters a Mail-in Ballot.

2. Will I continue to get Vote by Mail ballots for future elections after this General Election?

Only voters who have previously requested to receive all ballots by mail will continue to receive ballots. If you were not a Vote by Mail voter in the past, you will not be one in the future unless you send in an application requesting to be one AFTER the election is over.

3. Will I be able to go to my polling place and vote on a machine?

The Warren County Board of Elections may reassign your polling place as only one is required for each Municipality. You will receive notification of where your polling place will be. However **there will be NO voting machines at the polls. Voters will be voting by paper Provisional Ballots (essentially identical to the ballot you received in the mail only with extra paperwork to fill out – i.e. affirmation statement, and provisional ballots are the LAST ballots to be counted – no earlier than 8 days AFTER the election).** Voters with disabilities that sign a certification will be provided with an ADA accessible ballot.

4. When will ballots be mailed out?

Ballots must be mailed out by October 5th.

5. What do I do if I lose my Vote By Mail ballot or did not receive a ballot?

If you lose your ballot or did not receive your ballot, please contact the County Clerk's office at 908-475-6211 and we will assist you with obtaining a duplicate.

6. The deadline to walk in to the County Clerk's office in person for a ballot was 3pm on the Monday before the election, has that changed?

Yes. You may walk in to my office up until 8pm the night of the General Election and request a ballot. However, as it takes a bit of time to process your request and vote the ballot please don't wait until the last minute!

7. How do I return my Vote By Mail ballot?

Your ballot will include a postage paid envelope. You can mail it through the US Postal Service, deposit it in one of the 10 locked drop boxes located throughout the county (5 are already in place at the municipal offices of Blairstown, Hackettstown, Washington Township, Belvidere and Lopatcong. The other 5 locations will be announced as soon as they are established), you can deliver it to the County Clerk's office or the Board of Elections office or you can bring it with you to your polling location on Election Day and hand it to a poll worker. Please note: If you are using the USPS, the ballot MUST be postmarked on or before November 3, 2020 and be received by the Board of Elections on or before 8pm November 10, 2020 in order to be considered valid and to be canvassed.

8. Do all Vote By Mail ballots get counted?

All ballots that are properly cast are canvassed and counted. Common errors that cause a ballot to be rejected are neglecting to sign the certificate, signing differently than we have in the Statewide Voter Registration System and tampering with the Certificate of Election (**DO NOT detach the Certificate and attempt to tape it back on – PLEASE call us to request a new certificate**). Should your ballot be rejected due to a signature issue, the Board of Elections will mail you a letter giving you the opportunity to "Cure" the error. You MUST return that letter prior to the deadline stated in the letter in order for your ballot to be counted. If you fail to return the letter your ballot will be rejected and you will receive a letter after the election stating that fact.

9. Will I be getting a sample ballot?

No. Sample ballots will not be mailed for the November 3, 2020 General Election. They will be available to view on our website www.warrencountyvotes.com and will also be at the polling places.

10. When will we know the results of the Election?

We hope to have the first UNOFFICIAL results available by 8:30pm on Election Day (Due to the investigation of Provisional ballots, the mandate that ballots properly postmarked be received up to 7 days after Election Day and any other issues that may arise, the OFFICIAL results will not be available until the 23rd of November. Efforts will be made to provide results as quickly as possible, however we will not sacrifice accuracy for speed!!

The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday, October 13th, 2020. Registrations must be mailed and postmarked by October 13th, 2020, delivered to your municipal clerk or delivered to the Warren County Board of Elections by 9pm October 13th.

If you wish to vote in the upcoming 2020 General Election, we **STRONGLY** suggest you use your Vote By Mail ballot and avoid your polling location. If you do go to your polling place on election day you will be given a Provisional ballot which is essentially the SAME ballot we sent to you in the mail except it requires the additional step of filling out and signing an Affirmation Statement. This takes a fair amount of time and would be best if it can be avoided. **Provisional ballots are also the LAST BALLOTS TO BE COUNTED** as they are a safe-guard against duplicate voting. This means that we will not count one provisional ballot until **at least 8 DAYS AFTER the election!!** If you bring the ballot we mailed to you to your polling location on Election Day we will begin the process of counting it that evening.

During these difficult times, all of us at the County Clerk's office and the Board of Elections office are doing our best to ensure you have the ability to safely vote and that you have confidence in the process. There is a lot of misinformation floating around out there. To that end if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us. Our website is www.warrencountyvotes.com. We also have a Warren County Clerk facebook page. Our phone number is 908-475-6211 (Clerk) or 908-475-6313 (Board of Elections). You can also email us at hmackey@co.warren.nj.us (Clerk) or wduffy@co.warren.nj.us (Board of Elections). Please call us to get your information direct from the source. Please do not rely on your cousin's girlfriend's mother on facebook!!

