The Arc of New Jersey

GET OUT THE VOTE

A voting and election guide for citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

www.GOTVNJ.org



Your Vote is Your Voice.

GOTV 2025

2025 represents an important year for New Jersey. Residents heading to the polls in November will elect a new Governor and representatives to serve a two year-term in the State Assembly. For the past eight years, Democrat Phil Murphy was the state's leader. Now New Jersey will decide whether to hand over the reins to former Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli (Republican) or current Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill (Democrat). Assemblyman Ciattarelli chose Morris County Sherry Jim Gannon as his Lt. Governor running mate, and Congresswoman Sherrill picked Dale Caldwell, a college president and Methodist pastor, to run alongside her on the ticket. Whoever wins in November will have tremendous influence over the services, supports, and policies that impact people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. In addition to the Governor's race, legislators are also on the ballot. There are 80 members of the General Assembly which is broken down into two Assembly members for each of the 40 legislative districts.

We hope that as you make a voting plan for November, you will use this GOTV Guide as a handy tool to help you on your way. Inside you will find more information about the various ways you can vote, important deadlines for registering and casting a ballot, and ways to locate your polling place. We also encourage you to check out www.GOTVNJ.org for additional resources and information.

For voter registration guidelines, visit www.GOTVNJ.org





Register now and make your voice heard.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2025



WHAT IS VOTING?

Voting is your right. Voting is your chance. Voting is your voice.

WHY SHOULD YOU VOTE?

Voting allows you to elect people that will represent you and fight for the issues you believe in.

WHEN IS VOTING?

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4, 2025, but there are many different ways you can vote ahead of time.



HOW CAN I VOTE?

You can vote in person, by mail, or by using a secure ballot drop box.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2025

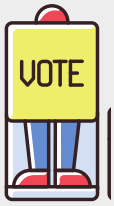
HOW CAN I VOTE?



Drop Box: A ballot drop box is a secure, locked structure operated by election officials where voters may deliver their ballots from the time they receive them in the mail up to the time polls close at 8 pm on Election Day, November 4, 2025. There will be at least 10 drop boxes located throughout each county, which will be available 24 hours a day. Drop boxes will be under surveillance by security cameras and collected daily by county election officials. To find the location of the ballot drop boxes in your county visit: https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-secure-drop-boxes.shtml. Ballots must be placed in drop boxes in your county by 8 pm on Election Day.



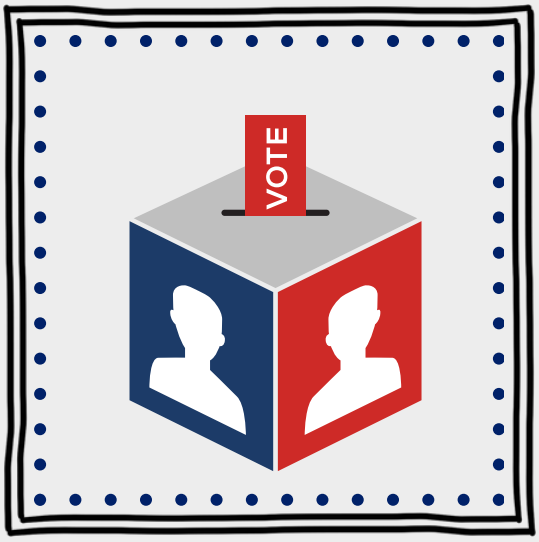
Mail: Your vote-by-mail ballot MUST be postmarked on or before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day and be received by your county's Board of Elections on or before the sixth day after the close of the polls. You can also deliver your vote-by-mail ballot in person to your county's Board of Elections Office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.



In-Person voting: You can vote in person at your polling place, from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day or you can choose to vote during the 9-day Early Voting period detailed more below. Find your polling location here: https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-polling-location.shtml

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2025

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR VOTING?



Early Voting will start on Saturday, October 25, and will run through Sunday, November 2. Early Voting allows registered voters to cast their ballot in person, using a voting machine, during a nine-day period prior to Election Day. Every county will provide registered voters with this option. Hours for Early Voting will be Monday-Saturday, 10 am to 8 pm and Sunday, 10 am to 6 pm. No appointment is necessary.

To find Early Voting locations in your county, click here: https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/vote-early-voting.shtml

IMPORTANT VOTING AND ELECTION DAY DATES:



- **October 14** - Voter Registration Deadline for General Election (21 days before election)
- **October 31** - Deadline to apply for a Mail-in Ballot by Mail for the General Election
- **November 3, by 3 pm** - Deadline for In-Person Mail in Ballot Applications for General Election
- **November 4** - Deadline for Post Office Receipt of Mail-In Ballots from the General Election
- **November 10** - Deadline for Receipt of Timely Mailed Postmarked Mail-In Ballots to County Boards of Election

WHAT IS VOTING BY MAIL?



