



Executive Order #144

Vote By Mail Primary

July 7, 2020

FAQ



1. Who is getting a Vote by Mail Ballot?

Under Governor Murphy's Executive Order #144, the County Clerk will automatically mail all active registered Republican and Democratic voters a Mail-in Ballot. All Unaffiliated voters and Inactive voters will receive a Vote By Mail Application specific to the July 7, 2020 Primary Election that must be completed and returned to the County Clerk in order to receive a ballot.

2. Will I continue to get Vote by Mail ballots for future elections after this Primary?

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 Primary election is over.

3. I am an Unaffiliated voter who sent in an application for All Future Elections – do I need to reapply?

Yes – you will be receiving an application specific to the July 7, 2020 Primary. If you choose to return the application and vote in the Primary you will need to select the party you wish to be affiliated with and you will receive that party's ballot. You may return to an unaffiliated status after the Primary Election by filling out and returning a Party Declaration Form to the Warren County Board of Elections.

4. 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).*** Voters with disabilities that sign a certification will have access to, and may vote on, an ADA-accessible machine.

5. When will ballots be mailed out?

Ballots are expected to be mailed mid-June.

6. 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.

7. 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 Primary Election and request a ballot. However, the ballot **MUST be received** by the Board of Elections no later than 8pm that same night and, as it takes a bit of time to process your request, vote the ballot and deliver it to the Election Board's building on Mansfield St., please don't wait until the last minute!

8. 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 5 locked drop boxes located throughout the county (locations will be announced as soon as they are established) or you can deliver it to the County Clerk's office or the Board of Elections office. Please note: If you are using the USPS, the ballot MUST be postmarked on or before July 7, 2020 and be received by the Board of Elections on or before 8pm July 14, 2020 in order to be considered valid and to be canvassed.

9. Do all Vote By Mail ballots get counted?

All ballots that are properly cast are canvassed and counted. Two common errors that cause a ballot to be rejected are neglecting to sign the certificate 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, the Board of Elections will notify you following the election as to the reason your ballot was not counted.

10. Will I be getting a sample ballot?

No. Sample ballots will not be mailed for the July 7, 2020 Primary Election. They will be available to view on our website www.warrencountyvotes.com and will also be at the polling places.

11. When will we know the results of the Election?

Due to the challenges of this election we hope to have the first UNOFFICIAL results available by noon on July 8, 2020 (the day after 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 may not be available until the end of July. 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, June 16, 2020. Registration must be mailed and postmarked by June 16, 2020, delivered to your municipal clerk or delivered to the Warren County Board of Elections by 9pm June 16th.

If you wish to vote in the upcoming 2020 Primary 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.

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. 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).

Holly Mackey,
Warren County Clerk