

# PRIMARY ELECTION, 2021

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **When is the Primary Election?**

Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### **Will voters be allowed to vote in person?**

**YES**, from 6:00 AM until 8:00 PM, unless you have already requested a Mail-in ballot.

### **Is there a deadline to change my party?**

**YES**, the deadline to change your party affiliation is April 14<sup>th</sup>. You can do so by submitting a Voter Registration Form (Party Affiliation) to Board of Elections at: 110 Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Salem, NJ 08079. Feel free to call the Board of Elections or the County Clerk's Office at 856-935-7510 to make sure your party choice and mailing address information is correct.

Voter Registration Form can be found on Board of Elections website: [elections@salemcountynj.gov](mailto:elections@salemcountynj.gov)

### **When is the deadline to register to vote?**

The deadline to register to vote is May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. If mailing your registration, it must be postmarked by May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. If delivering your registration to the Salem County Board of Elections at: 110 Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Salem, NJ 08079, it must be received by 9 PM, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### **Will there be early voting at the polling locations?**

Not for the Primary Election. We are hopeful to have early voting for the General Election, November 2021.

### **How will I know where to find my polling location?**

Prior to the election, you will receive a "Sample Ballot" with notification of your polling location and District #. You can also find your polling location on the Board of Elections website:

[elections@salemcountynj.gov](mailto:elections@salemcountynj.gov)

### **What will the Ballots look like?**

Ballots will be posted on the Salem County Clerk website: <https://salemcountyclerk.org/election-services/#sample>

### **If a voter goes to his/her polling location on Election Day and is told that their status is a "Vote By Mail" voter -**

The voter CAN vote Provisionally at the polling location. Provisional Ballots will be counted once it is verified that the voter has not already submitted a Mail-in ballot.

### **Can an Unaffiliated/Independent Voter vote in a Primary Election? Yes**

If voting at your Polling Location: An Unaffiliated/Independent voter must request either a Republican or Democratic ballot. Please understand that once you request a ballot, you are then considered a voter affiliated to that particular party until you request, in writing, to change your party affiliation through a Voter Registration Form - Party Affiliation - found on the Board of Elections website:

[elections@salemcountynj.gov](mailto:elections@salemcountynj.gov)

If Vote by Mail: An Unaffiliated/Independent voter WILL receive two ballots in the mail; 1 Republican ballot and 1 Democratic ballot. A voter can only return 1 ballot. We ask that you destroy the non-voted ballot. Once the voter returns the ballot of their choice, the voter is then considered affiliated to that particular party until a request in writing - Voter Registration Form – Party Affiliation - found on the Board of Elections website: [elections@salemcountynj.gov](mailto:elections@salemcountynj.gov)

IF a voter returns both a Republican AND a Democratic ballot, that have been voted, both ballots will be REJECTED.

IF the voter chooses not to vote at all, they should destroy the ballots and accompanying envelopes.

**What can we expect to be different when voting in person for the Primary Election?**

- Social distancing will be required
- Face coverings will be required
- Contact points will be thoroughly cleaned
- Poll location will be thoroughly disinfected
- Hand sanitizers will be provided for the voters
- Pens and stylus will be provided and given to the voter to keep
- New voting machines have been certified and will be deployed to all polling locations

# Vote By Mail (VBM)

## **Am I an In-Person Voter or a Vote By Mail Voter? Not sure?**

If you would like to confirm your voting status (Vote by Mail or in-person voter), please call the County Clerk's Office at: 856-935-7510 x8454.

## **Who is going to receive a VBM Ballot?**

Only voters that have requested a Mail-in ballot via an application previously submitted to the Salem County Clerk's Office.

## **If you are a Vote by Mail voter (VBM) but wish to return to your polling location on Election Day:**

Complete and submit an "Opt Out" Form found on the Salem County Clerk's website or call the Clerk's Office, at: 856-935-7510 x8454 to have an "Opt Out" Form mailed to you. (Form link on last page)

If you have received a Mail-in ballot and wish to vote at your polling location, YOU MUST RETURN your non-voted ballot to the Salem County Clerk's Office, located at: 110 Fifth Street, Suite 200, Salem, NJ 08079, (Weekdays, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM) at least 7 days before the Election.

## **When will ballots be mailed to voters who have requested Mail-in ballots?**

You can expect to receive your ballot the first week of May 2021.

## **Is there a deadline to request a ballot be mailed?**

**YES**, Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, seven (7) days before the Election.

## **If you requested a Mail-in ballot and did not receive it:**

We ask our voters to **BE PATIENT AND WAIT** until the second week of May to allow the US Postal Service time to deliver. If you did not receive your ballot in the mail, please call the Clerk's Office at: 856-935-7510 x8454 or visit the Clerk's Office, located at: 110 Fifth Street, Suite 200, Salem, NJ 08079. Office hours are 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM every weekday, except holidays.

## **What should I do if I lose my ballot, or it is damaged?**

If your VBM Ballot is lost or damaged, call the County Clerk's Office at: 856-935-7510 x8454 for instruction.

## **Is there a deadline to pick up a ballot and vote it at the County Clerk's Office?**

**YES**, Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, by 3 PM.

## **What is a Bearer?**

A Bearer is a person who is delivering a voted Mail-in Ballot for someone other than themselves.

## **What does a Bearer do?**

A Bearer delivers a voted Mail-in Ballot directly to the Board of Elections, on behalf of another voter. The Bearer **MUST SIGN** the Bearer Portion of the Outer Envelope, in the presence of the voter when taking custody of the ballot. The Bearer **MUST SIGN** the Bearer Book at the Board of Elections.

