

## New Jersey Primary Elections at a Glance

Primary elections provide a crucial opportunity for voters to influence the electoral process by nominating candidates to represent their political party. Whether at the local, state, or national level, voting is the most powerful way to have your voice heard. That's why it's crucial that you make sure you're registered and ready to vote! 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 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.

### **I am currently affiliated with a political party, but want to switch 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 a primary election. The deadline to change party affiliation is April 12, 2017. The deadline to register to vote is May 16, 2017. If you are unsure of your party affiliation you can call your [Commissioner of Registration/Superintendent of Elections](#) and ask.

#### Quick Links

[Voter Registration Forms](#)

[Party Affiliation Declaration Forms](#)

[Polling Place Locator](#)

[LWVNJ Website](#)  
1-800-792-VOTE (8683)

#### Important Dates & Deadlines

**Change Party Affiliation  
Deadline:** April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Voter Registration Deadline  
for Primary:** May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**2017 NJ Primary Election  
Date:** June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### **I am not currently affiliated with a political party, but want to do so before the primaries. What do I do?**

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

### **How Do I Learn About The Candidates?**

Candidate debates are critical to help voters learn more about a candidate and his or her stance on key issues. You can learn more about local candidates through community debates and media. You can also visit [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) to learn more about candidates. The League of Women Voters of New Jersey will be asking gubernatorial and legislative primary candidates policy questions and posting their responses.