Any voter may apply for vote-by-mail by completing the Application for Vote-By-Mail Ballot and returning the application to their County Clerk. After completing the Vote-By-Mail Ballot, you can mail it back, place it at one of your county's Ballot Drop Box locations, or return it to your County Board of Elections Office. Counties will begin mailing ballots to voters 45 days before an election, but some counties may begin prior to that. Please remember: Your Vote-By-Mail ballot **CANNOT** be returned to your In-Person Early Voting Poll Location or your Election Day Poll Location.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2025

WHO ARE THE CANDIDATES?



This year, voters will elect:

- **Governor for the state of New Jersey**
- **2 Assembly representatives to serve in each of NJ's 40 legislative districts**

WHO CAN VOTE?



You must be 18 years old to vote and a citizen of the United States. You cannot vote if you are in jail, on parole or on probation. It is not legal to deny someone the right to vote based on the fact that he or she has an intellectual or other disability.

Only a judge can declare that an individual lacks the capacity to vote. It is **not** legal to deny someone the right to vote based on the fact that he or she has a legal guardian. It is **not** legal to deny someone the right to vote based on the fact that he or she lives in an institution, developmental center, group home, supported apartment or other residential facility assisting individuals with disabilities.

WHO CAN REGISTER TO VOTE AND HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M REGISTERED?

Visit this site to determine if you are registered:
https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/registration-check
To register to vote, you must be at least 17 years old, though you may not vote until you have reached the age of 18. You must also be a resident of the county for 30 days before the election.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

2025

HOW CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE?

To register, you must complete a Voter Registration Application and/or Party Affiliation Form. Mail or deliver the Voter Registration Application and/or Party Affiliation Form to the County Commissioner of Registration or Superintendent of Elections for your county. To find your county, click here: https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-county-election-officials.shtml. To register to vote online, click here: https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/register. You will need your current and valid Driver's License or non-driver Identification Card, or your social security number.

ARE POLLING PLACES ACCESSIBLE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES?

A voter with a disability has the right to vote privately and independently, have an accessible polling place and accessible voting machines, seek assistance from workers at the polling place who have been trained to use the accessible voting machines and to bring someone to help you vote. Under federal and state law, voters with disabilities have the right to receive "reasonable accommodations" at polling places. If you are blind, if you have a disability or if you cannot read the ballot on the voting machine, you can have someone of your choice assist you with the voting machine. You are also entitled to assistance. Two board workers of opposite political parties may help you. You have the right to have both workers assist you, or one worker - it is your choice.



If you encounter accessibility difficulties, you can report and communicate that experience to the NJ Division of Elections by using this web site: https://nj.gov/state/elections/voting-access-feedback-form.shtml

Voters should not be asked for "proof" of their disability in order to receive accommodations. Animals assisting people with disabilities must be allowed to accompany the person into the building and into the booth. Voter rights and accessibility information can be found here: https://nj.gov/state/elections/voter-rights.shtml

Frequently Asked Questions 2025

HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY BALLOT WAS RECEIVED?







You can check on the status of your vote-by-mail ballot using the Track My Ballot Portal online here: https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-track-my-ballot.shtml
You can contact your County Clerk. That contact information is here: https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-county-election-officials.shtml
First time users have to create an account and will need either a Voter ID, a Driver's License Number, or the last 4 digits of their Social Security Number to validate voter registration status.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I GO VOTE AND AM TOLD I CAN'T VOTE BECAUSE I HAVE A DISABILITY

If you are a voter with a disability and you have a question or you encounter an issue trying to vote on Election Day, call Disability Rights NJ hotline 1-(866)-493-0023 from 8 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday, or from 6 am to 8 pm on Election Day. You can also email voterhotline@disabilityrightsnj.org.

Looking for more information?
Don't forget to visit our website, www.GOTVNJ.org for additional content and resources!

VOTE

Candidate Questionnaire

2025

The Arc of NJ distributed a candidate questionnaire to both gubernatorial candidates. Responses we received are printed unedited and in full below.



Mikie Sherrill, *Democrat*

Question 1: As New Jersey works to implement the federal budget reconciliation bill, how would your Administration ensure that reductions in Medicaid funding would not adversely affect people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, including but not limited to: service reductions, increased wait times to access critical services, and decreased fee-for-service rates?

