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Vote by Mail Frequently Asked Questions

What is Vote by Mail?

Vote by mail has replaced Absentee Voting in the State of New Jersey. It allows a registered voter to vote with a paper ballot without going to the polls on Election Day.

How is Vote by Mail different from Absentee Voting?

Technically, they do not differ in functionality. Vote by mail still allows a voter to vote in any election without going to the polls. Now the Voter also has the option of automatically receiving ballots for future elections.

Who can Vote by Mail?

Any registered voter can Vote by Mail. No reason is necessary to apply. You do not have to use the application. It is optional.

How do I apply for Vote by Mail?

You can apply by completing the application and sending it to the County Clerk. If you do not return your completed application, we will not be able to send you a Vote by Mail ballot.

Where can I get an application for Vote by Mail?

If you have not already received a Vote by Mail application in the mail, then you can find the application at: The County Clerk's Office; Your Municipal Clerk's Office; at www.mercercounty.org/countyclerk; or in multiple languages on the NJ State Division of Elections website

Do I have to pay for postage?

If you do not receive or use one of the initial August mass mailings of Vote by Mail applications, then yes you have to pay the return postage.

When do I have to apply to Vote by Mail?

Your application must be received by the County Clerk's Office at least seven (7) days prior to the election, postmarks are not accepted. You can also apply in person at the County Clerk's Office up until 3:00pm on the day before the election.

Can someone help me complete the application and ballot materials?

Yes, you can have someone help you. This person must complete the assistor section. However, you the voter must sign the application.

Can I fax or email my application?

No, original signatures are required to use the Mercer Vote by Mail application.

If it is within seven (7) days before the election, and I am not able to apply in person at the County Clerk's Office, can someone else get my ballot?

Yes, you would need to complete the application, including the Authorized Messenger Section. The messenger would then bring your application to the County Clerk no later than 3:00pm the day prior to the election and obtain your ballot and deliver it to you. A messenger may only handle three (3) ballots per election, must be a family member or a registered voter in this county. Your messenger cannot be a candidate on the ballot.

If I apply and receive a Vote by Mail ballot, can I vote at the polls instead?

If you did not receive or return your ballot, you may vote by provisional ballot at the polls. You may not turn in your Vote by Mail ballot at the polls.

If I Vote by Mail, will my vote be counted?

Yes, all votes are counted and included in the final official results.

What are the new options to automatically receive ballots in future elections?

Option A - You will automatically be sent a ballot for every election for remainder of the calendar year.

Option B - You will automatically be sent a ballot for every November General Election until you request otherwise.

You may check both options A and B.

Do I have to choose an option?

No, if you do not choose an option, you will receive a ballot for only the election you select in Box 1.

Can I apply for someone else?

No, only the voter can apply. The application must have an original signature as it appears in the poll book. State law does not allow Power of Attorney.

What if my signature has changed?

You may update your signature by contacting the Mercer Superintendent of Elections Office at 609-989-6750.