

*Learn now.
Vote ready.*

**BERGEN COUNTY
OCTOBER 2026**

Before You Vote



A Bergen County guide to elections, civic participation,
and your first vote.



1 GUIDE



8 OFFICIAL LINKS



1 VOTING PLAN

Whether you're voting this year or not yet.

1

Wherever you are, there's something here for you.

Made for Bergen County high school students, whether you're voting this year or not yet.

WE ARE NOT THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

We are students. Every date and rule in this guide comes from New Jersey and Bergen County election offices, and every QR code goes to an official page. Rules change; when in doubt, check the source.

1

Voting this year?

Start with your ballot. Pages 2 to 4.

2

Not 18 yet?

Learn how our government works and get ready for your first vote. Page 5.

3

Want to get involved now?

Find ways to participate in your community today. Page 6.

WHAT IS INSIDE

- 1 Wherever you are
- 2 Get ready to vote
- 3 Know your ballot
- 4 Ways to vote
- 5 Know your government & who represents me
- 6 Ways to get involved

Civic participation doesn't start at 18.

2 Get ready to vote.

CAN I VOTE?

In New Jersey, you must be:

- a U.S. citizen
- at least 18
- registered to vote

ARE YOU 17?

You can register to vote if you are a U.S. citizen.

17-year-olds who are pending registration and will be 18 by General Election Day can vote in the Primary Election under the New Voter Empowerment Act.

1 Voter registration deadline October 13, 2026

2 Check your voter registration status. Scan the code below.

THIS NOVEMBER

If you are 17 and registered, you can vote if you will be 18 by Election Day.



CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS
tinyurl.com/njvoterinfo

Two minutes now saves a wasted trip in November.

3 Know your ballot.

1 Step 1: Find your town's sample ballot.



BERGEN COUNTY SAMPLE BALLOTS
tinyurl.com/2026sampleballots

2 Step 2: Know what offices are on your ballot.

For United States Senator · vote for one

For Member of the House of Representatives · vote for one

For County Executive · vote for one

For County Clerk · vote for one

For Surrogate · vote for one

For Members of the Board of County Commissioners · vote for two

Local offices · depending on town

Public questions · depending on town

3 Step 3: Create a voting plan.

More on the next page. Write yours here.

How

When

Where

A plan is the difference between meaning to vote and voting.

4 Ways to vote.

Choose the option that works for you.

1 Vote on Election Day

Where: your assigned polling place

When: Election Day (11/3), during polling hours (6 am to 8 pm)

How: check in, mark ballot, vote

tinyurl.com/2026pollingplaces



2 Vote early in person

Where: any early voting location in Bergen County

When: early-voting period (10/24 to 11/1)

How: check in, mark ballot, vote

tinyurl.com/2026earlyvoting



3 Vote by mail

How it works: request a ballot, complete it, and return it by 8 pm on 11/3 (election night)

Return options: mail, ballot drop box, or Bergen County Board of Elections

tinyurl.com/2026votebymail



MY VOTING PLAN

- ☐ Vote on Election Day
- ☐ Vote early in person (10/24 to 11/1)
- ☐ Vote by mail (return by 8 pm on 11/3)

Pick one. Put it in your calendar.

5 Know your government.

Four levels of government shape your everyday life.



Municipality · Roads, zoning, parks, local services, etc.



Bergen County · County roads, parks, elections, public health & services, etc.



New Jersey · Schools, transportation, laws, driver rules, taxes, etc.



United States · National laws, civil rights, federal programs, etc.

KEEP IN MIND Responsibilities can overlap across levels of government!

WHO REPRESENTS ME?



FIND YOUR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HERE
tinyurl.com/njofficials

MY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

LEVEL	WHO REPRESENTS ME?	WHAT DO THEY DO?
My municipality		
Bergen County		
New Jersey		
U.S. Government		

Names change after elections. Update this page.

6 Ways to get involved.

Civic participation doesn't start at 18. Voting is just one way to make your voice heard.

1 Attend a town council meeting

Learn about what's going on in your town. It's the first step to getting involved.

Check your local meeting schedule -
tinyurl.com/bergenmunicipalities



2 Become a poll worker

Are you 16 or older? Help administer our elections and get paid.

Apply here - tinyurl.com/bergenpollworker



3 Contact local officials

Have a question, concern, or idea? Find your local officials and send an email, make a call, or attend their office hours. You don't need to be an expert to speak up.

MY FIRST STEP

- ☐ Attend a town council meeting
- ☐ Become a poll worker
- ☐ Contact a local official

Show up once. It gets easier.

WHAT IS IN THIS GUIDE



This guide. Read it once before November. Keep it until you have voted at least once.



Eight official links. Every QR code goes to a New Jersey or Bergen County election office page.



One voting plan. Page 3.

KEY DATES THIS FALL

October 13

Voter registration deadline

October 24 to November 1

Early voting period

November 3, by 8 pm

Return your mail ballot by this time

November 3

Election Day, polls open 6 am to 8 pm

WHERE THIS GUIDE CAME FROM

Every date and rule here comes from the New Jersey Division of Elections, the Bergen County Clerk, the Bergen County Board of Elections, and the Bergen County Superintendent of Elections (Voter Registration).

REVIEWED BY

Bergen County Board of Elections
Bergen County Superintendent of Elections
September 2026

Your first vote starts before the election.

Written by students from six Bergen County high schools. Reviewed by the Bergen County Board of Elections and the Bergen County Superintendent of Elections, September 2026. This guide is nonpartisan. It does not endorse any candidate or party, and it does not tell anyone how to vote. Election dates and rules change; confirm with the New Jersey Division of Elections or the Bergen County Board of Elections. Bergen County Youth Assembly (BCYA), a student led initiative.