We cannot understate the impact of Donald Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill." This law will kick over 300,000 New Jerseyans off of their healthcare coverage and eliminate critical funding for healthcare, home- and community-based services, and community integration programs for individuals with disabilities.

An estimated 1 in 4 New Jerseyans live with a disability. That includes hundreds of thousands of people — children as well as adults — with lifespan, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and spina bifida. And it includes practically every family, every neighborhood, and every community.

As Trump's bill slashes this essential funding, my opponent Jack Ciattarelli has voiced his full support for it, even saying that he'd pressure every New Jersey Member of Congress to vote for the law. By contrast, I was proud to vote against this disastrous bill.

As governor, I'll be completely focused on protecting access to healthcare for New Jerseyans and fully funding critical services for individuals with disabilities. This is about values —I will fight to ensure that individuals with disabilities can keep their healthcare coverage and support, and will work to prevent service reductions and longer wait times for critical care. I am committed to working closely with organizations like the Arc of New Jersey to ensure that the state is making up for lost federal funding for individuals with disabilities, and I will take Trump to court to claw back every dollar that he has withheld from this state. I will also boost state investments in our healthcare workforce and community- and home-based programs that provide critical services for individuals with disabilities. I will do everything in my power to ensure that our most vulnerable populations don't bear the brunt of the disastrous policy decisions made by the Trump administration.

I won't only work to ensure people with disabilities and their families have access to vital supports and services — I will also make sure they have a seat at the decision-making table when policies are made and issues are decided. After all, when it comes to making and implementing disability policy, their voices are what matter most.

Candidate Questionnaire 2025

Question 2: As of Fall 2024, there were approximately 2,800 people on the Division of Developmental Disabilities' Priority Waiting List and approximately 1,800 people on the General Waiting List. Although there is some variation, a person on the Priority list can wait 7 to 10 years to move onto the Community Care Program. As Governor, what would you do to scale down these numbers and connect individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities with the services they need in a more timely way?

I understand the fear and worry that families face as they wait and hope for enrollment into the Community Care Program. It is unacceptable that this process can take up to a decade for individuals with disabilities to receive high-quality care in their communities. These delays stand as a barrier to a higher quality of life and a more optimistic future. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve better.

As governor, I will work closely with organizations like the Arc of New Jersey to prioritize investments in our care programs to lower wait times and expand access to care. This starts by working with the legislature to appropriate the funding we need within the budget for the Community Care Program and home- and community-based services more broadly. It means investing in our community care providers and workers to ensure that we have the care workforce needed to enroll more New Jerseyans into the Community Care Program. And it means clawing back federal funding wherever we can to bring more funds back to New Jersey for these critical, comprehensive services.

Most importantly, I will make accountability and transparency central to this effort. Families deserve to know where they stand and what steps are being taken on their behalf. By keeping the process open, we can ensure that more New Jerseyans with intellectual and developmental disabilities gain timely access to the care and support they need.

2025

In Their Own Words: Family Perspective



Marnie McNany, Parent

When family members have a loved one with an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD), they take on many responsibilities to ensure that person's well-being, safety, and happiness. We believe one of those responsibilities is voting in local and federal elections. New Jersey offers supports and programs that are envied in other states. However, these resources depend on continued recognition and protection by the legislators elected to represent the people who rely on them every day.

Advocating for our daughter has taken many different forms. We've educated ourselves about Down syndrome and shared that knowledge with family and friends. We've served on committees and boards that work on behalf of people with I/DD in our schools and community. And, we've always treated voting as a vital responsibility, especially when choosing representatives who will champion the rights of people with disabilities.

When Mary turned 18, she registered to vote and has participated in nearly every election since. Vote-by-mail gives her the flexibility to complete her ballot at home; we try never to miss an election. She really enjoys reading through and completing the ballot on her own and demonstrating her right to vote. Many thanks to the Arc of New Jersey for consistently advocating for the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). We hope everyone gets out to vote this year!



2025

In Their Own Words: Self Advocate Perspective



Voting is important to me, to get our voice heard and choose the right person for our state, country, and the town that we all live in. That's why voting is important to me and why you should get out and vote. Let your voices be heard! Go Vote!

Shondel Greenwood, Self-Advocate



It's important for people with disabilities to vote to get our voices heard and to make sure we use our voice to fix the issues that are important to us. People with disabilities especially need to keep voting as often as you can! Stay on it and keep voting until things get better.

Jaime Cooper, Self-Advocate



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@TheArcofNJ

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