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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 July 5, 2026

The bottom line: the rules have not changed

No new federal citizenship-document or photo ID rule is in effect for the November 3, 2026 election.

You will register and vote under the same rules as before.



You may have seen news about new voting laws. None of them are in effect this year.



Courts blocked the executive orders. The proposed federal law has not passed the Senate.



Do not let the headlines stop you from voting.

Key dates to remember



OCT 13

Registration deadline

Last day to register, or to update your name or address. Free, online or by mail.



OCT 24 to NOV 1

Early voting

Vote in person at any early voting site in your county. Nine days, including weekends.



NOV 3

Election Day

All twelve N.J. House seats and one U.S. Senate seat are on the ballot.

Every New Jersey voter can also vote by mail. No excuse needed.

Registering is simple and free



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



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.



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.



Already registered? Check it today. It takes minutes at nj.gov/state/elections. Update your name or address before October 13.

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 on November 3.

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?



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.



The White House

Two executive orders tried to create similar rules. Federal courts blocked them, ruling that Congress and the states, not the President, set election rules.



New Jersey

Our state joined the lawsuit against the 2026 order and won. The June 2026 ruling protects New Jersey voters for this November. New Jersey law itself requires neither citizenship papers nor photo ID.

Appeals are possible 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. November 3.

Register or update by October 13, 2026 | <https://nj.gov/state/elections>

Agard Research Associates Inc. is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research institute in New Jersey. This presentation summarizes ARA's July 2026 policy analysis. It does not support or oppose any party, candidate, or legislation, and it is general information, not legal advice. Version 1.0, July 2026.

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