Holly Mackey,
Warren County Clerk

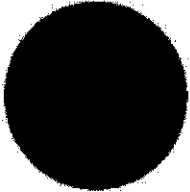

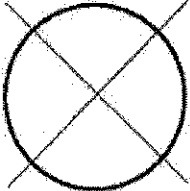





Municipality & District	Address	Address	Address
		Address	
		Address	
Allamuchy Districts 1 & 2	Allamuchy Fire Hall	284 Alphano Road, Allamuchy	
Allamuchy Districts 3 & 4	Allamuchy Municipal Bldg.	292 Alphano Road, Allamuchy	
Alpha Districts 1 & 2	Alpha Firehouse	1109 Lee Avenue, Alpha	
Belvidere Districts 1, 2 & 3	Goodwill Fire Co./Belvidere Manor	689 Water Street, Belvidere	
Blairstown Districts 1, 2 & 5	Blairstown Municipal Building	106 Route 94, Blairstown	
Blairstown Districts 3 & 4	North Warren Regional High School Multipurpose Room	10 Noe Rd., Blairstown	
Franklin Districts 1, 2 & 3	Franklin Community Center	2093 Rt. 57, Broadway	
Frelinghuysen Districts 1 & 2	Frelinghuysen Elementary School Gymnasium	780 Route 94, Johnsonburg	
Greenwich Districts 1, 2, 3 & 4	Greenwich Elementary School Gymnasium	101 Wyncham Farm Blvd., Stewartsville	
Hackettstown Districts 1, 2, 3 & 7	Hackettstown High School Gymnasium	701 Warren St., Hackettstown	
Hackettstown Districts 4, 5 & 6	Miller St. Firehouse	201 Miller St., Hackettstown	
Hardwick District 1	Hardwick Municipal Building	40 Spring Valley Road, Hardwick	
Harmony Districts 1 & 2	Harmony Township Vol. Fire Dept.	440 Brainards Road, Harmony	
Hope Districts 1 & 2	Hope Municipal Building	407 Great Meadows Road, Hope	
Independence Districts 1, 2, 3 & 4	Independence Fire Department	24 Cementary Rd, Great Meadows	
Knowlton Districts 1 & 2	Brook Hollow Winery Catering Hall	628 Rt. 94, Columbia	
Liberty Districts 1 & 2	Mountain Lake Firehouse	99 Tamarack Rd, Liberty	
Lopatcong - All 7 Districts	Lopatcong Middle School Cafeteria	321 Stonehenge Dr., Lopatcong	
Mansfield - All 6 Districts	Mansfield Twp. Elementary School Gymnasium	50 Port Murray Rd, Port Murray	
Oxford Districts 1 & 2	Oxford Municipal Bldg. - Lower level	11 Green St., Oxford	
Phillipsburg Districts 1-1, 3-1 & 6-1	Phillipsburg Middle School Gymnasium	200 Hillcrest Blvd, Phillipsburg	
Phillipsburg Districts 2-1, 5-1, 5-2, & 6-2	Phillipsburg Elementary School All Purpose Room	525 Warren St., Phillipsburg	
Phillipsburg Districts 4-1, 7-1, 7-2, & 7-3	Early Childhood Learning Center	459 Center St., Phillipsburg	
Pohatcong Districts 1, 2, 3 & 4	Pohatcong Elementary School Gymnasium	240 CR. 519, Pohatcong	
Washington Borough Districts 1 & 3	Washington Boro Fire Hall - 2nd Floor	100 Belvidere Ave, Washington	
Washington Borough Districts 2 & 4	St. Joseph's Parish Hall	200 Carlton Ave, Washington	
Washington Township - All 6 Districts	Warren Hills Regional High School Cafeteria	41 Jackson Valley Rd, Washington	
White Township - All 6 Districts	White Township School Gymnasium	565 County Road 519, White	

BALLOT DROP BOX LOCATIONS

The five secure ballot drop boxes have been installed prior to the Primary Election and their locations are below. They are emptied once a day by an authorized election official. They are on constant video surveillance and it is a felony to tamper with them in any manner. We have been told we will be receiving 6 additional boxes to put throughout the County. Once we have their locations and they are installed we will list them here as well.

- Allamuchy Municipal Building - 292 Alphano Road, Allamuchy, NJ 07820 - **Coming Soon, NOT installed yet.**
- Belvidere Municipal Building - 691 Water Street, Belvidere, NJ 07823
- Blairstown Municipal Building - 106 Route 94, Blairstown, NJ 07825
- Franklin Municipal Building - 2093 Route 57, Broadway, NJ 08808 - **Coming Soon, NOT installed yet.**
- Hackettstown Municipal Building - 215 Stiger Street, Hackettstown, NJ 07840
- Hope Municipal Building - 407 Hope-Great Meadows Road, Hope, NJ 07844 - **Coming Soon, NOT installed yet.**
- Knowlton Municipal Building - 628 Route 94, Columbia, NJ 07832 - **Coming Soon, NOT installed yet**
- Lopatcong Municipal Building - 232 South Third St., Morris Park, Lopatcong, NJ 08865
- Mansfield Municipal Building - 100 Port Murray Road, Port Murray, NJ 07865 - **Coming Soon, NOT installed yet.**
- Phillipsburg Public Works Building - 441 Heckman St., Phillipsburg, NJ 08865 - **Coming Soon, NOT installed yet**
- Washington Township Municipal Building - 211 Route 31 North, Washington, NJ 07882

25 September 2020

CORRECT WAY TO MARK YOUR BALLOT		
USE ONLY PENCIL, INK PEN (BLACK OR BLUE)		
EXAMPLES	CORRECT	INCORRECT
		
		
		
		



Holly Mackey
Warren County Clerk
413 Second St.
Belvidere, NJ 07823

Telephone: 908-475-6211

August 20, 2020

What is a Provisional Ballot??

