Voting: It's Your Right



Voting: It's Your Right

A resource guide developed by:



In collaboration with New Jersey's Administration on Developmental Disabilities Partners:





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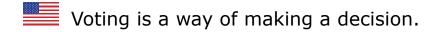
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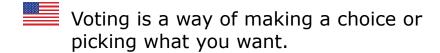
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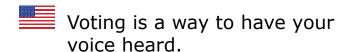
This Booklet Will Help You Learn About Voting

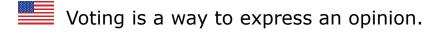
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What Is Voting?











Why Do You Vote?

"It is our basic right." "To vote for people we trust to help us and will set the right rules for government."

"To have a say in how things are run."

Put a V	next to the times you've had a chance to vote:
i ut u	heat to the times you've had a chance to vote.

*	I've had a chance to vote:
	At a self-advocacy meeting
	At a community group
	In a government election

The reason voting is important to me is

What Should People Know When Going To Vote?



- You have the right to vote even if you have a developmental or intellectual disability.
- You have the right to vote even if you live in a developmental center, group home, or other place where you receive residential care.
- You may have the right to vote even if you have a guardian (depending on the terms of the guardianship).
- You have the right to vote if you are waiting in line when the poll closes.
- You have the right to make up your own mind about how you want to vote.
- You can choose to talk about the candidates and the issues or NOT to talk about the candidates and the issues.
- You do not have to tell anyone who you vote for unless you want to.

When Does Voting Happen?

Different kinds of elections take place at different times during the year.

A **General Election** for Federal and State Government is when you vote for:

- President of the United States
- Governor of New Jersey
- Senators
- Congressmen
- County and local officials

General Elections take place on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

A **Primary Election** is when the Republican and Democratic political parties decide who will run as their candidate in the general election.

	November 2012					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Primary elections are usually held in June in New Jersey.

- You can only vote in a primary election if you are registered as a Republican or a Democrat.
- If you are registered as an Unaffiliated Voter (Independent), you can become a member of the Republican or Democratic Party to vote in the primary election.

Who Can Vote In A Government Election?

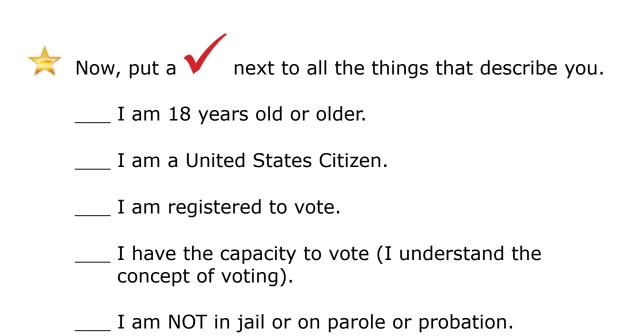
In order to vote a person has to be:

- 18 years old or older
- A United States Citizen
- Registered to vote
- Have the capacity to vote (can make a choice)

AND

 Cannot be in jail or on parole or probation for an indictable offense

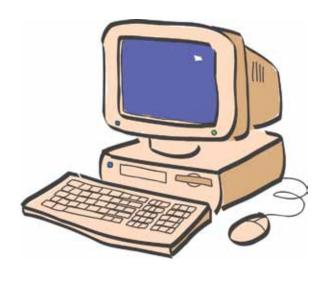




If you put a
on all 5 lines, you are somebody who can vote.

What Do You Do To Prepare To Vote?

- You have to **register** to be able to vote.
- It is good to learn about the candidates & issues, either by reading the newspaper or watching the news.
- You can also learn about the candidates & issues by going to town meetings.
- You can also find information about candidates on some websites on the internet. A few helpful websites for reading about candidates are listed here:
 - The League of Women Voters of New Jersey: http://lwvnj.org
 - Project Vote Smart: <u>votesmart.org</u>
 - The Arc of New Jersey: http://www.arcnj.org/
 - The Arc's Election Guide: https://ssl.capwiz.com/thearc/e4/





What Do You Need In Order To Register To Vote?

You must register at least 21 days before the election after living in the same county for 30 days.

 You can register by mailing in the Voter Registration Application to the county clerk's office in the county where you live

OR

 You can register in person at the office of the County Commissioner of Registration.

You only need to register one time unless you move to a different county or out of New Jersey.

