

PRIMARY ELECTION 2026: Frequently Asked Questions

Election Day is June 2, 2026

Important Dates & Deadlines:

Party Affiliation Declaration Deadline (by mail):

- April 8, 2026: Form must be received by this date.

Voter Registration Deadline (by mail or online):

- May 12, 2026: Form must be postmarked by this date.

Vote-By-Mail Application Deadline (by mail or online):

- May 26, 2026: Form must be received by County Clerk by this date.

In-Person Early Voting Period:

- May 26 – May 31, 2026: Polls will be open 10 am – 8 pm weekdays and Saturday, and 10 am – 6 pm on Sunday.

Vote-By-Mail Application Deadline (in-person):

- June 1, 2026: Applications are due by 3 pm at your County Clerk's office.

Primary Election Date:

- June 2, 2026: Polls are open 6 am – 8 pm.



Scan this QR Code for

- Registering to vote or checking voter status
- Vote-By-Mail forms
- Party Affiliation Declaration Form
- New Jersey State Voter Information Portal
- Candidate information on Vote411

What is a primary election?

A primary election allows members of a political party to choose their party's nominee(s) to appear on the ballot in an upcoming general election. In New Jersey, only registered members of a political party may nominate that party's candidates. See the next page for information on declaring or changing a party affiliation.

Who am I voting for when I vote in a primary?

In the June 2026 Primary, voters will select their party's nominees for one statewide U.S. Senate seat, the U.S. House seat in their district, and various local offices.

What are my voting options?

There are **3 ways to vote** in the Primary Election:

1. **In-Person Early Voting:** Use a voting machine at an early voting location in your county from May 26 – May 31, 2026.
2. **Vote-By-Mail:** Return your ballot one of three ways outlined in the Vote-By-Mail section.
3. **In-Person on Election Day:** Polls are open 6 am – 8 pm on June 2, 2026.

What is in-person early voting?

New Jersey voters can vote early using a voting machine at designated early voting polling locations. During early voting, polls are open 10 am – 8 pm weekdays and Saturday, and 10 am – 6 pm on Sunday. Check with your county for early voting polling locations or visit lwnj.org/vote.

Am I eligible to vote?

To register to vote in NJ, you must be: a United States citizen; at least 17 years old*; a resident of the county for 30 days before the election; and not currently serving a sentence of incarceration because of a felony conviction. You can register to vote if you are on parole or probation. The voter registration deadline for the June Primary Election is May 12, 2026.

**You may not vote in a General Election until you are 18. With the implementation of the Voter Empowerment Act, 17-year-old voters may cast a ballot in a Primary Election if they will turn 18 by the next General Election.*

Am I registered to vote?

If you are unsure whether your registration is up to date, or if you need to re-register after a name change, move, or completion of a sentence of incarceration, scan the QR code on this page or visit lwnj.org/vote.

Where is my polling location?

You can vote early in-person at an early voting polling center in your county, or you can vote at your designated polling place on Election Day. Find your polling place at Vote411.org or lwnj.org/vote.

How can I Vote-By-Mail?

In New Jersey, any eligible registered voter can Vote-By-Mail after applying. To have your Vote-By-Mail ballot mailed to you, apply online or mail an application which must be received by your County Clerk by May 26, 2026. Voters can also apply in-person at their County Clerk up until 3 pm on June 1, 2026. See "I am not affiliated with a political party" section for details on unaffiliated voters wishing to Vote-By-Mail.

How do I return my Vote-By-Mail Ballot?

Return your ballot in one of three ways:

- Drop your ballot in a secure ballot drop box in your county before polls close on Election Day.
- Bring your ballot in-person to your County Board of Elections before polls close on Election Day.
- *Returning your ballot by mail – Recent change*
Vote-By-Mail ballots must be **postmarked** by election day. Due to a recent change, USPS now considers mail postmarked when it is *processed* by the post office, not when it is received by the post office. **Given this change, it is recommended to return your completed ballot using one of the two methods above.** If you plan to return your ballot through the mail, mail your ballot at least several days before Election Day.

How do I know if my Vote-By-Mail Ballot was received and counted?

To track your Vote-By-Mail ballot, visit Vote.NJ.Gov, select "Track My Ballot" and log into your My Voter Record account. If you do not already have an account, you can create one by following the instructions to locate your Voter ID. If your ballot is rejected because of a problem with your signature, you will receive a "Cure Letter" from your County Board of Elections that will include a Cure Form. Follow all instructions and return the form by the deadline provided.

How do I learn about the candidates?

Candidate forums are essential venues to help voters learn more about a candidate and their stance on key issues. Candidates might also vocalize their opinions through local news outlets, on social media, at local community meetings, and through campaign materials. You can also learn about candidates running for federal, state and local office by visiting Vote411.org.

I am currently affiliated with a political party but want to change my political party affiliation before the primary. What do I do?

If you are currently affiliated with a party and wish to change your affiliation, you must complete a Party Affiliation Declaration Form. Print and complete the form at lwnj.org/vote, then return it to the Commissioner of Registration or your municipal clerk. The form must be received by April 8, 2026.

I am not affiliated with a political party but want to vote in the upcoming primary election. What do I do?

Unaffiliated voters have options for declaring a party depending on method of voting. Once a party is declared, that party affiliation is retained unless the voter files a party affiliation declaration form after the election.

- Unaffiliated voters can declare their affiliation in-person at the polls on Primary Election Day or during the early voting period.
- Unaffiliated voters that are signed up to automatically receive Vote-By-Mail ballots no longer automatically receive Vote-By-Mail ballots for the primary election. To receive a Vote-By-Mail ballot, these voters must first declare a party by filling out a party affiliation declaration form and returning it to the municipal clerk or county Commissioner of Registration by the mail or in-person Vote-By-Mail application deadlines.
- Unaffiliated voters not signed up to Vote-By-Mail that wish to do so must declare their party and apply for a mail-in ballot by the Vote-By-Mail application deadlines.

How do I become a poll worker?

Poll workers play an extremely important role in every election. NJ needs individuals to facilitate in-person voting for early voting and Election Day. This is a paid position and training is provided. Apply at PollWorker.NJ.Gov.

Other questions?

Email the League of Women Voters of New Jersey at contact@lwnj.org.



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