



EVERY VOTE COUNTS



VOTING GUIDE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



**Vote Like Your
Life Depends on
it, because it
Does!**

Justin Dart, Jr.





**DO YOU
VOTE?**



YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO VOTE



People with disabilities with have a right to vote!

If you have physical, intellectual, emotional, or mental health disability or have health care concerns you have a right to vote.

Because...



VOTE AMERICA
EVERY VOTE COUNTS



Voting is simply
a CHOICE.



HOTDOG OR HAMBURGER?



vs



IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES 2020



PRIMARY ELECTION
JULY 7TH 2020

DEADLINE TO REGISTER
TO VOTE IN GENERAL
ELECTION
OCTOBER 13TH 2020

GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 3RD 2020



PRIMARY ELECTION



A primary election is an election used either to narrow the field of candidates for a given elective office or to determine the nominees for political parties in advance of a general election.



PRIMARY ELECTION



In the Primary Election, voters will choose one Republican candidate and one Democratic candidate out of many candidates.



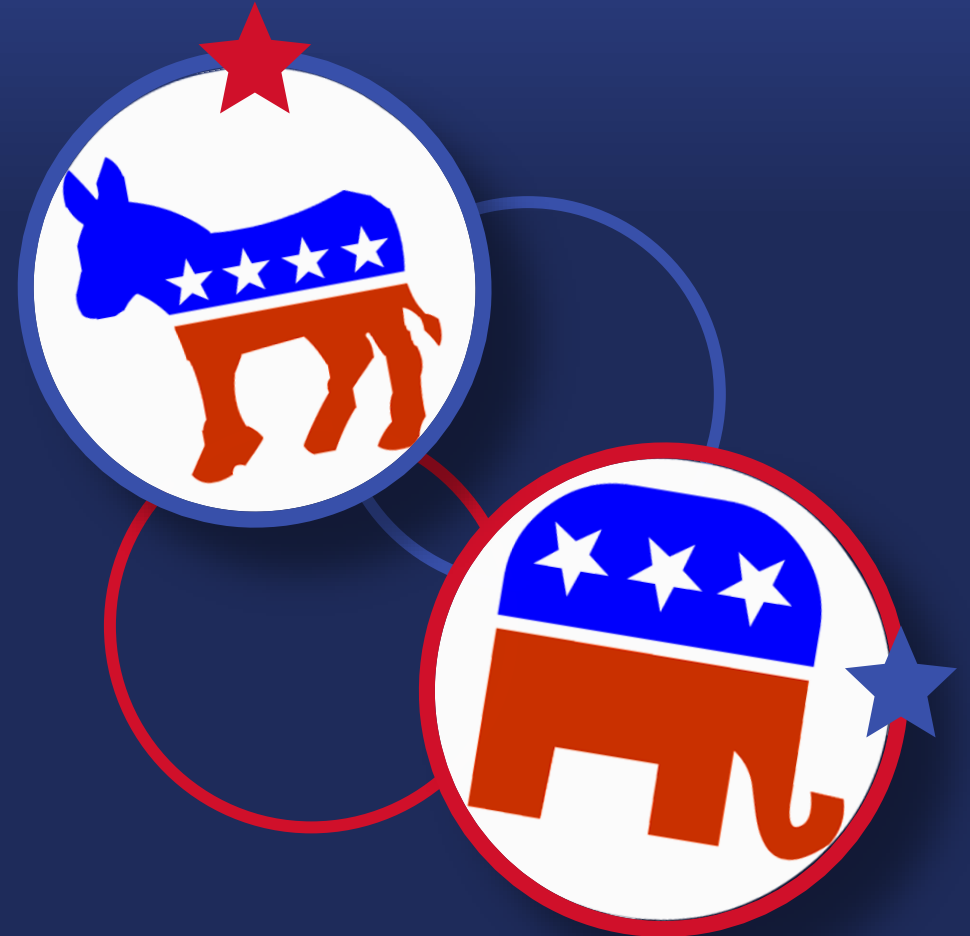
GENERAL ELECTION



The General Election will take place on November 3rd 2020. In the General Election, voters will decide between the Republican or Democrat candidate.

Voters in NJ will Choose:

- A US President
- Members of the US Congress
- A US Senator



GENERAL ELECTION



For US President, voters will choose...



**PRESIDENT
DONALD TRUMP**

OR



**FORMER VICE PRESIDENT
JOE BIDEN**

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND VOTING



Voter turnout surged by 8.5 points in 2018 among citizens with disabilities relative to the 2014 midterm elections. The surge, though, was slightly larger among citizens without disabilities (11.9 points), resulting in a 4.7 point gap in voter turnout between citizens with and without disabilities in 2018.

