The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages people to be informed participants in our Democracy. Non-partisan means that we do not support one political party or another, nor do we support one candidate over the other. We do take positions on voting rights, social justice issues, the environment, fiscal policy, and much more.

You can find out more about the League of Women Voters here:

LWV Morristown
https://www.lwvmorrisarea.org/

LWVUS Website
https://www.lwv.org/

LWV New Jersey - Local Leagues
https://www.lwvnj.org/about/our-local-leagues
Where does this material come from?

• This presentation is a collaboration between The LWV of Warren and West Morris Counties and LWV Morristown Area. It began as an adaptation of the 2020 Primary Voting Advocate Toolkit from The LWV of Southern Monmouth County.

• The materials incorporate changes to the November 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 2020 General Election defined in the Governor’s Executive Order (#177) and taps resources available on the following county’s websites:

  - Morris County Election Info  
    https://elections.morriscountynj.gov/

  - Hunterdon County Election Info  
    http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/countyclerk.htm#elections

  - Sussex County Election Info  
    https://sussexcountyclerk.org/elections/

  - Warren County Election Info  
    www.co.warren.nj.us/Election.html
Purpose:

“The purpose of this presentation is to educate voters on how to cast their ballots in the November 3, 2020 General Election.”

“The Covid-19 crisis threatens our elections and challenges us to safeguard voters, poll workers and the elections themselves.”
IMPORTANT DATES:

General Election 2020

**October 5**
*You should receive your ballot by October 12th!*
Deadline for ballots to be mailed by County Clerks.

**October 13**
Voter Registration Deadline For November General Election

**October 27**
Deadline to apply for a Vote-By-Mail Ballot by mail for November General Election *If you are updating your voting status from inactive to active!*

**November 3**
*Postmarked on or before this date!*
November General Election (You can also apply in person for a mail in ballot until November 2nd)
Where do I start?

Make a Plan to Vote!

Election Day is November 3rd and polls will close @ 8 pm!

- Check your Voter Registration Status.
- Learn about the candidates at: www.vote411.org
- Return your ballot ASAP!
- Track your ballot.
NJ Division of Elections: Voter Search
https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/registration-check

OR

Call your Board of Elections Office.

OR

Call your County Clerk’s Office.

Morris County Clerk: Ann F. Grossi
973-285-6715 or email: elections@co.morris.nj.us
To register online, visit: https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/register?fbclid=IwAR0607EaeEKwism8TosQBMRu7f-6yzEgmpBUDQHQvw8Asrylc4mXtJI6c

YOU WILL NEED!

• A current and valid Driver’s License or a non-driver Identification Card (ID card) issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC)

Your information will be provided to the MVC to validate identification, and to retrieve a copy of your digitized signature.

-OR-

• A Social Security number

To use your social security number, you must have the ability to sign on-screen or upload your signature to complete the registration process. *If you are unable to provide a digital signature, you CAN NOT register online. Click here to download the voter registration application for your county.
2020 Elections in New Jersey

GENERAL ELECTION
November 3, 2020

Voters decide:
• President and Vice President
• Congress—Senate and House
• Freeholder
• County Clerk and other county officials
• Local town/city officials

*Find out the specific local elections by visiting your county clerk’s website! These elections have an impact. Don’t forget about them! Vote411.org

NJ Constitutional Amendments
1. Property Tax Deduction and Exemption for Peacetime Veterans
2. Legalize Marijuana
Who is getting a mail-in ballot?

Every active registered voter will automatically receive a mail-in ballot for the November 3rd Election. (*If you haven’t received a ballot by October 12th call your clerk!)

An “inactive” voter is one whose previous election mail has been returned to the board of elections as undeliverable. These voters WILL NOT automatically receive a VBM ballot.

To return to active status, a voter must request a VBM ballot by submitting a VBM application or vote at a polling location using a provisional ballot.

*Don’t let yourself become inactive! Update your info and VOTE!
When are the ballots being mailed?

OCTOBER 5th!
*You should receive it within 5-7 days! Don’t throw it out!

Morris County Clerk: Ann F. Grossi
973-285-6715 or email: elections@co.morris.nj.us

What if I haven’t received a ballot by Oct. 12th?
*Check the trash or recycling then Contact your County Clerk’s office!
What will my mail-in ballot look like?

You’ll receive an envelope in the mail that might look like this. It contains your ballot and two more envelopes.

