

New Jersey

Registration Deadline

Forms must be received or postmarked 21 days before an election.¹

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Database Implementation Status

New Jersey is currently constructing a top-down voter registration system, in which each county will directly access one centralized state database. As of March 2005, New Jersey retained Covansys Corporation, in partnership with PCC Technology Group and Aradyme Corporation, to assist in creating the statewide system.²

Entering Voter Registration Information

Who inputs voter registration information? County commissioners of registration generally review and enter information from voter registration forms in their jurisdictions into the statewide system.³

What happens to voter registration forms submitted at state registration agencies? Forms received by the Attorney General, the DMV, or another voter registration agency are transferred to the appropriate county commissioner for review and entry.⁴

How are most forms submitted? Statistics reported for New Jersey in 2004 do not readily explain where voter registration forms were submitted.⁵

Voter Registration Form

The relevant portions of the voter registration form are included at the end of this section.

Processing of Forms Without Identifying Numbers

How will the state treat an application with an affirmative indication that the applicant has no valid identifying number? New Jersey's form does not clearly state how an applicant should indicate that she has no valid identifying number.

How will the state treat an application without an identifying number and without an affirmative indication that the applicant has no such number? The applicant will be considered registered, but if the number is uncorrected (see below), and if she is a first-time voter registering by mail, she will have to show identification at the polls.

How will the state treat an application listing an identifying number that is either incomplete or illegible? The applicant will be considered registered, but if the number is uncorrected (see below), and if she is a first-time voter registering by mail, she will have to show identification at the polls.

Matching Against Motor Vehicle and Social Security Records

What fields from the voter registration form will the state seek to match to motor vehicle or Social Security records? Identifying number, name, date of birth, and address.

How precise is the match standard? New Jersey will use a hybrid match standard to match information on forms with a driver's license number: the number must match exactly, but discretion is then left to the county official to determine whether any of the returned records match. New Jersey will use the standard AAMVA criteria for matching information on forms with SSN digits: exact match of the SSN-4, first name, last name, month of birth, and year of birth.

How much human intervention is involved in determining whether information is matched? For matching information on forms with driver's license numbers, the system will return a list of records with an exact match of the driver's license on the voter registration application; the county official has the discretion to determine whether a likely match exists among the possible matches returned. The process for matching information on forms with SSNs is fully automated.

Description of matching process: New Jersey's new system will automate the match process so that it takes only a few seconds. For matching information on forms with driver's license numbers, the DMV will return a list of all records that match the driver's license number exactly, for the county official to review. Information on forms listing SSN digits will be automatically checked against the SSA database through the standard AAMVA process: the county commissioner will submit an entered record to the DMV database, which will automatically submit the appropriate fields to the SSA and return a code indicating whether the record was successfully matched or not.

What are the consequences if the state cannot find a match? The applicant will be registered, but if the failed match is uncorrected (see below), and if she is a first-time voter registering by mail, she must show identification before Election Day or at the polls.

Notice and Opportunity to Resolve Errors

Does the applicant have the opportunity to correct a missing or incomplete identifying number, without submitting a new form? Yes. The applicant may correct missing or incomplete information at any point before the poll books are printed, which usually occurs 2-3 weeks before an election.

Does the applicant have the opportunity to resolve a failed match, without submitting a new form? Yes. The applicant may submit information to resolve a failed match at any point before the poll books are printed, which usually occurs 2-3 weeks before an election.

If information on an otherwise timely application is corrected after the voter registration deadline, is the correction timely? Yes. The applicant may correct information at any point before the poll books are printed, which is usually 2-3 weeks before an election.

Description of notice and correction process: The county elections official will attempt to notify a first-time applicant registering by mail whose identifying number is missing, incomplete, illegible, or unverified; many officials will attempt to contact the applicant first by phone, and then by mail. The applicant may attempt to resolve the error at any point before the poll books are printed, which is usually 2-3 weeks before an election. If the identifying number cannot be verified, the applicant will be registered, but she will have to provide identification at the polls.

Identification Requirements at the Polls

Who must provide identification at the polls? A first-time voter who registered by mail, whose identifying number has not been verified, and who has not previously presented a copy of valid identification to a county elections official, must provide identification at the polls.⁶

Forms of ID:

1st-time voters registering by mail without verified identifying number:	current and valid photo ID current utility bill w/ name, address bank statement w/ name, address government check w/ name, address paycheck w/ name, address other gov't document w/ name, address
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What forms of identification are accepted? A current and valid photo ID, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document showing the voter's name and address.

What are the consequences of failing to show identification? The voter may cast a provisional ballot, which be counted only if the individual provides identification by the second day after the election.⁷

Statutes and Regulations

N.J. STAT. ANN. §§ 19:31-1 *et seq.* generally concern registration. N.J. STAT. ANN. § 19:31-31, *as amended by* 2005 N.J. Sess. Law Serv. ch. 145 (S. 28), directs the Attorney General to establish and maintain a single statewide voter registration system. N.J. ADMIN. CODE §§ 13:17-1.1 *et seq.* comprise the applicable regulations.