Source: Lisa Schur and Douglas Kruse, Rutgers University



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND VOTING



Reasons why People with Disabilities Don't Vote in the Same numbers as their Non-Disabled Peers.



VOTING ACCESSIBILITY



During the 2016 election, the General Accounting Office Surveyed 176 Polling Places throughout the country. It found:

- Of the 178 polling places, 60% (107) had one or more potential impediments.**
- Of the 137 where GAO was able to fully examine voting stations inside the polling place, 65% (89) had a voting station with an accessible voting system that could impede the casting of a private and independent vote.**

VOTING ACCESSIBILITY



Many polling places have no physical barriers but failed to post required signs, offer accessible parking or meet other requirements of the federal and state accessibility laws.



EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS IN NJ



VOTING ACCESSIBILITY



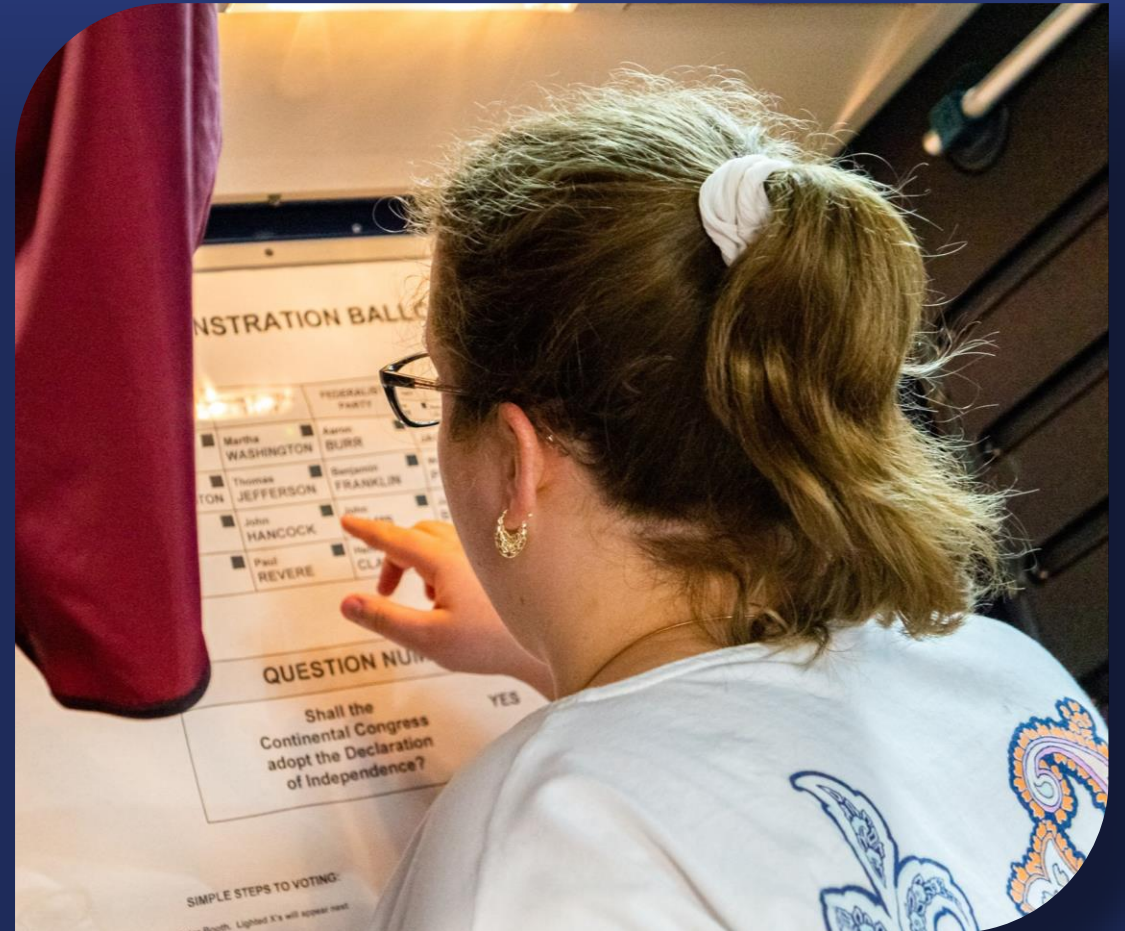
- Many people with intellectual disabilities still have difficulty reading and understanding the ballot. You can get assistance. You do not need to be your own guardian to vote.
- No matter what your disability is, you can vote.



