

Monmouth County 2020 Primary Election Frequently Asked Questions for the July 7 Primary Election

Introduction

Pursuant to Executive Orders, Governor Murphy moved the New Jersey Primary Election to July 7, 2020 and mandated that the election be conducted **primarily by Vote by Mail** (“VBM”), with limited in person polling locations open on Primary Election Day. Below are some answers to frequently asked questions about the primary election process.

What are my voting options to cast my vote for the 2020 Primary Election?

The 2020 Primary Election is a primarily Vote by Mail Election. Voters have the option to vote early and cast their vote by use of a mail-in ballot or to vote on the July 7, 2020 election day by voting in-person on a provisional paper ballot at their designated Primary Election polling location.

Only voters who are disabled or who need an accessible voting device to vote may vote through an accessible voting device. Voters with such needs should contact the County Clerk’s Office at 732-431-7790 for further information.

When is the deadline to register to vote?

The deadline to register to vote is June 16, 2020. Registration must be mailed and postmarked by June 16, 2020. You may also deliver your Registration to your Municipal Clerk or to the Monmouth County Superintendent of Elections by 9 p.m. on June 16, 2020.

Voting by Mail Frequently Asked Questions

How to obtain a mail-in ballot

How can I obtain a mail-in ballot to vote in the 2020 Primary Election?

All *active registered Republicans and Democrats* will automatically be mailed a VBM Ballot.

All *Unaffiliated voters or inactive Republican or Democrat voters* will automatically receive a VBM Ballot Application. The VBM Application is specifically designed by the Secretary of State for the July 7th Primary Election. The VBM Application will require you to declare your affiliation with either the Republican or Democrat Party in Section 5. If you do NOT disclose your party affiliation in Section 5 of the application we will be unable to process your request for a ballot.

Once the completed VBM Application is received by the Monmouth County Clerk’s Office, you will receive a ballot based upon your party election on the VBM Application. This special VBM application is also available on MonmouthCountyVotes.com to download and print.

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Even if an unaffiliated voter is signed up to receive mail in ballots for all elections, that voter must complete and return to the County Clerk the new application designed specifically for this July 7th Primary Election. The application can be found on the Monmouth elections website, MonmouthCountyVotes.com.

Is there a deadline to submit a VBM Application to receive a mailed VBM Ballot in time for the Primary Election?

Yes, the deadline for the Monmouth County Clerk's Office to receive a VBM Application in time to provide a VBM Ballot to the Voter by mail is June 30, 2020.

Is there a deadline to request an In-Person VBM Application?

In-person VBM Applications will be accepted by the County Clerk's Election Office until 8 p.m. on July 7, 2020. The 3 p.m., July 6th deadline to submit a VBM Application in-person has been suspended.

Do I have to put a stamp to return the VBM Application?

NO. All VBM Applications will have prepaid return postage.

Will I be notified if my VBM Application is rejected?

YES. Should your Application be rejected, the Monmouth County Clerk's Office will notify you of the reason(s) and you will be given an opportunity to cure the defect. Once the defect is cured, you will be issued a VBM Ballot. Be advised that if a VBM Application is received too close to Election Day, time may not permit the application to be cured to allow the voter to receive a VBM Ballot by mail.

When will the ballots be mailed?

As per Governor Murphy's Executive Order, the New Jersey Secretary of State has designated June 12, 2020 to commence mailing of VBM Ballots.

Will I continue to get VBM Ballots for all future elections after this Primary?

Voters that have previously requested to receive ballots by mail for all future elections will continue to receive ballots for all future elections. Voters who have not submitted an application for the July 7, 2020 Primary Election will receive the VBM Ballot for the July 7, 2020 election only.

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How to vote & return my mail-in ballot

What should I receive in my mail-in ballot package?

When you receive your mail-in ballot package enclosed you will find: Your Official Primary Election Ballot, a "Quick Tips for Voting by Mail" flyer, a Certificate Envelope (*make sure to fill out completely; incomplete certificates will void your ballot*), and a postage-paid return envelope addressed to the Board of Elections. If you are missing any of these items, please call the County Clerk's Elections Office at 732-431-7790.

What will the VBM Ballot look like?

The ballots are posted on the Monmouth elections website, MonmouthCountyVotes.com.

What should I do if I lose my VBM Ballot, it is destroyed or I do not believe I received it?

If your VBM Ballot is lost, damaged or you do not believe you received it, you may request a duplicate from the County Clerk's Office by calling 732-431-7790 or sending in a replacement ballot request form, which is available online for download at www.MonmouthCountyVotes.com. You may also visit the County Clerk's Office up until 8 p.m. on Election Night to request a duplicate ballot.

How do I return my VBM Ballot?

Your ballot will include a return postage-paid envelope, (no stamp necessary) which will be included in the VBM Ballot packet that you will receive. You may mail your ballot through the US Postal Service. You also may deposit your ballot in one of 5 secure drop boxes located throughout the county or you may deliver your ballot directly to the Board of Elections.

Where will the 5 secure drop boxes be located?