* Practice good citizenship! Prior to opening the large outer envelope, check to make sure that it is your name on the label as well as the correct address, municipality and Congressional District. If there are any errors do not open it and contact your County Clerk.
How do I fill out my Vote-by-Mail ballot?

*If you misplaced or incorrectly marked your ballot, you can request a replacement ballot from your County Clerk!

1. This is your ballot! (They vary by county.) Fill in the circles on the ballot to mark your choices. Use a blue or black pen—not pencil or marker. The ballots are scanned by machine.

2. This is your certification envelope. DO NOT DETACH and don’t forget to sign! Certificates also vary by county, read all instructions carefully!
How do I complete the mail in ballot process?

3 Put the ballot in the smaller certification envelope and seal. **Do not detach or damage the flap which attaches the certificate!**

4 Place the sealed certification envelope in the larger envelope and seal. *It is self-addressed and stamped.*

*Scanned upon receipt!*
The Certificate: A Closer Look

*Certificates vary by county! Read all instructions carefully!

Address where you are registered to vote!

Signature must match the signature on file or on mail-in ballot application.
Why is the certificate important?

• The Certificate contains the voter’s residency information, the voter’s signature that is matched against their signature on file, and information if they received assistance.

• Once the Board of Elections receives this inner envelope and verifies those three things, they then tear it off and separate it from the envelope.

• Once the envelope is opened (without the attached Certificate flap) no identifying features are on the ballot itself keeping the vote completely anonymous.
2020 Primary Election: Top 10 Rejected Reasons

Source: COMET(TM) using August 25, 2020 Dataset from NJ Division of Elections

- Ballot Received After Polls Closed: 9645
- Other: 8171
- Certificate Missing: 6093
- Signature Does Not Match: 4189
- Ballot Not Enclosed: 3732
- Certificate Not Signed: 1949
- Party Privilege after the Primary Election: 308
- Voter Registration ID Missing: 278
- Primary-Voted Both Parties: 183
- Voted in Wrong Party: 132

VotebymailNJ.org
Avoid Rejection!

Be on time!

DON’T WAIT! Your election day is the day you receive your ballot!

POSTMARK:
No postmark is needed if the Board of Elections receives it in the mail by November 5, 2020. But it must be postmarked by November 3, 2020 if the Board of Elections receives it by November 10, 8pm.

The “VBM Education Bill”
- Secretary of State provides voter education on Vote By Mail.
- Increases # of Messengers and Bearers from 3 to 5. (If family and residing in the same household.)
- Removes the requirement of having a postmark on the ballot if received in the mail within 48 hours of polls closed.
Avoid Rejection!
Check your certificate!

Don’t forget to sign!
Sign with your official signature, not your “grocery store relaxed” signature!

Signatures can change over time!
Avoid rejection due to signature mismatch by updating your signature if it’s been a long time since you’ve registered to vote.

The Ballot Cure Act
- Requires the county Board of Elections to notify the voters of their temporary rejection within 24 hours
- Allows voters up to 48 hours before the election is certified to provide a fix – or cure – to the mail-in ballot.
How do I return my ballot?

*There are many ways to return your ballot. Choose what is best and easiest for you just GET IT IN!

- Mail VBM ballot via U.S. Postal Service ASAP – must be postmarked by 11/3/20 and will be counted if received by 11/10/20.
- Bring your VBM ballot to your county Board of Elections up until 11/3/2020. Check in advance for their hours.
- Bring your VBM ballot to your polling place on Election Day. Find your polling place here: voter.svsrs.nj.gov/polling place-search.
- Vote in-person by provisional paper ballot that will be provided at your polling place on Election Day. Polls open from 6AM to 8PM. These ballots count!

*Voting machine available as an ADA accommodation for people with disabilities.
How do I return my ballot?

• The Ballot Drop Boxes – There will be 15 drop boxes in Morris County. The closest is on the side of the Madison police station in the parking lot.
• Each drop box will be under surveillance and emptied daily by two representatives from the board of elections which includes both democrats and republicans.
• If you touch someone else’s ballot you are considered a “bearer” and must complete the bearer section. (You may only bear up to 3 ballots per election; however you may return up to 5 household ballots for this election.)
• Drop boxes will be locked @ 8 pm on election day!
How do I return my ballot?