- If you move **within the same county**, you need to fill out a voter registration application to change your address.
- If you move to a different county or state, you need to register to vote again.
- If you move **less than 30 days before an election**, you can go to your old polling place to vote on election day.

Where Can I Get A Voter Registration Form?

- At the New Jersey Division of Elections website <u>http://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/</u>
- At the office of the County Commissioner of Registration or from your municipal clerk
- At the Motor Vehicle Commission (formerly called the DMV)
- At a government office where you apply for assistance or service, including the Division of Developmental Disabilities and your county welfare agency

What Are You Asked To Decide When You Register To Vote?

- When you register to vote, you will be asked what party you would like to be affiliated with (a member of).
 - You can choose to be:
 - Republican
 - Democrat
 - Unaffiliated Voter (people often call an unaffiliated voter an Independent).
 - There may also be other political parties
- You can change your mind about what party you belong to.
- You can vote for any candidate you want to in the general election, even if they are from a different party than the one you belong to.



A	
★	

Are you registered to vote?

Yes		No	
	$-\!-\!-\!-\!-\!-$		-

Do You Need Identification To Register To Vote?



When you register to vote

OR

The first time you vote in person or by mail.

Identification can include any current photo ID, such as:

- Passport
- Student ID
- Driver's License
- Government Issued ID

OR

- A document with your name and address on it, such as:
 - A bank statement
 - Government check (like a Social Security check)







Do you have identification?

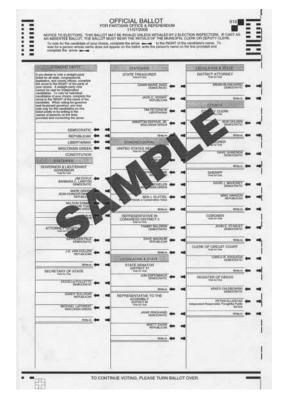
Yes No

What Is A Sample Ballot?

A week before an election, you will receive a **sample ballot** in the mail.

 A sample ballot looks the same as the ballot you will vote with on Election Day.

Reading your sample ballot is a good way to get ready to vote.



A sample ballot lists the candidates and ballot questions.

• A ballot question gives voters a chance to approve or reject some issue about government.

A sample ballot tells you where your assigned polling place will be.

You can vote in person OR by mail.

How Do You Vote In Person?

Everyone has an assigned place to vote called a polling place.

Sometimes polling places are in schools, churches, or libraries.



If you want to vote **in person**, you must vote at your assigned polling place.

 You can look up your assigned polling place on the Division of Elections Website:

https://voter.njsvrs. com/PublicAccess/ jsp/PollPlace/ PollPlaceSearch.jsp

 Polling Places in New Jersey are open from
 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.



If you want to vote **in person**, you vote using a voting machine.

What If You Need Help Voting In Person?



If you need help voting, you can ask someone for help.



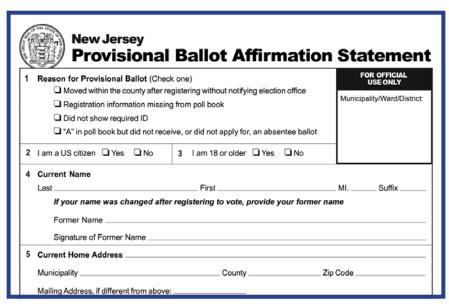
- You can ask up to 2 people to help you vote.
- You can ask family, friends, poll workers, or someone else you choose to help you vote.
- If you ask poll workers to help you vote, they should send two, one Republican and one Democrat.
- You have the right to have someone show you how to use the voting machine on Election Day.
- You have the right to ask for another kind of help if a poll worker cannot give you the help that you need.
- You may vote by saying your choice to an assistant. This is voting orally.
- You can ask for more time when you vote.
- You can ask for an accommodation, such as a chair to sit on, when waiting to vote.
- If you have an issue on Election Day, call Disability Rights
 New Jersey:

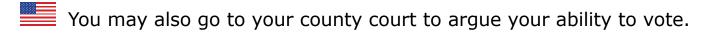
1-800-922-7233

What If Your Name Is Not On The List When You Go To Vote In Person?

If your name does not appear on the registration list:

- You will be able to sign a special form (affidavit) claiming that you are registered.
- You will be given a provisional ballot.
- A **provisional ballot** is a temporary ballot that you can use so you don't miss a chance to vote while the election officials are checking to see if you are registered.
 - If the poll worker asks you to see your ID and you do not have ID with you, you will be able to vote with a provisional **ballot**. You will have 48 hours to show your ID at the county election office. At the polls, they will tell you which county election office to take your ID to.





