ARA

Voting in New Jersey in 2026

What every voter needs to know

Agard Research Associates Inc.

A nonpartisan, nonprofit research institute | Information current as of November 9, 2026

The bottom line: the rules have not changed

No new federal citizenship-document or photo ID rule was in effect for the November 3, 2026 election, and none is in effect now.
You still vote under the same rules as before.

01	You may have seen news about new voting laws. None of them are in effect.
02	Courts blocked the executive-order rules on registration forms and mailed ballots. The proposed federal law has not passed the Senate.
03	Do not let the headlines stop you from voting.

Key deadlines to remember

21 DAYS

Registration deadline

Register at least 21 days ahead. If you moved within your county or changed your name, you can still vote.

9 DAYS

Early voting

Before each November general election, vote in person at any early voting site in your county, weekends included.

6 DAYS

Mail ballots

A mail ballot counts if it is postmarked by Election Day and arrives within six days.

Every N.J. voter can vote by mail, no excuse needed. The Nov. 3, 2026 election followed these same rules.

Registering is simple and free

01 **No citizenship documents needed.** No birth certificate. No passport. You simply sign a statement that you are a U.S. citizen.

02 **One number is all it takes.** Your N.J. driver's license or state ID number, or the last four digits of your Social Security number.

03 **Three easy ways.** Register online, by mail, or in person. You qualify if you are a citizen, will be 18 by Election Day, and have lived in your county for 30 days.

04 **Already registered? Check it today.** It takes minutes at nj.gov/state/elections. Moved within your county or changed your name? You can still vote.

What to bring when you vote

Most voters:

NO ID

New Jersey does not require identification from most voters, in person or by mail.

One small exception

Some first-time voters who registered by mail may be asked for ID once.

Many everyday items count:

- Any current photo ID
- A utility bill or bank statement
- A government check or document with your name and address

No ID with you? You can still vote using a provisional ballot.

Do I need to join a party to vote in November? No.

The November general election

Open to every registered voter.

Democrat, Republican, third party, or no party at all: everyone votes the full ballot in November.

No state, including New Jersey, requires party membership to vote in a general election.

Primary elections (earlier in the year)

The only place party matters.

Primaries choose each party's candidates, and New Jersey primaries are limited to that party's voters.

Even so, an unaffiliated voter can declare a party at the polls on primary day and vote right away.

What about the new laws in the news?

01 **Congress** The SAVE America Act would require citizenship documents to register and photo ID to vote. It passed the House but has failed repeatedly in the Senate. It is not law, and it will expire on January 3, 2027 if it does not pass.

02 **The White House** Two executive orders tried to create similar rules. Courts blocked the 2025 order's citizenship-document rule and the 2026 order's mail-ballot rule, which has not taken effect.

03 **New Jersey** Our state won its June 2026 case, but the Supreme Court paused that ruling in August. New Jersey law requires neither citizenship papers nor photo ID; bills to change that remain in committee.

Appeals continue and Congress could act again. ARA is monitoring and will update this guide if anything changes.

Free help is available

N.J. Division of Elections

nj.gov/state/elections

Check or update your registration. Your County Board of Elections can also answer any voting question.

VoteRiders

voteriders.org

A nonpartisan nonprofit that helps people get IDs and underlying documents for free, and often pays the fees.

Legal Services of N.J.

lsnj.org

Free legal help, including name changes and vital records, for residents who qualify by income.

Checking your registration takes minutes and costs nothing.

Your vote. Same rules. Every election.

Register at least 21 days before each election | https://nj.gov/state/elections

Agard Research Associates Inc. is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research institute in New Jersey.
This presentation summarizes ARA's policy analysis, updated November 2026. It does not support or oppose any party, candidate, or legislation, and it is general information, not legal advice. Version 1.2, November 2026.

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