In every election paper Provisional Ballots are supplied to the Poll workers. They are commonly used for things such as a voter appearing in person but does not show up in the poll books (for a whole host of reasons) and for people who were issued a Vote by Mail Ballot. They are given the paper Provisional Ballot and the affirmation statement that they fill out. After the election each Provisional Ballot Cast is investigated by the Board of Elections and if the voter's registration is deemed valid, or the voter did not return a ballot in the mail (thus casting a vote twice) the Provisional Ballot is accepted.

For the November 3, 2020 General Election Governor Murphy's Executive Order #177 (EO) has stipulated that voters who go to the polls on Election Day will be given a Paper Provisional Ballot – See Page 10, Section 8 of the EO. There will be no voting on machines at the polling places. Voters with disabilities that prevent them from voting on a paper Provisional Ballot will have the opportunity to vote an ADA accessible ballot.

Facts about Paper Provisional Ballots in Warren County (I specify Warren County because each County is responsible for their own ballot design):

- The paper Provisional Ballot looks exactly like the ballot we sent to you in the mail except "Provisional Ballot" or "Mail-In Ballot" appears in the upper right hand corner. Other than that they are identical.
- Paper Provisional Ballots require the voter to fill out a form (affirmation Statement) to go along with the ballot. This form is what is used to investigate the eligibility of the voter.
- Provisional Ballots are the last ballots counted in every election. This is because of the Vote By Mail program. The Election Board must wait until after the deadline to receive Mail-In Ballots has passed before they can conclude their investigation. This is to prevent a dishonest person from dropping their ballot off at a post office and then heading to the polls to vote a Provisional Ballot (voting twice). Once the deadline is closed, and if the voter did not return a ballot via mail, their Provisional Ballot is accepted.
- For the November 3rd, 2020 General Election the deadline to receive ballots in the mail is November 10th, so no Provisional Ballots will be counted before November 11th at the earliest.
- All Provisional ballots that have been investigated and deemed eligible get counted.

The EO allows voters to return their Mail-In Ballots to their polling place on Election Day (this is new this election) and hand them to a Poll Worker. These ballots are counted starting the day after the election, November 4th.



Holly Mackey
Warren County Clerk

Telephone: 908-475-6211

Explanation of the Signature Verification Process for Mail-In Ballots:

OVERVIEW:

- You sign the certification envelope before returning it.
- Your returned ballot package is scanned into the SVRS. Only one ballot package will be accepted per voter.
- Your signature on the certification envelope is manually compared to the one we have in the SVRS.
 - The signature verification process is supervised at all times by two Election Commissioners, one Republican and one Democrat.
 - A missing middle name or initial will not result in a rejection. It is the style of your signature that counts.
- If it matches, it is accepted.
- If it does not match after 3 sets of eyes reviewing it, it is conditionally rejected and you will be sent a cure letter.
- If you return your cure letter within the allotted timeframe, your ballot will be accepted.
- If you do not return your cure letter, your ballot will remain rejected and your vote will not count.
- If you receive a cure letter, RETURN IT!!

DETAILS:

The ballot package you will be receiving in the mail will contain, at minimum: Your ballot, the certification envelope, the return envelope (this is postage paid and will have your name and a barcode printed on it, however your party affiliation will NOT appear) and an instruction sheet.

Once you vote your ballot, you will place it in the certification envelope (CE) and seal it. The CE will have a detachable flap where you will print and sign your name. **DO NOT DETACH THE FLAP!!** You then place your CE inside the return envelope and return it to us via the USPS, in person to our office or election board office, in one of the 11 drop boxes located throughout the county or in person at your polling location on Election Day.

When we receive your ballot we use the pre-printed barcode to scan it into the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS). Only one ballot can be received for each registered voter. If a voter returns two ballots for any reason, the system issues an alert when the second ballot is scanned and does not allow the process to go any further. The second ballot is rejected. This is one protection against duplicate voting.

Once your outer ballot envelope is scanned, it will be opened and your certification envelope will be removed. Your signature will be manually compared to the one we have on record in the SVRS. If it matches, the flap is detached and your sealed ballot becomes anonymous and is placed in your municipality's bin along with all the other returned anonymous envelopes. We can start opening them at 12:01 am Election Day. If your signature does not match the SVRS system on first pass, it will be given to the supervising Election Commissioners to review. If they agree with the mismatch they pass it to the administrative staff at the Election Board for final say. If all three agree that it doesn't match, the Board of Elections will mail you a "cure letter". If you fill out and return the cure letter within the allotted timeframe, your ballot will be counted. If you do not return the letter, your ballot will be rejected.