



Did You Know ?

All Primary and General Elections in NJ are under the direction of the Secretary of State, who is an appointee of the Governor and not politically independent. All law enforcement entities, including sheriffs in NJ, report to the NJ Attorney General, who is also appointed by the Governor and not politically independent. All justices are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the NJ Senate.

Management, operation and control of the State Voter Registration System (SVRS) has been contracted out to a vendor not located in New Jersey, known as "KnowINK." The 10-year contract is up for renewal in January, 2023.

Each of the State's 21 counties is connected to the SVRS, and it is your county Board of Elections that enters or adjusts your election registration information.

The SVRS holds information about you, identifying you as a Registered Voter. This includes your name, residence address, political affiliation, gender, date of birth and/or Social Security number, driver license # (after 2006), often your telephone number, and any separate mailing address to which you request your ballot be sent.

Your "residence" address must be a physical location where you sleep at night, and it determines your local voting district.

The SVRS also holds your 10-year voting history: in which elections you voted, any changes to your political party affiliation, and the manner by which you voted in each election (in person, "early", vote-by-mail or Provisional Ballot).

Your voter registration information is a public record, but it never contains information about *how* or *for whom* you voted.

Elections are governed by federal *and* state law, with state law generally establishing the manner and methods used to conduct elections.



WTNJelections.org

WHO WE ARE

The *Working Together for New Jersey - Election Integrity Coalition* is an organization of volunteers throughout New Jersey who are concerned about election integrity. We are nonpartisan.

Be assured that neither we, nor other organizations, can make ANY changes to your voter registration. Only your County Board of Elections can change your information in the State Voter Registration System. Any information we provide to them must be independently verified by them before they will make any changes to the system.

If you should receive unexpected vote-by-mail ballots in any election, hold on to them and report it to your Board of Elections, rather than toss them out. Failure to report problems leaves "ghost" voters on the rolls, and others can then vote in their name and never get caught.

If you feel your Board of Elections is not fixing a problem, use our website, WTNJelections.org ("Election Rights & Complaints" tab) to let us know.

At all times, it is the voter's responsibility to keep the Board of Elections advised of any change of address or change in citizenship.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/vote.shtml>

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Working Together for New Jersey - Election Integrity
WTNJelections.org

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Was YOUR Vote Counted?

Written by

Working Together for New Jersey - Election Integrity Coalition

This brochure explains how to verify that your vote WAS counted in the last, or prior, elections. EVERY legally qualified vote should count! Our coalition of volunteers, across the state, is nonpartisan. Our mission is to help insure the integrity of NJ elections for everyone.



Begin by using your internet browser to visit this state website:

NJ.gov/state/elections/vote-track-my-ballot.shtml

To examine your recorded voting history (*when* you voted, not for whom!), NJ requires you to establish a free "account" validating your identity by matching information already on file.

Press the blue box, [Log Into My Voter Record](#)

If you have an account, use your username and password to log in.

If you're new to this, look/scroll down to the bottom line of the web page and click on the bottom line, [Sign up for My Voter Record](#). Enter your Name, County and month/year of birth. Next, we recommend you choose to use your Voter ID # to verify. Here's how:

On the web page, to the right of **Voter ID**, is a paragraph. At the end is the phrase, "Check your registration [HERE](#)". Just click on the word, [HERE](#), and A new [Voter Search](#) page will appear.

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Was YOUR Vote Counted?

Now enter your First, M.I., Last name and date of birth, and a new gray information box will appear showing information from the State Voter Registration Database, with your Voter ID at the bottom right. Copy that number down carefully.

At the top of most web browsers is a ← **BACK** arrow, which allows you to “go back” a page in your browsing. In this case, we want to go back two pages, to the page [My Voter Record Sign Up](#) .

Skip down to the drop-down box click the down arrow, then choose **Voter ID**, and copy or paste your 11-character number into the box.

Now you can create and enter a **Username** of your choosing, enter your **Email address** (must be accurate!), create and confirm a **Password**. (Write these down!)

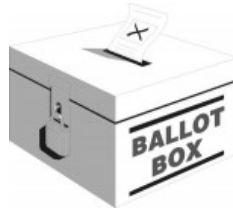
And finally, use the final drop-down arrow to select a **Secret Question** and its **Answer**. (Write this down!)

When satisfied with all these elements, press **Sign Up**, and your Account will be created.



Now that you have created your Account, you may be asked to sign in again just to make sure everything works. Once you are signed in, **notice the top-right** display of your Username and the drop-down arrow. Click this to Log off when you're finished.

One other note. For your protection, the website will automatically log you off after a short time of inactivity. If that happens, just log back in.



Your Voting Record

Once logged in, you are looking at your voting record as it presently exists. Any changes that your County Board of Elections makes to your voting record will appear here.

On the primary screen, page 1 has details about you; pages 2 & 3 list your Board of Elections Officials. You may wish to print these pages out.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR - Is your “core” information correct? The “city” is your physical municipality, not your post office address. If any information is not correct, only your County Board of Elections can make changes.

Some counties are faster than others to make corrections, so you can check back later to see if changes have been made. If something is not right, call the County Board of Elections (again) to pursue the change.

Does your “voting location” match where your last Sample Ballot told you to vote? Note that voting locations *can* be revised.

THE THREE BLUE BUTTONS - There are 3 categories of voting history: on-site voting, mail-in-ballot voting, and “provisional ballot” voting. These buttons will show you each; the records go back 10 years.

- **Election History** - You'll see the date the election was held, most recent election first. Then you'll see the type of election, where you voted and if it was a political party election (a “Primary Election”), you will see your party affiliation. If you see a discrepancy with your party affiliation in any election, contact the Board of Elections. Affiliation only matters in a Primary Election.

- **Mail-In Ballot History** - You'll see ballot request type (to vote-by-mail only in a single election, or for all future elections, or canceling your request).

- **Provisional Ballot History** - Provisional ballots are used when there is a problem at the polls on Election Day. They allow a voter to express his vote, yet allow election workers to resolve the question of qualifications, or correct voting district, or citizenship back at the Board of Elections.

These issues will be resolved *before* a Provisional ballot package is opened and the vote counted. Provisional ballots are often the last to be counted.

Status Descriptions - The next items are important: “N/A” means your ballot has not yet been received by your Board of Elections. “**Received**” means your ballot package has arrived, but it does *not* mean that it has been validated and accepted.



“**Rejected**” means something went wrong - your signature might be missing, or it might not match your records. Specific rules apply to allow a chance to correct for this

error, and you will be contacted by the Board of Elections. But there are other reasons - often a failure to follow specific directions - that may disqualify your ballot and result in “rejection.” If rejected, **your vote was not counted**.

“**Accepted**” certifies that **your vote has been counted**.

COMPLICATIONS

Each of New Jersey's 21 counties process information at a different speed. Voters expect that the Track My Ballot system will report “accepted” in a day or two - but often the County will only count mail-in ballots in the days following Election Day, and by law, up to six days are allowed for the Counties to receive “timely mailed postmarked mail-in ballots” - so obviously, counting can take **days**.

Further, many Counties will hold counted ballots, and only post them as “Accepted” in a batch, once all counting has been completed. So, unlike UPS or FedEx, “tracking” of your ballot is not done in “real time.”

But once the counting is completed, if you submitted a valid mail-in ballot, it should be reported as “Accepted,” certifying that **your vote has been counted**.

Questions should be directed to your County Board of Elections.