



# NJ Voters' Bill of Rights

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## ▶ Challenger Do's & Don'ts

### Challengers Can:

1. **Challenge a voter if the challenger believes the voter is *not* qualified to vote.**

*In order to vote a person must be:*

- a United States citizen
- registered to vote
- 18 years of age or older
- a resident of the County for at least 30 days before the election

**A person on probation or parole for a felony conviction *cannot* vote.**

**A challenger must sign an affidavit stating the reason for the challenge.**

### Challengers Cannot:

1. **Challenge a voter for any of these reasons:** a. they think they know how the voter is going to vote.  
b. the race or ethnic origin of the voter. c. the voter resides in a **particular** ward, housing complex, or section of a municipality or county.

**It is a criminal offense for a challenger to challenge a voter for any of the above 3 reasons.**

2. Sit with the district board workers or touch the election materials.
3. Go to the voting machine during the voting hours.
4. Challenge the voter directly.  
Only the district board can ask the voter questions.
5. Wear any campaign buttons, signs or campaign clothing.
6. Harass or intimidate any voters;  
or cause any disturbances in the polling place.
7. Challenge a voter because the district board asks the voter to affirm his or her residence, or asks a first-time registrant by mail to show identification.

## ▶ Challenge Process in Polling Place

- If your right to vote is challenged, the board workers may ask you for identification and you must sign an affidavit.  
**The challenger must also sign an affidavit.**
- If the board workers vote to reject the challenge or there is a tie vote on the challenge, you have the right to vote in the voting machine.
- If the board votes to uphold the challenge, you cannot vote but you have the right to go to a Superior Court Judge to request a court order to vote. The board workers must tell you where to go to see the Judge.

## ▶ Election Offenses

- **Electioneering** — It is a crime under State law to electioneer within 100 feet of the outside entrance of the polling place up to and including the polling room. There can be no campaign signs or material in this area and no one can campaign on behalf of any candidate or public question.
- **Fraudulent Voting** — It is a crime under federal and State law to attempt to vote or vote knowing you are not entitled to vote, or to provide false information when registering to vote or voting. You are not permitted to vote more than once in an election.
- **Conspiracy** — It is a federal crime to conspire to deprive voters of a fair election. If anyone is harassing you or improperly interfering with your right to vote, ask the board worker for assistance.

Exit Polling **is Legal** You may be asked by a member of the press about your voting when you are leaving the polling place.

**You do not have to answer any questions — it is your choice.**

## ▶ Absentee Voting in New Jersey

*NEXT TIME YOU CAN VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT.*

It is now the law that any voter can vote by absentee ballot in any election.

### Absentee Ballot Application Process

**To get an absentee ballot, you must fill out an application.** You can get an absentee ballot application from the County Clerk's office. You can also visit [www.NJElections.org](http://www.NJElections.org) to download an application.

#### Make sure you properly fill out the Application:

- Print your name and address.
- **You must Sign and Date the Application.**
- **A Power of Attorney signature on behalf of a voter is not acceptable.**
- **If you do not sign the application, it will be rejected.**
- **If you receive assistance in completing the application, the name, address, and signature of the assistor must be provided.**

**The Absentee Ballot Application must go to your County Clerk's Office.** If you mail it to your County Clerk, it needs to get there at least 7 days before the election. After that day, you must deliver the application to the County Clerk's Office. Ballots can be issued by the Clerk until 3:00 p.m. of the day before the election.

### Authorized Messenger Application Process

**Only sick and confined voters** may ask someone to be their Authorized Messenger to go to the County Clerk's office to get their ballot.

- At the bottom of the application, **you must write the name of the person you choose** as your Authorized Messenger.
- No one can be your Authorized Messenger without your permission.
- No candidate in the election for which you are requesting an absentee ballot can be an Authorized Messenger

**If you are permanently disabled, you can ask for an absentee ballot in all the elections in a calendar year on one application. Any voter who wishes to vote only by absentee ballot for a general election can request to automatically receive an application for general elections.**