

**Working Together for New Jersey**  
**- Election Integrity -**  
WTNJelections.org  
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## Bringing Election Integrity to New Jersey

### Policy Statement - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**OVERVIEW** – Our Policy Statement outlines how we can restore public confidence, technical integrity and auditor confidence to New Jersey’s election system. The *Working Together for New Jersey Election Integrity* (WTNJ) coalition has developed its 16-point policy statement after several years of research and study. WTNJ urges immediate bipartisan reconsideration of existing policies, procedures and law related to the conduct of elections in New Jersey.

**1. If you can’t understand it, it’s too complex.** Across the nation and especially in New Jersey, our election procedures have grown in complexity, year after year. Yet no one has stopped to ask whether anyone can understand in totality how the system works. Worse, even at the most local county Board of Elections levels, no one knows what the black boxes do. No auditor will sign off on the system, because they are not allowed to examine the working parts – a dramatic departure from standard corporate and banking accounting principles. *Recommendation: The entire election process should be eliminated and redesigned so that a 6<sup>th</sup> grader can understand how everything works. As with financial investments, “if you can’t understand how it works, you shouldn’t do it.” Use of “black box” machines should be replaced with paper ballots manually marked by individual voters, which shall be physically maintained and protected for 24 months following any election and available at any time for citizen and professional auditors to examine. Premature destruction of ballots should be a criminal offense punishable by 5 years in prison.*

**2. Return Local Control.** New Jersey’s voter registration system, voting machines and ballot programming all have been farmed out to vendors. There is no functional auditing, examination or control. Voter registration is now “in the cloud,” accessible by far too many outside organizations and agencies, and all highly encoded with unknown algorithms. Too much money changes hands. *Recommendation: ALL election procedures, equipment, databases and controls should be controlled and operated within New Jersey.*

**3. Establish Auditing, Observation, Transparency.** *Recommendation: Redesign the voter registration, election and ballot counting procedures, involving high-level “banking standards” auditors from the very start. Laws, policies and procedures should specifically include the ability for citizens (not just political operatives) to observe design, operation and conduct of every election. Any software should be public (not proprietary or secret), and able to be examined by citizens and auditors at any time.*

(continued)

**4. Eliminate Conflicts between Federal and State Election Laws.** *Recommendation: New Jersey should work with other states and Congress to re-write all federal election laws with the primary goals of assuring legitimacy, transparency, integrity and verified citizenship. These goals should far outweigh political rhetoric such as “fairness,” “alleged intimidation,” and “political correctness.” Specifically, verification of U.S. Citizenship must be mandated for every voter, and long-outdated “signature verifications” should be replaced with use of government photo identification for every voter.*

**5. Shorten the Election Period.** *Recommendation: The election “period” should be radically reduced, and “points of entry” for ballots greatly restricted, to reduce opportunities for fraud. Current law that allows for vote-by-mail ballots to be received through the post office without a postmark should be abolished. Vote-by-mail should be more restricted, require a signed (verified) application for EACH election, and not allowed as the primary means to vote. Use of the U.S. Mails should be minimized as much as possible because it cannot be monitored. Video-observed Official Ballot Boxes (only located within government buildings) should be encouraged. Early voting should be reduced to no more than three days in advance of the election. NO ballot received after the close of polls on Election Day should be counted, under ANY circumstances. “Early counting” of any ballots before close of polls should be prohibited.*

**6. Use Paper Ballots, Locally Tabulated.** *Recommendation: We should model other nations which have eliminated machine voting and returned to use of paper ballots. Ballots cast should be tabulated at each polling location on Election Night immediately following the close of polls, with no interruption, under public observation, with preliminary results posted to the public internet. Subsequent further amalgamation of all ballots should take place at each county as soon after Election Day as possible. No election should be certified unless auditors have agreed that there is a high confidence that all steps were properly followed and the results are reliable. At each point where a physical or electronic “record” is created in the voting process, there should be a corresponding, publicly-observable, reconciliation procedure to identify errors, gaps, or malfunctions.*

**7. Replace All Existing Voter Registration Information.** *Recommendation: Photo Identification should be required each time a person seeks to vote. Widespread studies have raised serious doubts that the present voter rolls can be trusted. For efficiency, all current voter registration should be deleted, and each prospective voter should be required to re-register, provide photo identification and verify U.S. Citizenship. Voter Registration should be intentional, not “automatic, and ONLY done directly by the County Clerks (not outside agencies). Both federal and state laws that restrict purging of the voter rolls should be re-written and become much more restrictive and diligent. Present policies which default to keeping people in doubt on the rolls should change to remove any voter whose qualifications are in doubt, but allow easy re-registration with Voter Photo Identification and Proof of U.S. Citizenship. No “same day” voter registration should ever be allowed; Registration for any election should close at least 30 days before the election to enable review and challenging of qualifications of every registered voter.*

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See our full Policy Recommendations

at <https://wtnejlections.org/public-policy-legislation/>

or view the pdf version at

<https://wtnejlections.org/public-policy/WTNJ-Policy-Statement-on-NJ-Election-Integrity-240221.pdf>