

2004 NEW JERSEY Voter Empowerment Card

- If anyone challenges your eligibility to vote even though you are on the list of registered voters, ask for the affidavit for challenged voters and show some form of identification. Once you sign this form and show identification, election officials will rule on the challenge. If they rule against you, you can appeal that decision, without a lawyer, to a judge at your county courthouse. (N.J. Stat. §§ 19:15-18.1, 19:15-18.3)
- If you need help in the voting booth because of a physical disability or because you can't read the ballot, tell a poll worker. You have the right to have anyone you choose help you in the voting booth, including a poll worker. (N.J. Stat. § 19:50-3)
- If you make a mistake on your ballot, ask for a new ballot immediately. You have the right to one replacement ballot. (N.J. Stat. § 19:15-29)

WHAT CAN I DO TO AVOID POTENTIAL PROBLEMS ON ELECTION DAY?

- Vote early in the day to avoid the last-minute rush.
- Bring some form of identification, even though it's not required.
- Ask for help if you need it.
- Read all instructions carefully.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

- New Jersey Division of Elections: (877) NJVOTER
- U.S. Department of Justice: (800) 253-3931
- ACLU Voting Rights Project: (877) 523-2792
- ACLU of New Jersey: (973) 642-2084

Produced by the American Civil Liberties Union.

- You should re-register every time your name or address changes.
- The deadline for registering to vote in the November election is Monday, October 4, 2004.

WHEN DO I VOTE?

- Election Day is Tuesday, November 2, 2004.
- Polling places will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. You have the right to vote if you are in line when the polls close. (N.J. Stat. § 19:15-9)
- You may be eligible to vote by absentee ballot if you won't be able to vote at the polls on Election Day. Absentee ballot applications are available from your County Clerk or online at <http://www.aclu.org/vec>. The deadline for applying by mail is October 26, 2004. You can also apply in person at your County Clerk's office until 3:00 p.m. on November 1, 2004.

WHERE DO I VOTE?

- To find your polling place, contact your County Commissioner of Registration. You can find the phone number in the government pages of your phone book or online at <http://www.aclu.org/vec>.

IS IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED IN ORDER TO VOTE?

- No. Poll workers are required to ask for it only if you are a first-time voter in your county who registered by mail after January 1, 2003, and did not complete the ID portion of the voter registration form, but you have the right to vote on a provisional ballot even if you don't have iden-

WHO CAN VOTE?

- You must be registered in order to vote.
- You can register if you meet all of the following qualifications: (1) you are a citizen of the United States; (2) you will be at least 18 years old on Election Day; (3) you have lived at your present address for at least 30 days; (4) you have not been declared by a court to be mentally incompetent; and (5) you are not in prison or on probation or parole for a felony conviction.

HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

- You must submit a voter registration form in order to register.
- You can get a voter registration form from the New Jersey Division of Elections, your County Commissioner of Registration, or your Municipal Clerk. You can also register when you apply for services at the DMV and at many state agencies that provide public assistance (such as food stamps, Medicaid and WIC) and services to people with disabilities. Forms are also available online at <http://www.aclu.org/vec>.

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- tification with you. (N.J. Stat. § 19:31-5)
- Accepted forms of identification include a current and valid photo ID, a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address. (N.J. Stat. § 19:31-5)

HOW DO I HANDLE THE MOST COMMON PROBLEMS ON ELECTION DAY?

- If a poll worker tells you that you can't vote because you are a first-time voter and don't have proper identification, ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to vote on a provisional ballot even if you are a first-time voter without identification, but you will have to provide identification to your County Commissioner of Election by the close of business on November 4, 2004, in order for your vote to be counted. (N.J. Stat. § 19:53C-1)
- If a poll worker tells you that you are not on the list of registered voters, first ask him or her to check the list again and to confirm that you are at the right polling place. If that fails, you can ask a poll worker for a provisional ballot. Be aware, however, that a provisional ballot will not be counted if election officials can find no record of your registration. You can also go to your county courthouse to get authorization to vote. There will be judges available at the courthouse to hear such matters, and you don't need a lawyer. Authorization from a judge will allow you to cast a regular ballot. (N.J. Stat. §§ 19:53C-3, 19:15-18.3)

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