

## “Things you need to know about New Jersey Primary Elections”

- Most information that people are receiving regarding the upcoming Presidential Primary Elections are from news shows and newspapers that are based out of either Philadelphia or New York. Elections laws vary from state to state and much of this information does not apply to New Jersey Primaries. We at the Board of Elections want voters in Hunterdon County to be as well-informed as possible so that each person who wishes to cast a ballot in the 2020 Presidential Primary Election can do so.

### **Some basic information....**

- New Jersey’s Primary Election has been moved from Tuesday June 2, 2020 to Tuesday, **July 7, 2020 by Executive order from the Governor** and will be held between the hours of 6:00am and 8:00pm.
- Your polling location can be found listed on the front of your Official Election Sample Ballot which is mailed out to actively registered voters prior to each election as well as on the Hunterdon County website. There is also a new app available from the NJ State Division of Elections to download on your portable device. Please visit your devices app site and search for NJ ELECTIONS.
- There is a 21-day new voter registration deadline in New Jersey for all elections. For the 2020 Primary the deadline to register to vote is **Tuesday, June 16, 2020**. The Board of Elections Office will be open until 9:00pm on the close of registration to accept in person registrations.
- Voter Registration Applications are available at your Municipal Clerk’s Office, the Hunterdon County Website, The State Division of Elections Website, and at the Board of Elections Office.

### **Primary-specific information....**

- Primary Elections, which are held in New Jersey during the month of June each year, **except for the year 2020 due to current pandemic**, are the only elections where party affiliation affects the candidates for which a voter may vote. In all other elections, a voter’s party affiliation is not listed in the poll book.
- In New Jersey, only the state’s two most populous political parties have a Primary Election. This is the Democratic Party and the Republican Party.
- There are two elections running simultaneously on Primary Election Day – the Democratic Primary and the Republican Primary.
- New Jersey has “closed” Primaries. This means that only voters registered with the Democratic Party may nominate Democratic Candidates, and only voters registered with the Republican Party may nominate Republican Candidates. Voters registered with any of the other political groups recognized by the State of New Jersey (Libertarian, Green Party, etc.) may not vote in either the Republican or Democratic Primary.
- **HOWEVER, UNLIKE SOME OTHER STATES WITH CLOSED PRIMARIES, VOTERS IN NEW JERSEY WHO ARE UNAFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY OR GROUP MAY DECLARE EITHER DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN AT THE POLLS ON THE DAY OF THE PRIMARY AND WILL THEN BE ENTITLED TO VOTE IN THAT PARTY’S PRIMARY.**

- Voters who declare a party at the polls will remain affiliated with that party until and unless they file a Political Party Affiliation Declaration with the Board of Elections. Unaffiliated voters declare at the polls by signing either a Democratic or Republican voting authority slip prior to entering the voting booth.
- Many voters who do not vote faithfully for one party or the other consider themselves to be independent voters. However, as of January 1, 2005 the State of New Jersey no longer formally recognizes 'Independent' as a political group. For the purpose of voting in a Primary, there are no Independent Voters. A voter is either registered with one of the nine recognized political parties or groups, or they are Unaffiliated.
- There is a 55-day deadline to change your party affiliation before a Primary Election. For the [July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020](#) Primary Election this deadline is Wednesday, [May 13, 2020](#)

**This is very important....**

- Unaffiliated voters may declare either Democrat or Republican at any time up to and including the day of the Primary Election. **However, per NEW JERSEY STATE LAW, any voter who CHANGES their party affiliation or UN-AFFILIATES after the party declaration deadline is DISQUALIFIED from voting in that Primary Election and their name will be automatically removed from the poll book! This means that any registered voter who files a party declaration changing FROM: Democrat or Republican TO: any other political party or Unaffiliated after [May 13, 2020](#), may not vote in the [July 7, 2020](#) Primary Election.**

**Contact Information**

Hunterdon County Board of Elections  
71 Main Street, 3A  
Third Floor, Historic Courthouse  
Flemington NJ 08822

Mailing Address: PO Box 2900, Flemington NJ 08822

Phone: 908-788-1190

Fax: 908-806-4686

E-Mail: [elections@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:elections@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

Website: <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/electionboard.htm>