

GENERAL ELECTION 2026 MIDTERMS: Frequently Asked Questions

Election Day is November 3, 2026

Important Dates & Deadlines:

Voter Registration Deadline (by mail or online):

- October 13, 2026: Form must be postmarked by this date.

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

- October 27, 2026: Form must be received by County Clerk by this date.

In-Person Early Voting Period:

- October 24 – November 1, 2026
- Polls are open 10 am – 8 pm weekdays and Saturdays, and 10 am – 6 pm on Sundays.

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

- November 2, 2026: Applications are due by 3 pm at your County Clerk's office.

General Election Date:

- November 3, 2026: Polls are open 6 am – 8 pm.



Resources available at lwvnj.org/vote

- Register to vote or check voter status
- Vote-By-Mail forms
- Link to New Jersey State Voter Information Portal
- Candidate information on Vote411

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 October 24 – November 1, 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 November 3, 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 Saturdays, and 10 am – 6 pm on Sundays. Check with your county for early voting polling locations or visit lwvnj.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 lwvnj.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 October 27, 2026. Voters can also apply in-person at their County Clerk up until 3 pm on November 2, 2026.

Am I eligible to vote?

To register to vote in NJ, you must be: a United States citizen; at least 17 years old (and understand you cannot vote in a General Election until you reach the age of 18); 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 November General Election is October 13, 2026.

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 lwvnj.org/vote.

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.

What happens if my Vote-By-Mail Ballot is temporarily rejected?

Ballots can be rejected for a number of reasons. If your ballot is rejected due to an error that can be cured, you will receive a "Cure Letter" from your County Board of Elections that will include a Cure Form. When you complete this form, you will be declaring that this was your ballot and verifying your identity by providing information. You can deliver this form in-person to your county Board of Elections office, or return it by mail, email, or fax. Fill out the form as soon as you receive it. The deadline for the County Board of Elections to receive your ballot cure form is 48 hours prior to election certification.

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.

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.

Who/what is being voted on in this election?

Midterm elections are the federal general elections that take place halfway through a President's four-year term. During a midterm election year, voters elect all 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, who serve two-year terms, and approximately one-third of the U.S. Senate, whose six-year terms are staggered. Unlike many states, New Jersey holds its gubernatorial elections in odd-numbered years, so the state's Governor and Legislature are elected on a different cycle than federal midterm elections. In addition, various local offices including municipal, county, and school board elections may take place, along with ballot measures. Check Vote411.org to see what's on the ballot for you specifically.

Why does being a voter matter?

Congress controls the federal funding allocated to NJ, which directly impacts things like local infrastructure and school funding. Congress also writes laws that govern your daily life, confirms judges, and decides the tax structures that impact your paycheck. Your individual vote carries real weight. When you vote, you're helping increase voter turnout. When voter turnout is high, that means you're not leaving the decisions up to a small percentage of people. Being a voter means adding your voice and voting for the elected officials who you believe will best represent the issues that are important to you.

Other questions?

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



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