



## **VOTE BY MAIL – EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. What is Vote by Mail?**

Vote by Mail has replaced Absentee Voting; thus, absentee ballots no longer exist. Vote by Mail allows a voter to vote early and alleviates having to go to the polls on Election Day.

**2. Who can Vote by Mail?**

Any “registered” voter can Vote by Mail. No reason is necessary to apply.

**3. How do I apply to Vote by Mail?**

For the 2020 General Election, due to Covid-19, all “registered” voters will receive a Vote by Mail ballot in the mail. If you are not a “registered” voter, you would need to register to vote first, then apply for an application to receive a Vote by Mail ballot.

**4. Where can I get a Vote by Mail Application?**

The County Clerk’s Office or their website; <http://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/Vote2020>

Your Municipal Clerk’s Office or their website: [www.southplainfieldnj.com](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com)

New Jersey Division of Elections website: <http://njelections.org>

**5. Can someone help me complete the application or ballot?**

Yes, you can have someone help you. This person is called an “Assistor” and must complete the “Assistor” section of the application or ballot. You, the voter, must sign the application or ballot. The Assistor/Authorized Messenger can also deliver the ballot to the County on your behalf. Authorized Messengers are limited to 3 ballots per election.

**6. Can I fax or email my application or ballot?**

No, only active duty military and voters residing overseas may by contacting the County Clerk’s office directly at 732-745-4202. All other voters must submit their application or ballot with an original signature to the County Clerk’s office.

**7. If I apply for and receive a Vote by Mail ballot, can I vote at the polls instead?**

If you did not receive or return your Vote by Mail Ballot, you may only vote by provisional paper ballot at the polls. For the 2020 General Election, if you did not submit your Vote by Mail Ballot yet, you can bring it to your usual polling location for submittal.



(Picture of Vote by Mail Drop Box)

**8. What is a dedicated Vote by Mail drop box?**

An election ballot drop box is owned by the Middlesex County Board of Elections and is a dedicated secured box to accept Vote by Mail Ballots prior to the election. Such ballots are routinely collected by Middlesex County Board of Elections staff and brought back directly to the County Board of Elections for processing.

**9. If I Vote by Mail, will my vote be counted?**

Yes, all votes are counted and included in the final official results. Weeks following an election, when results are official, you can email [elections@co.middlesex.nj.us](mailto:elections@co.middlesex.nj.us) to inquire if your ballot was counted.

**10. What if my signature has changed?**

You can update your signature by contacting the Administrator of Elections at 732-745-3471. Your signature must match the signature on your voter record.

**11. Where could I call with any questions regarding my registration to vote?**

The Middlesex County Board of Elections at 732-745-3471

**12. I'm confused, what are my options for submitting my completed Vote by Mail ballot?**

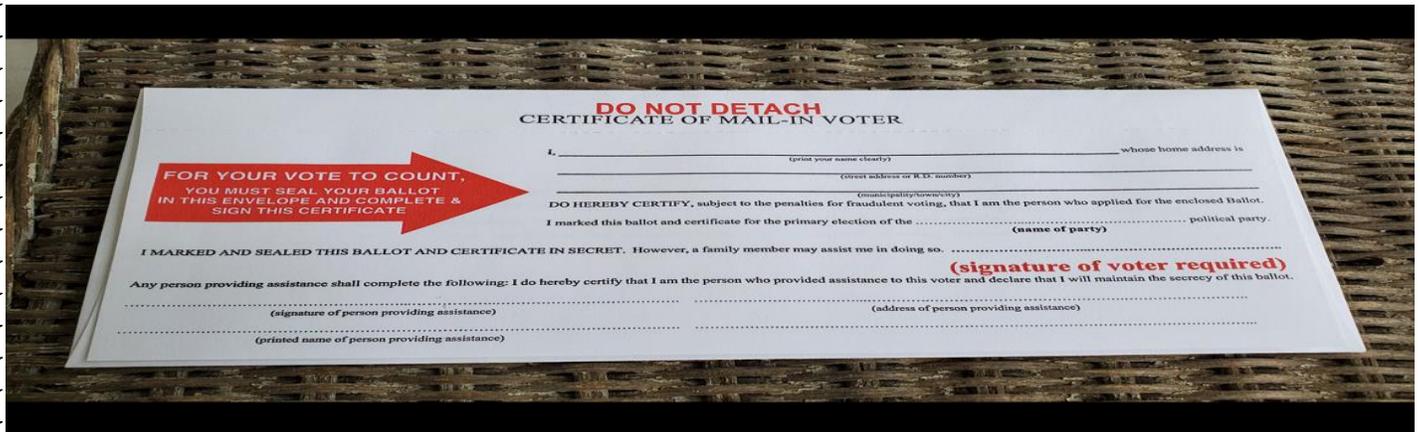
You have four (4) options:

- A) Place in regular mail.
- B) Place in a secured dedicated Vote by Mail drop box anywhere within Middlesex County, or in the South Plainfield drop box located at the back entrance to the main Borough Hall building located at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.
- C) Hand deliver to your regular polling location on election day, after signing the election book.
- D) Hand deliver to the County Clerks office located at 75 Bayard Street, New Brunswick.

**13. How do I fill out the Vote by Mail ballot?**

You can find a step by step video tutorial demonstrated by the County of Middlesex on the following YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hiafoxju1g>

Make sure you place your ballot inside the envelope provided, fill out and sign the envelope and seal it closed.



**14. What is the difference between a Vote by Mail Ballot and a Provisional Ballot?**

Essentially there is no difference. They are both paper ballots containing the same exact voting choices. One is processed through the mail referred to as "Vote by Mail Ballot", and the other is administered at the polls on election day referred to as a "Provisional Ballot".

**15. What do I do if I make a mistake, damage, throw out, or lose my Vote by Mail Ballot?**

You may request a replacement Vote by Mail Ballot from the Middlesex County Clerk's Office (732-745-4202). Or, you can go to your polling location on Election Day and vote by a paper Provisional Ballot.

**16. What happens if a voter submits their Vote by Mail Ballot but also goes to the polls to try to vote on the ADA machine?**

For the 2020 General Election, any voter who attempts to vote on the machine, the poll worker will contact the County Board of Elections to check if the voter sent in a Mail-In Ballot. If they did, they will be denied access to the machine. If they did not, they can proceed to vote on the ADA machine after filling out an ADA certification. If the Mail-In Ballot were received afterwards, it will be rejected.

**17. What if I believe an election crime or voter fraud has been committed?**

If you would like to report a potential election crime or alleged incident of voter fraud, please call 1-844-OPIA-TIPS. For all other election concerns please call 1-877-NJ-VOTER