**Bearer Limits?**

There is a **THREE** ballot limit per Bearer, in addition to their own ballot; **FIVE** ballots if immediate family member living in the same household.

**Do I have to provide postage to return the mailed ballot?**

**NO**, all ballots will have prepaid return postage provided for your convenience.

**May I return my VBM Ballot to the polling location on Primary Election Day?**

**No.** Your options to return your Mail-in ballot are:

- 1) Return by mail (postage prepaid) – must be postmarked by Election Day.
- 2) Place your ballot (with appropriate envelopes) into one of the Drop Boxes throughout Salem County - The Salem County Offices, at 110 Fifth Street, Salem, NJ 08079 has a Drop Box. Ballots are picked up daily and delivered to Board of Elections. The last pickup will be 8:00 PM on Election Day.
- 3) Return your ballot (with appropriate envelopes) directly to the Board of Elections between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM each weekday. Ballots will also be received until 8:00PM on Election Day. Board of Elections Address: 110 Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Salem, NJ 08079.

**How will I know where to find the secure drop box locations?**

Contact the Board of Elections at 856-935-7510. The County Clerk's office will post the locations on its website once the locations have been identified. (Links provided on last page)

**Do all Mail-In (VBM) Ballots get counted?**

Ballots that are properly cast are canvassed and counted.

**The #1 REASON BALLOTS ARE REJECTED IS BECAUSE THE CERTIFICATION ENVELOPE IS NOT SIGNED!**

(See instruction page)

**Note:** Do Not Detach the Certificate envelope and attempt to tape it.

If your Certificate is detached or damaged, request a new Certification Envelope from the County Clerk's Office: 856-935-7510 x8454 or come to the County Clerk's Office located at: 110 Fifth Street, Suite 200, Salem, NJ 08079.

## INSTRUCTION PAGE

### THE CORRECT WAY TO MARK YOUR VBM BALLOT USE BLUE OR BLACK INK

EXAMPLES	YES	NO
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

How to correctly mark your ballot

**PARA ESPAÑOL VER OTRO LADO DE SOLAPA.**

**FOR YOUR VOTE TO COUNT  
PLEASE SIGN HERE AND SEAL  
YOUR BALLOT IN THIS ENVELOPE.**

**CERTIFICATE OF MAIL-IN VOTER**

Where home address is: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print your home address)

Where address on R.O. number: \_\_\_\_\_ (City/County)

**DO NOT SIGN HERE.** Subject to the penalties for tampered voting, that I am the person who applied, or received due to Executive Order, the enclosed ballot for the Primary Election. I HAVE AND SIGNED THIS BALLOT AND CERTIFICATE IN SECRET. However, a family member may assist me in filling it.

Sign Name Here: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print name of voter)

**POLITICAL PARTY** (Check one)  Democrat  Republican

**Witness's Contact Information**  
 Please do not allow the contact information will only be used to contact you, the voter, concerning the availability or location of your ballot, and how you may cure a defect, if necessary.  
 Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Any person providing assistance shall complete the following:  
 I do hereby certify that I am the person who provided assistance to this voter and declare that I will maintain the secrecy of this ballot.

Signature of person providing assistance 1: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print name of person providing assistance 1)  
 Signature of person providing assistance 2: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print name of person providing assistance 2)

**DO NOT DETACH  
NO SEPARAR ESTA HOJA**

### Certification Envelope

- 1) Print your name and address
- 2) **SIGN YOUR NAME**
- 3) Democrat or Republic Ballot ?
- 4) Cell phone #
- 5) Email address

Ballot is placed into Certification Envelope and sealed

Certification is placed inside of Return Envelope addressed to Board of Elections

Options to return:

- 1) United States Postal Service (postage paid)
- 2) Drop box – check [elections@salemcountynj.gov](mailto:elections@salemcountynj.gov) for box locations (picked up daily)
- 3) Directly to the Board of Elections

### **Will I be notified if my Mail-in Ballot is Rejected?**

**YES**, the Board of Elections will mail you a letter, or call if you provided your contact information on the Certification envelope and give you a specified time limit to correct the problem - **watch your mail and listen to your voice messages!** The letter and/or call will instruct you on how to fix the problem and will provide an email address, fax number and address of: 110 Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Salem, NJ 08079, to return your correction letter.

### **How do I contact the Board of Elections and/or the County Clerk's Office?**

Salem County Board of Elections

110 Fifth Street, Suite 1000

Salem, NJ 08079

856-935-7510 x8328, 8329, 8330 and 8331

Salem County Clerk's Office

110 Fifth Street, Suite 200

Salem, NJ 08079

856-935-7510 x8454

### **When will we know the results of the June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Primary Election?**

UNOFFICIAL results will be posted to the Salem County Clerk website, under Election Results, the night of the Election (<https://salemcountyclerk.org/election-results-2/>). Official results can be expected approximately 12 days after the Election. Every effort will be made to provide results as quickly as possible however, the goal is to be accurate and secure.

## **Links to Election information:**

[elections.salemcountynj.gov](https://elections.salemcountynj.gov)

- Voter Registration Form
  - Register to Vote
  - Change of Party
  - Change of Address
  - Change of Name
- Polling Locations
- Drop Box Location

[www.salemcountyclerk.org](https://www.salemcountyclerk.org)

- Opt Out Form
- Mail In Ballot Application
- Sample Ballots
- Election Results