

HOW CAN I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

- You must be a registered voter
- You must apply for absentee ballot for each Election, except:
 1. If you are permanently and totally disabled you may apply once for the whole year.
 2. If you are not permanently disabled, see below.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

Apply to the County Clerk in writing for an absentee ballot. Applications are available at the County Clerk's Election Division office or on line at www.co.bergen.us/countvclerk and at all Municipal Clerk's offices. A mailed absentee ballot application must be received (NOT POSTMARKED) in the County Clerk's office seven (7) days prior to the election day - by the close of business, but can be submitted at any time prior to the deadline for an Election in the calendar year. The ballot will be sent to the address you request.

You may apply in person at the County Clerk's office up until 3:00 pm the day prior to an election. If an emergency circumstance should arise after the 3:00 pm deadline, you may apply to a Judge for a Court Order for the County Clerk to issue a ballot. In the event of sickness or confinement, an authorized messenger, who must show a PHOTO ID, may pick up a ballot for the voter. The authorized messenger's name must be designated in writing (the bottom box of the application). An authorized messenger can be a family member or registered voter of this county. The authorized messenger must sign the application in the presence of the County Clerk, or designee, and deliver the ballot directly to the voter.

IF I AM PERMANENTLY ILL OR CONFINED, HOW MAY I AUTOMATICALLY GET AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

If you are permanently ill or confined, you may be placed on the PERMANENT ABSENTEE LIST (PAL). You will be mailed an appropriate application every January. You will fill it out, sign your name, check off the boxes, and mail the application to the County Clerk. You will then receive a ballot for all elections in your Municipality for that calendar year.

ONCE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, THE VOTER CANNOT VOTE AT HIS OR HER POLLING PLACE FOR THAT ELECTION.

WHAT IF I AM NOT PERMANENTLY AND TOTAL DISABLED AND I WISH TO VOTE ONLY BY ABSENTEE BALLOT IN A GENERAL ELECTION?

Once you apply for an absentee ballot, you will automatically be sent an absentee ballot application for any General election until you request otherwise to the County Clerk.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I CANNOT SIGN MY NAME DUE TO ILLNESS OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY?

If you are unable to sign your name the way it appears in the Voter Registry you may indicate your mark with an X in the space provided for your signature. Your name should be printed next to the X and any person providing assistance shall fill in the box and sign name as the assistor.

WHAT IF I ASSIST SOMEONE TO FILL OUT THE APPLICATION?

You have to fill out the absentee card as an assistor providing your name and address and you will sign the card.

WHAT IF I AM A CANDIDATE IN THE ELECTION THAT A PERSON APPLIES FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

No CANDIDATE in the Election for which the voter is requesting an Absentee ballot can be an Assistor or Authorized Messenger.

HOW DO I VOTE ABSENTEE IN THE MILITARY?

A Military Service voter need not be registered if he/she is otherwise qualified to vote; that means he/she is:

- A member of the armed forces or a spouse/dependent of a member
- A patient in a veteran's hospital
- A civilian attached to or service with the Armed Forces out of State or a spouse or dependent residing with or accompanying that person

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A MILITARY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

By obtaining a military service absentee ballot application from the Bergen County Clerk, your Municipal Clerk or from the proper Military personnel, or by having a relative or friend make an application for you.

WHEN ARE ELECTION HELD IN BERGEN COUNTY?

PRIMARY ELECTIONS are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June. The Primary is held to nominate party Candidates for elections for the General Election. In a Presidential year there will be two Primary Elections. The Presidential Primary is the last Tuesday in February; this Election is limited to the selection of Delegates and Alternate Delegates for the two National Conventions and the Choice for Presidential Candidates. Polls are open from 6:00 am ti1 8:00 pm.

GENERAL ELECTIONS are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November to elect various National, State, County and Municipal officials to office. Polls are open 6:00 am ti1 8:00 pm.

SCHOOL ELECTIONS are held annually on the third Tuesday in April. They are non-partisan elections to elect members to the Board of Education and to approve the proposed school budgets. You must be a registered voter in order to participate in school board elections. Polling hours may vary in each school district, but they must be open between the hours of 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm Check with your local school board for the time, or check your sample ballot.

NON-PARTISAN ELECTIONS ARE HELD ON THE 2ND TUESDAY IN MAY.

SPECIAL SCHOOL ELECTIONS may be held on the 4th Tuesday in January, 2nd Tuesday in March, last Tuesday in September and 2nd Tuesday in December. (EXCEPT, IN A PRESIDENTIAL YEAR THERE WILL BE NO MARCH ELECTION).

IF I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT ANYTHING IN THIS PAMPHLET?

You may contact Kathleen A. Donovan, Bergen County Clerk or any member of her Election Division, One Bergen County Plaza, Room 130, Hackensack, NJ 07601. Phone (201) 336-7020, Fax (201) 336-7005 or (201) 336-7075. Office hours are 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. We are also open on the Saturday before School, Primary General elections from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, for voting.