YOUR RIGHTS WHEN YOU VOTE



If you need assistance in order to cast your vote, you still have the right to vote. You can bring your friend, your spouse, your girlfriend, boyfriend, or significant other to help you. You can also request assistance from a poll worker.



WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO VOTE?



A person who meets the requirements has the legal right to vote.

- Is at least 18 years old.
- Is citizen of the United States.

Also...

- Must live in the state and town where you want to vote.
- Not in jail. (Those on parole and probation can now register to vote.)
- Has registered to vote 21 days before the election.

THE RIGHT TO VOTE



- If you are otherwise meet the qualifications to vote, no one can question your right to vote.
- The right to vote is a constitutional right that can only be taken away by a judge.



LAWS THAT PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS



- **Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)**
- Accessibility (physical and programmatic) of state and local government services.
- **Voting and Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (1984)**
- **Help America Vote Act (2002)** - Deals mainly with making voting machines accessible for ALL people.

REGISTER TO VOTE



In order to vote, you need to be registered to vote.

You only need to Register once.

But, if you recently moved, you need to register to vote in your new location.

You can now register to vote online

A photograph of a New Jersey Voter Registration Application form. The form is titled "New Jersey Voter Registration Application" and includes the state seal. It contains several numbered sections: 1. Check all boxes that apply: New Registration, Address Change, Name Change, Signature Update, Political Party, Vote By Mail. 2. Are you a U.S. Citizen? 3. Are you at least 17 years of age? 4. Last Name, First Name, Middle Name or Initial, Suffix (Jr., Sr., III). 5. Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY), Gender (Optional), Male, Female. 6. NJ Driver's License Number or MVC Non-driver ID Number, MVC Non-driver ID or a Social Security Number. 7. "I swear or affirm that I DO NOT have a NJ Driver's License, MVC Non-driver ID or a Social Security Number." 8. Home Address (DO NOT use PO Box), Apt., Municipality (City/Town), County, State, Zip Code. 9. Home Address (If different from Home Address), Apt., Municipality (City/Town), County, State, Zip Code. 10. Day Phone Number, E-Mail Address (Optional). 11. Party name is, I wish to be. 12. Day Phone Number, E-Mail Address (Optional). A hand is visible in the bottom right corner, holding a pen and writing on the form.

COUNTY VOTING REGISTRATION FORMS



Middlesex County Voter Registration Application Forms

nj.gov/state/elections/assets/pdf/forms-voter-registration/68-voter-registration-english-middlesex.pdf



MAIL-IN BALLOT FOR NOV. 3RD ELECTION



Because of COVID-19,
The Governor of NJ
issued an Executive
Order making mail-in
ballot the primary
method for voting in
the November 3rd
General Election.



MAIL-IN BALLOT FOR NOV. 3RD ELECTION



- All “Active” (recently voted) voters will receive a mail-in ballot **AUTOMATICALLY** in the mail the first week of October.
- To check to see if you are active go to: ***voter.svrs.nj.gov/registration-check***
- Fill out the mail-in ballot carefully.
- Place the ballot in the envelope that is provided.
- You can send or drop it off anytime before or on Election Day.

MAIL-IN BALLOT FOR NOV. 3RD ELECTION



You can:

- Mail your mail-in ballot to your county Board of Elections (address is on the envelope)
- Hand deliver it to the Board of Elections.
- Hand deliver it or the polling place where you vote in person on November 3rd.
- Put in a mail-in ballot drop box.



MAIL-IN BALLOT FOR NOV. 3RD ELECTION



Drop Box locations will be posted on the NJ Division of Elections website in October:

nj.gov/state/elections/index.shtml

If you want to make sure that your mail-in ballot was received, the NJ Division of Elections has a “Track Your Mail-In Ballot” feature on their website:

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



FOLLOW THE RULES



Its important for everyone who votes by mail to follow the rules. Voters who do not follow the instructions may result in having their ballot not counted.

If you ask someone to hand deliver your mail in ballot to the board of elections or your polling location, that person must sign the envelope as a "Bearer" giving him or her official authorization to submit your ballot on your behalf.

VOTING IN PERSON



- Persons with disabilities will be able to vote in person.
- There will be at least 1 polling location in each municipality.
- Polling location and machines will be accessible
- Go here to find out where your polling place will be on November 3rd: voter.svrs.nj.gov/polling-place-search



VOTING IN PERSON



- If you choose to vote in person, poll workers will check to ensure you did not submit a mail in ballot for the November 3rd election previously.
- This may cause delays.



