



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF NEW JERSEY EDUCATION FUND

## New Jersey Primary Elections at a Glance

Primary elections provide a crucial opportunity for voters to influence the electoral process by nominating a candidate to represent their political party. Here's a quick look to help answer your questions about this pivotal part of our voting system, specific to New Jersey.

### **What is a Primary? Am I Eligible to Vote in the New Jersey Primary?**

A primary is an election that allows members of a political party to choose a candidate to represent them in an upcoming general election. New Jersey is a closed primary state, which means that only voters who are registered members of a political party may participate in nominating that party's candidates. Currently, only the Republican and Democratic parties use a primary election system to select nominees.

### New Jersey Primary Election Deadlines

- **Change of Party Affiliation**  
**Deadline:** April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- **Voter Registration Deadline for Primary:** May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- **NJ Primary Election Date:**  
June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*Questions? Call us at 1-800-792-VOTE (8683) or email [contact@lwvnj.org](mailto:contact@lwvnj.org)*

### **Quick Links**

- [Party Affiliation Declaration Form](#)
- [Am I Registered](#)
- [Voter Registration Forms](#)
- [Vote by Mail Applications](#)
- [Polling Place Locator](#)
- [County Commissioner of Registration](#)

### **I am currently affiliated with a political party, but want to change my affiliation before the primaries. What do I do?**

You must file a [Party Affiliation Declaration Form](#) with the Commissioner of Registration/Superintendent of Elections for your county at least 55 days before the primary election. The deadline to change party affiliation is **April 11, 2018**. If you are unsure of your party affiliation, you can call your county Commissioner of Registration/Superintendent of Elections and ask.

### **I am not currently affiliated with a political party, but want to vote in the upcoming Primary Election. What do I do?**

Unaffiliated voters can register with a political party up to and including Primary Election Day. You must file a [Party Affiliation Declaration Form](#) with the Commissioner of Registration/Superintendent of Elections for your county by mail or in person. You can also declare your affiliation in person at the polls on Primary Election Day.