



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