End Notes

¹ N.J. STAT. ANN. §§ 19:31-6, 19:31-6.1, 31-6.3(b), *as amended by* 2005 N.J. Sess. Law Serv. ch. 139 (Assembly 42).

² electionline.org, *Assorted Rolls: Statewide Voter Registration Databases Under HAVA*, June 2005, available at <http://www.electionline.org/Portals/1/EB11.FINAL1.pdf>, at 20;

electionline.org, *Statewide Voter Registration Database Status*, at <http://www.electionline.org/Default.aspx?tabid=288>.

³ N.J. STAT. ANN. § 19:31-6.5(a), *as amended by* 2005 N.J. Sess. Law Serv. ch. 145 (Assembly 42).

⁴ *Id.* §§ 19:31-6.4(g), *as amended by* 2005 N.J. Sess. Law Serv. ch. 139 (Assembly 42), 19:31-6.11(e); *but see* N.J. ADMIN. CODE § 13:17-1.8(c) (forms received by the DMV are transmitted to the Attorney General).

⁵ Election Assistance Commission, *The Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office 2003-2004*, June 30, 2005, tbl. 2, *available at* http://www.eac.gov/NVR_Spreadsheets/NVRA_table_2.html. Reported numbers for New Jersey indicate that 4% of forms were submitted by mail, 6% were submitted at the DMV, and 90% were submitted to other voter registration agencies.

⁶ N.J. STAT. ANN. § 19:31-5.

⁷ *Id.* § 19:53C-3(i).



New Jersey Voter Registration Application

Print clearly in black or blue ink using a ball point pen or marker

1 Check boxes that apply

I am a U.S. citizen Yes No*

I will be 18 years of age by the next election Yes No*

STOP *If you check "No" in either box DO NOT COMPLETE THIS FORM

2 Check boxes that apply

New Registration (if you are registering for the first time in the county in which you live)

Address Change (if you are currently registered and have moved within your county)

Name Change (if you are currently registered in the county in which you live)

3 Last Name First Name Middle Initial Suffix

4 Street Address (where you live) Apartment #

Municipality (town/city) County Zip Code

5 Complete only if different from address above

Address (where you get your mail) Apartment #

Municipality (town/city) County Zip Code

6 Date of Birth Month Day Year

7 Telephone Number (optional) Area Code

8 Name and address used for your last voter registration, if applicable

Last Name First Name Middle Initial Suffix

Address Apartment #

Municipality (town/city) County State Zip Code

***9** Give one ID # NJ Driver's Lic. # OR Only the last four numbers of your Social Security #

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Clerk

Registration #

Office Time Stamp

by mail in person

10 Declaration -

I swear or affirm that:

- I am a U.S. Citizen.
- I will be at least 18 years old on or before the next election.
- I live at the above address.
- I am not on parole, probation or serving a sentence due to a conviction for an indictable offense under any federal or state laws.
- I understand that any false or fraudulent registration may subject me to a fine up to \$1,000, imprisonment up to 5 years or both pursuant to R.S. 19:34-1.

X Signature / Mark Date

If applicant is unable to complete this form, print name and address of individual who completed this form

Name Address Municipality (town/city) State Zip Code

FOLD

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS: Print out both sides of this application, complete this application, cut off the instructions as indicated below, place both pages together (top to top), fold along blue dashed lines making sure mailer side is facing out, tape shut and mail. Do not use staples. (You may also enclose this application in an envelope and mail to the address on mailer.)

After cutting off instructions below, fold this flap over and tape shut.

Important Instructions for Sections 4, 6, 9, and 10 CUT ALONG DASHED LINE

4 This form will be rejected if this section (4) is not completed. Give your home address, not a business address.

6 Birth date is required.

***9** You must complete Section 9 ONLY if you are registering by mail for the first time in your county and have never voted in a federal election in the county. The ID # that you give must be verified. You will be contacted by the county commissioner of registration if those numbers cannot be verified. If you do not provide either a driver's license number or the last four numbers of your social security number, you must include a copy of a current and valid ID document such as: **A valid photo ID, current utility bill, bank statement, government check, pay check, or any other government document that shows your name and address.**

If you are a first-time registrant by mail and you do not provide any ID, or if your ID numbers cannot be verified, before voting for the first time, you must provide ID at the polling place or submit ID if voting by absentee ballot. If you do not provide ID at the polling place, you must vote by provisional ballot. You will have until the close of business on the second day after the election to provide ID to the county commissioner of registration. Your provisional ballot will be rejected if you do not provide ID. **ID numbers are confidential and will not be released by any governmental agency. Any person who uses identification illegally shall be subject to criminal penalties.**

10 This form will be rejected if this section (10) is not completed. Requires signature or mark of applicant.