IMPORTANT TIPS



- **Don't wait to submit your ballot.**
- **To ensure that your mail-in ballot is received before the election and counted, mail it or drop it off as soon you get it and fill it out.**
- **If you mail your mail-in ballot, it needs to be postmarked on or before November 3rd to be counted.**

IMPORTANT TIPS



- If you are registering to vote for the first time, you can also apply to vote by mail at the same time.
- This will ensure that you will receive your mail in ballot in time for the November 3rd election.

APPLICATION FOR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT
Please type or print clearly in ink. All information required unless marked optional.

1	I hereby apply for a Mail-In Ballot for: (CHECK ONLY ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> ALL FUTURE ELECTIONS, until I request otherwise in writing. Or for ONLY ONE of the following: <input type="checkbox"/> General (November) <input type="checkbox"/> Primary (June) <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal <input type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Special _____ To be held on _____ <small>(Specify) (MM / DD / YYYY)</small>		MILITARY/OVERSEAS VOTER ONLY I request Vote-By-Mail Ballots for all elections in which I am eligible to vote and I am (CHECK ONLY ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> A Member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty, or an eligible spouse or dependent. <input type="checkbox"/> A U.S. Citizen residing outside the U.S. and I intend to return. <input type="checkbox"/> A U.S. Citizen residing outside the U.S. and I do not intend to return. <input type="checkbox"/> A U.S. Citizen residing outside the U.S. and I have never lived in the U.S.	
	PLEASE NOTE: Your ballot can only be sent to the mailing address supplied on this application. If your mailing address changes, you must notify the County Clerk in writing.			
2	Last Name <small>(Type or Print)</small>	First Name <small>(Type or Print)</small>	Middle Name or Initial	Suffix (Jr., Sr., III)
3	Address at which you are registered to vote: Street Address or RD# _____ Apt. _____ Municipality <small>(City/Town)</small> _____ State _____ Zip _____		4 Mail my ballot to the following address: <input type="checkbox"/> Same Address as Section 3 <small>Please include any PO Box, RD#, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code & Country (if outside US)</small>	
	5 Date of Birth <small>(MM / DD / YYYY)</small>	6 Day Time Phone Number <small>()</small>	7 E-Mail Address <small>(Optional)</small>	

WHY VOTE?



- **Allows every citizen a say as to who should run our country, our state, our county, our town.**
- **Allows every citizen to decide on important issues, such school budgets, putting money aside for the environment or amending the state or federal constitutions or other public questions.**

WHY VOTE?



- Voting gives you influence and a voice. When you vote, you have power. You count!
- By casting your vote you are exercising your right and responsibility as an American citizen.



WHAT TO DO AS ADVOCATES



- **Survey Polling Places for Accessibility.**
- **Work with your County Board of Elections to come up with Solutions.**
- **Become part of the training process for poll workers.**
- **Learn more about your rights and what the laws say.**
- **Teach others about their right to vote, volunteer to register people to vote...IT'S EASY.**
- **Become involved with organizations like ACI and REV UP NJ.**
- **VOTE!!**

WHAT TO DO AS ADVOCATES



Register and vote in person! If you can't vote in person, vote by Mail-in Ballot.

If your polling place is not accessible... **COMPLAIN!**

If your right to vote is being questioned because of your disability.... **COMPLAIN!**



REV UP NEW JERSEY



REV UP NJ is part of a nation-wide effort to increase the number of people with disabilities involved in the election process. REV UP is a campaign founded by the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and has organized forums, conducted voting registration drives, given talks about our rights to vote and the process to vote, and has advocated for the rights of people with disabilities to vote.



RESOURCES



- **DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW JERSEY**
210 South Broad Street (3rd Floor), Trenton, NJ 08608
609-292-9742/Election Day Hotline: 800-922-7233
drnj.org
- **NJ DIVISION OF ELECTIONS**
44 South Clinton Avenue (7th Floor), Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-3760
nj.gov/state/elections/index.shtml
- **REV UP NEW JERSEY**
629 Amboy Ave, Edison, NJ 08837
732-738-4388
adacil.org/voting



RESOURCES



The Elizabeth Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities and The Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center publishes *Voting: It's Your Right*, a guide about voting rights and the voting process in New Jersey.

VOTING:
IT'S YOUR RIGHT



ALLIANCE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE



A Center for Independent Living serving Middlesex, Union, and Somerset Counties.

- 629 Amboy Ave
Edison, NJ 08837
- 732-738-4388
- adacil.org



ALLIANCE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE



Our Core Services:

- Advocacy
- Peer Support
- Information & Referral
- Independent Living Skills
- Transition Services



THANK YOU!



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