The following drop boxes will be in place by the week of June 22, 2020:

- 1) Englishtown Boro Hall
15 Main Street
Englishtown, NJ 07726

- 2) Howell Township Municipal Building - Rear Entrance
4567 Route 9 North
Howell, NJ 07731

- 3) Monmouth County Sheriff's Shore Area Communications Center
1825 NJ-33
Neptune, NJ 07753

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- 4) Eatontown Borough Municipal Building - Rear Entrance
47 Broad Street
Eatontown, NJ 07724

- 5) Hazlet Agency - NJ Motor Vehicle Commission
1374 Highway 36 Airport Plaza
Hazlet, NJ 07730

May I return my VBM Ballot to the polling location on Primary Election Day?

NO. VBM Ballots *will not be accepted at the polling location.*

What is the deadline for returning your VBM Ballot?

If you are using the US Postal Service, the ballot must be postmarked on or before July 7, 2020.

If you are using one of the 5 secure drop boxes, the deadline for delivering your ballot is 8 p.m. on July 7, 2020.

If you are delivering your ballot in-person, you may deliver it and submit your completed ballot to the Board of Elections Office up until 8 pm on July 7th; the night of the Primary Election.

If someone other than the voter is delivering the ballot to the Board of Elections make sure that they fill out and sign the Bearer Section on the left-front side of the return envelope.

Does the Board of Elections require identification if I choose to deliver my VBM Ballot directly to them?

YES. A voter delivering their own ballot is required to produce identification. If a Bearer is delivering the voter's ballot, they too must produce identification. Contact the Board of Elections at 732-431-7802 to find out what identification is acceptable.

Do all VBM Ballots get counted?

Ballots that are properly cast are canvassed and counted. Two common errors causing ballots to be rejected are: 1. neglecting to sign the Certification, and 2. the tampering of the Certificate of Election. *Do Not Detach the Certificate and attempt to tape it. If your Certificate is detached or damaged, request a new Certificate* by contacting the County Clerk's Election Office at 732-431-7790.

Will I be notified if my VBM ballot is rejected?

YES. The Board of Elections will notify you following the Election with the reason why your ballot was not counted.

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Voting at the Polls on July 7, 2020 Frequently Asked Questions

How will I know where my polling place will be located?

The Board of Elections will be choosing a limited number of Polling Places available for voters on Election Day, *where only Provisional Paper Ballots will be available* for voting, unless the voter is disabled. A *Provisional Paper Ballot is similar to voting on your VBM Ballot*. You will be receiving a post card notifying you of the polling location in your municipality.

Will I be receiving a Sample Ballot?

NO, because this is a primarily vote by mail election, you will be receiving a VBM ballot, which will be the ballot that you will cast your vote. Samples of the mail-in ballot are available on the County Clerk's website at www.MonmouthCountyVotes.com to view and will be available at the polling location.

Will I be permitted to vote in-person on the voting machine if I go to my polling place?

Only disabled voters will be permitted to vote on voting machines on election day. All other voters will be given paper provisional ballots.

A Provisional Paper Ballot is similar to voting on your VBM Ballot

We urge you to use your VBM Ballot, as Provisional Ballots are counted last and must be checked against the VBM Ballots that have already been cast before they are accepted and canvassed.

Do all provisional ballots get counted?

ALL ballots that are properly cast are canvassed and counted.

Will I be notified if my provisional ballot is rejected?

YES. The Board of Elections will notify you following the Election with the reason why your ballot was not counted.

How will I vote if I am disabled and require an accessible ballot?

If you have a disability and need an accessible ballot, please contact the Monmouth County Clerk's Office at 732-431-7790 or you may go to your assigned Primary Election polling place, which will provide access to an in-person accessible voting device on Primary Election Day.

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When will we know the results of the July 7, 2020 Primary Election?

Due to the challenges of this election and the time allotted to receive ballots and counted by the Board of Election; the results may not be available until the end of July. Every effort will be made to provide results as quickly as possible. The goal is to be accurate.

How do I contact the Board of Elections and/or the County Clerk's Office?

Clerk of Elections:

Sample ballots – Vote by Mail Applications – Candidate Petitions – Tabulation of Totals – Certification of Results

County Clerk: Christine Giordano Hanlon, Esq.

Deputy of Elections: Judith D. Ricci

Location: 300 Halls Mill Road, Freehold NJ 07728

Phone: 732.431.7790

E-mail: Judith.Ricci@co.monmouth.nj.us

Board of Elections:

Polling Locations – Poll Workers – Challengers – Vote by Mail Ballots – Redistricting

Chairperson/Commissioner: Chantal Bouw

Secretary/Commissioner: Allan C. Roth, Esq.

Commissioner: Eileen Kean, Esq.

Commissioner: Patricia A. Bennett, Esq.

Commissioner: Mary Pat Angelini

Commissioner: Robert Napoli

Chief Clerk: Tracee Johnson

Administrator: Robin Major

Location: 300 Halls Mill Road, Freehold NJ 07728

Phone: 732.431.7802

E-mail: Tracee.Johnson@co.monmouth.nj.us

E-mail: Robin.Major@co.monmouth.nj.us

Superintendent of Elections:

Registration – Party Affiliation – Voting Machines

Superintendent of Elections: Mary DeSarno

Location: 300 Halls Mill Road, Freehold NJ 07728

Phone: 732.431.7780

E-mail: Mary.DeSarno@co.monmouth.nj.us