

Know Your Rights: Voting While Unhoused in New Jersey

What do I need to register to vote?

If you meet the following requirements, you can register to vote:

- You're a U.S. citizen.
- You've been a resident of the county you're voting in for at least 30 days before the election.
- You're at least 17 years old (though you may not vote until you are 18).
- You're not currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction.

If I'm currently unhoused, can I register to vote? Yes, if you meet the above eligibility requirements, you can register and vote.

Where can I register to vote? Visit Vote.NJ.Gov to register to vote online. You can also register by mail or in person at various offices, including your Municipal Clerk's office, county Board of Elections office, and county Superintendent of Elections/ Commissioner of Registration office. You can also register to vote while applying for assistance or services at several state agencies.

What address should I use when registering? You can use an address where you often stay, like a shelter, park, or street corner.

Should I list somewhere I can receive mail? Listing a mailing address is best – this could be a shelter or social services agency. Some counties may allow you to use their election office address, so check locally before registering.

Can I vote by mail? Yes, you can apply for and receive a mail-in ballot in the mail or in person at your County Clerk's office. Please note specific deadlines for mailed and in person vote-by-mail ballots apply.

Where can I vote in person? You can vote at your assigned polling place on Election Day or at any early voting site in your county. [Your polling place](#) is based on the address you used to register, and you'll find it listed on your sample ballot, which will be mailed to that address, or by searching online using that address.

If I'm on parole or probation, can I vote? Yes, if you're on parole or probation, you can register to vote.

Is there anything else I should know about mail-in ballots? You can request a mail-in ballot for one election or every election. If your address changes often, choosing the one-election option may be beneficial. To cancel ongoing mail-in ballots, notify your County Clerk in writing.

Do I need to provide ID to register or vote? No, you do not need to bring ID to the polls to vote in New Jersey, although first-time voters may wish to. When registering to vote, you can either list the last 4 digits of your SSN or a New Jersey driver's license or non-driver ID number.

What if I experience an issue when I go vote in person? Call the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE. Poll workers should always allow you the right to vote using a provisional ballot.

What other organizations can provide information on voting while unhoused?

The following organizations can provide more information about voting rights and voting while unhoused:

- League of Women Voters of New Jersey
- New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness

The resources on this site are meant to educate the public on legal rights in New Jersey. It is not legal advice and is not in any way intended to be a substitute for legal advice or representation. Information on this page may have changed since it was written. Attorneys consulting these resources should make certain the law is still valid.

FIND OUT MORE AT [ACLU-NJ.ORG](https://aclu-nj.org).



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