



Providing support to persons with disabilities throughout their lifespan so they can achieve their highest level of independence in their community.

News for Our Consumers

October 2023

Accessible Voting Tips Are Available for New Jersey Voters



“Vote as if your life depends on it—because it does!” Justin Dart knew from experience the power of public engagement. After all, he led the advocacy movement for the Americans

with Disabilities Act. Some may ask why they should vote in an election that does not include the president? First, *every* election is important. Second, in the 2023 general election, **all the state legislature seats—the state Senate and Assembly—will be on the ballot.** The decisions of these elected officials affect issues (such as New Jersey Medicaid) important to people with disabilities. Local elections are also particularly important, especially for boards of education. Mary Ciccone, Director of Policy at Disability Rights New Jersey, said of voting, “It’s your right. Your vote makes a difference. Be involved in politics.”

League of Women Voters "Vote 411" guide

When Can I Vote by Mail?

If you applied to [vote by mail](#), you should already have received your ballot. You can use any USPS mailbox for a postmark of no later than November 7 or any secure [ballot drop box](#) by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day (Tuesday, November 7).

If you are not sure whether you are registered to vote by mail, you check your voting status at [Track My Ballot](#). (You will need to create an online account.)

Please note: Your vote-by-mail ballot *cannot* be returned to your in-person early voting poll location or your election day poll location.

When Can I Vote in Person?

If you opt to vote in person, you have two options:

- **In-person early voting** at any of your county’s designated in-person early voting locations. In-person early voting locations will be open Saturday, October 28, through Sunday, November 5, 2023. Polls are open Monday – Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Please note these locations differ from your scheduled polling location. Check for the locations in your county on the [NJ VOTES](#) web page.
- **Voting on Election Day, Tuesday, November 7**, at your scheduled polling location. You can look up your polling location with the state [Polling Place Search Tool](#). Polls are open 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Accessibility Options for Disabled Voters

Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way, who oversees the New Jersey Division of Elections, stresses that all New Jersey voters should know they can vote safely and securely. “Disabled voters in New Jersey need to know that they have options to cast their ballot privately and securely,” she said. “We appreciate the opportunity to make New Jersey elections inclusive and accessible.”

Learn about accessible voting options

Important Numbers to Know

Vote by Mail. Voters who cannot vote via a paper ballot without assistance also have an accessible ballot option for the 2023 General Election. To access this option, a disabled voter should reach out to their County Clerk and say they are unable to complete a paper ballot without assistance and wish to vote, using an accessible vote by mail ballot.

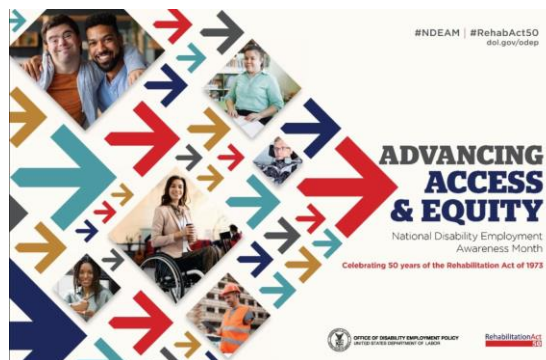
- [Morris County Board of Elections](#), 973-285-6715
- [Sussex County Board of Elections](#), 973-579-0950
- [Warren County Board of Elections](#), 908-475-6211

New Jersey Voter Information Portal

If you experience any problems with accessibility, call the Disability Rights New Jersey Voter Hotline, 866-493-0023.

DRNJ Voting: It's Your Right

During National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month, Know Your Rights!



For this, the fourth week of NDEAM, we focus on the laws that protect individuals with disabilities against employment discrimination, from application to termination. Below is information you can use for self-advocacy.

Federal Laws

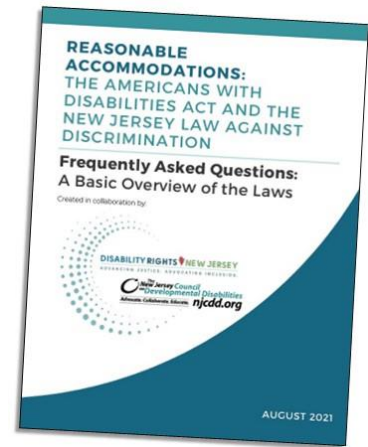
The [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in several areas, including employment, transportation, public accommodations, communications, and access to state and local government programs and services.

New Jersey State Laws

The [New Jersey Law Against Discrimination](#) prohibits discrimination and bias-based harassment based on actual or perceived characteristics, including disability, in all aspects of employment.

The [NJ Equal Pay Act](#) prohibits an employer from paying any employee who is a member of a protected class, including a person with a disability, less than what it pays an employee who is not a member of that protected class for “substantially similar work.”

Anyone experiencing discrimination can file a complaint [Division on Civil Rights](#) at the Office of the Attorney General. Disability Rights New Jersey and the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities have published a handy guide with frequently asked questions.



Reasonable Accommodations FAQ

DDD Welcomes Public Comments



DDD Update Webinar

The New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) welcomes all stakeholders to participate in its virtual update meetings.

Tuesday, November 21, 2023
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Register for the next DDD update webinar

Free COVID-19 Tests Are Available



Free, rapid COVID-19 tests.
Delivered. Have them
when you need them.

Order Now at COVIDTests.gov
Or, call 1-800-232-0233.



Every U.S. household may place an order to receive four free COVID-19 rapid tests delivered directly to your home.

Do you need help placing an order for your at-home tests? Call 800-232-0233 (TTY, 888-720-7489).

Order 4 free COVID tests

Stay Insured in New Jersey!



Stay Covered NJ

NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid wants everyone to stay insured in New Jersey. NJ FamilyCare (Medicaid) will mail renewals to all members in the year between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024. Members should expect to renew their coverage once a year from now on.

If you receive one of the postcards above from your health plan, your NJ FamilyCare renewal mail will be coming this month.

Front: Don't forget to check your mail.

Back: Your NJ FamilyCare renewal mail is coming very soon.

Please open it and follow instructions right away if you want to keep your health care coverage.

Make sure NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid has your correct mailing address.

Members can confirm or update their contact information by calling NJ FamilyCare, at 800-701-0710 (TTY, 711). NJ FamilyCare will use this information to reach members about their healthcare coverage.

Respond to mail from NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid.

Members need to look for and respond to mail from the State of New Jersey or their local County Board of Social Services. If NJ FamilyCare requests information, they need to respond right away to avoid a gap in their NJ FamilyCare coverage.

Get help completing your renewal if you need assistance.

Members can get help or ask questions about their renewal by calling the NJ FamilyCare health benefits coordinator, at 800-701-0710 (TTY: 711), or by reaching out to your county board of social services:

Morris County

Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance

340 W. Hanover Ave. (Morris Township)

Morristown, NJ 07963

973-326-7800

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; open until 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday.

Satellite Office

325 East McFarland St.

Dover, NJ 07801

973-682-4990

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; open until 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday.

Sussex County

Sussex County Division of Social Services

83 Spring St., Suite 203

Newton, NJ 07860

973-383-3600

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday

Warren County

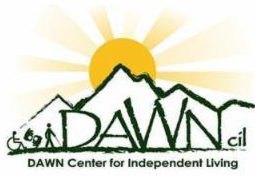
Warren County Division of Temporary Assistance and Social Services

1 Shotwell Dr.

Belvidere, NJ 07823

908-475-6301

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



DAWN Center for Independent Living

66 Ford Road, Suite 121

Denville, NJ 07834

973-625-1940

For general information