• All ballots come with a prepaid postage marked envelope.
• The state is working with the postal service to ensure ballots are processed in a timely manner. As long as it is *postmarked on or before November 3rd and received by November 10th*, it will be counted after election day!
• Ballots received prior to election day may begin to be counted by October 24th!
• Don’t wait until the last minute! If you do, ask the post office to postmark your ballot in person.
• It is safe, easy and cost effective for you!
How do I return my ballot?

- NEW! You can bring your mail in ballot to a polling location on election day!
- You will return it directly to a poll worker and must sign the poll book. *These ballots will not be counted until November 4th.*
- NOTE! Voters can only bring their personally voted ballot to their polling place; no one can be the bearer for someone else’s ballot at the polls on Election Day.

At a Polling Location

OR

At Your Board of Elections

- Up until election day, 11/3/2020.
- Call to check their hours!

Each municipality will be required to open at least 1 in-person polling site!
Polling places may have longer lines making it harder to practice safe social distancing, it is safest and easiest to vote using your mail in ballot!

- If you still chose to vote using a provisional ballot you will need to fill out a paper ballot (which is identical to the ballot you received in the mail) AND verification paperwork.
- Provisional ballots will be counted last to verify you haven’t already voted by mail. *At the earliest, November 11th!*
- All provisional ballots that have been investigated and deemed eligible, will be counted.
- If you have a disability and can’t fill out a paper ballot, you can vote at a polling place on election day on an ADA accessible machine.
**How can I track my ballot?**

*If you have trouble online, call your local election officials, they are happy to assist voters!*

**ONLINE:**

**NJ Voter Public Access**

https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/auth/sign-in

1. If you have not already set up your account, click the "Sign Up for Public Access" link to set up your NJ Voter Information System account.

2. **Enter your information** as it’s found in your Voter Registration file and your Voter ID (most successful) OR DL# OR SSN.

   NOTE: Your Voter Id# is listed on both the outer mailing envelope that your ballot came in, and on the inner envelope used to return your voted ballot to the Board of Elections.

3. Once you’ve successfully created an account, you’ll be prompted to log in: *click “Mail-In Ballot History” (current election is listed first), and find the column labeled “Ballot Received Date”.*
The highest reason for ballot rejection:
Ballots not postmarked by November 3rd Deadline!

Be pro-active! You can track your ballot and all votes are counted unless there is an error.

The national trend for vote by mail tampering is very low. Voting by mail is still safe and effective.
DON’T FORGET TO COMPLETE YOUR CENSUS!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS’ OF NEW JERSEY

CENSUS 2020
YOU COUNT
GET COUNTED

my2020census.gov
Quick Links

About the League
LWV Morristown - Barbara.Advocate@gmail.com
LWV Somerset/Hunterdon
LWV Sussex Highlands
LWV Warren and West Morris
LWVUS Website
LWV New Jersey - Local Leagues

Contact Info
Hunterdon County Clerk: Mary H. Melfi
908-788-1214 or email: countyclerk@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Morris County Clerk: Ann F. Grossi
973-285-6715 or email: elections@co.morris.nj.us

Sussex County Clerk: Jeff M. Parrott
973-579-0900 or email: info@sussexcountyclerk.org

Warren County Clerk: Holly Mackey
908-475-6211 or email: h Mackey@co.warren.nj.us

Drop Box Locations
Hunterdon County Drop Box Locations
Morris County Drop Box Locations
Sussex County Drop Box Locations
Warren County Drop Box Locations

Polling Locations
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Morris County Polling Locations
Sussex County Polling Locations
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Sources
LWV Southern Monmouth Voting Advocate Toolkit
Morris County Election Info
Hunterdon County Election Info
Sussex County Election Info
Warren County Election Info
NJ Voter Public Access  NJ Division of Elections
Additional Sources

Eagleton Institute of Politics
https://eagleton.rutgers.edu/event/vote-by-mail-protecting-the-ballot-during-covid-19/

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MORRISTOWN AREA
Barbara.Advocate@gmail.com

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WARREN AND WEST MORRIS COUNTIES

www.votebymailnj.org

www.nj.gov/state/elections/index.shtml
How to Register

• October 13 is the Voter Registration Deadline for General Election!

*You only need to declare a party affiliation for the primary.

*Check this box only if you would like to receive a mail in ballot for ALL future elections.

*Update signature here! (Signatures change over time due to age, illness, or injury!)