

August 13, 2021

Voting Equipment Purchases Approved In Hunterdon To Meet State Mandated In Person Early Voting

Voters Have Option To Vote In Person On November 2nd

Hunterdon County voters will have the opportunity for early voting beginning October 23rd and to experience new voter sign-in technology at the polls, both mandated by the state, as a result of the County Board of Commissioners' approval of the purchase of voting equipment from Election Systems & Software (ES&S), at the August 3rd Board meeting.

Hunterdon County voters will also have the option to vote in person at their regular polling place on November 2nd.

Board Deputy Director John E. Lanza stated, "The state's rush for early voting has increased the burden on county election officials, however, with the Board's approval of the purchase of this equipment, Hunterdon County will be ready to meet the state's mandate."

The Board approved the purchase of thirty-nine ExpressVote XL machines from ES&S at a cost of \$428,390.

The new state law requires that in-person early voting will begin October 23 and run to October 31. The polls will be open from 10 am to 8 pm on weekdays and Saturdays and from 10 am to 6 pm on Sundays.

Lanza, who serves as the Board's liaison to the Board of Elections and County Clerk, added, "I am advised that the Board of Elections has designated three in-person early voting locations for Hunterdon County; the North Branch Library in the Town of Clinton, the Main Library at the County's Route 12 Complex in Raritan Township, and the South County Fairgrounds' 4-H Building, in East Amwell."

The Commissioners also approved the purchase from ES&S of 298 electronic poll book terminals, at a cost of \$400,860, which is also mandated by the state. The new e-books will bring a higher level of voter sign-in technology to each polling place in the county.

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Lanza said, “The Commissioners have been advised by the Board of Elections Administrator Beth Thompson that the \$980,829 cost of the two purchases should be covered by reimbursement from the state under the requirement for state mandate, state pay.

Once that reimbursement is received, and the new voting machines have been seen in action, the County can move forward on the purchase of the additional 138 new technology voting machines that are necessary to replace the Board of Elections’ present aging fleet of machines for next year’s election.”

Lanza noted, “Voters continue to also have the voluntary option to vote by mail.”

For more information on voting in Hunterdon County click [here](#).