 If you get a court order allowing you to vote, you will be given a regular ballot and your vote will be counted.

What Should You Know About Voting And Accessibility?

- One accessible polling machine must be available at every polling place to allow voters to verify and cast ballots without assistance and in private.
 - Voting should take place in an integrated setting where all people with and without disabilities can vote in the same place.
- People with disabilities have a right to reasonable accommodations that make it possible for them to vote.
- This includes things like:
 - Assisted listening equipment
 - Registration forms in Braille and large print
 - Ramps





To find out if your polling place is accessible, go to this website and enter your address:

https://voter.njsvrs.com/PublicAccess/jsp/PollPlace/PollPlaceSearch.jsp

How Do You Vote By Mail?

If you want to **vote by mail** instead of in person, it is a 2-step process:

- Step 1: Complete & return yourVote By Mail Application
- Step 2: Complete & return yourVote by Mail Ballot
 - A Vote by Mail Ballot used to be called an absentee ballot.
 - To vote using a Vote by Mail Ballot you need to make sure that you are registered.

Step 1: Complete and Return a Vote By Mail Application:

- You can download a Vote By Mail Application online at: http://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/mail-in_doe.html
- Or call the office of the New Jersey Division of Elections at 609-292-0034.
- After completing the application, mail it to your County Clerk.
 - You can mail the application to the office of the County Clerk up to 7 days before the election.

OR

 You can return your application in person to the office of the County Clerk until 3:00pm the day before the election.

How Do You Vote By Mail?



Step 2: Vote Using a Vote By Mail Ballot:

- After receiving your application, the County Clerk will send you the Vote by Mail Ballot.
- Follow the instructions on the ballot to vote.
- You must follow directions on the ballot EXACTLY or your vote may not be counted.
 - For example, you have to sign the certificate attached to the back flap of the envelope after sealing it.
- To have your ballot count as a vote, you must return the ballot to the office of the Board of Elections before polls close on Election Day.

INSTRUCTIONS TO MAIL-IN VOTER MARKING YOUR BALLOT: 1. Mark the ballot for the candidates of your choice. 2. Insert completed ballot in this envelope. 3. Seal the envelope. (DO NOT DETACH THE CERTIFICATE) FILLING OUT THE CERTIFICATE: Complete the certificate attached to the flap of this envelope and sign the certificate. MAILING YOUR BALLOT: 1. Enclose the envelope with flap attached, in the outer return envelope. 2. Seal the outer envelope. 3. Mail to County Board of Elections as soon as possible. UNLESS THE BALLOT IS RECEIVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BEFORE THE CLOSING OF THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY, IT CAN NOT BE COUNTED. A PERSON MAY BE FINED AND IMPRISONED AND MAY ALSO LOSE THE RIGHT TO VOTE UNTIL RESTORED BY LAW if that person attempts to vote fraudulently by mail-in ballot, prevents the voting of a legal voter, certifies falsely any information, interferes with a person's secrecy of voting, tampers with ballots or election documents or helps another person to do so.

(CERTIFICATE OF N	MAIL-IN VOTER	
I.			, whose
-,	(PRINT your name of	clearly)	,
home address is	(street address or R.D.	number)	
	(municipality)	, DO HEREB	Y CERTIFY,
for the enclosed	enalties for fraudulent voti d ballot. I MARKED A N SECRET. However, a fam	ND SEALED THIS BA	ALLOT AND
for the enclosed CERTIFICATE IN Any person provided the hereby certification of the control of the control of the certification of the	l ballot. I MARKED A	NĎ SEALED THÍS BA ily member may assist me (SIGNATURE) plete the following: to provided assistance to	ALLOT AND in doing so.
for the enclosed CERTIFICATE IN Any person prov. I do hereby certif declare that I wil	I ballot. I MARKED Al SECRET. However, a fam iding assistance shall com fy that I am the person wh	NĎ SEALED THÍS BÆ ily member may assist me (SIGNATURE plete the following: to provided assistance to this ballot.	ALLOT AND in doing so. of voter) this voter and



You can only vote ONE TIME in any election.



If you have already asked for a **Vote by Mail Ballot**, you may **NOT** vote in person during that election.

Which Election Official Should I Contact?

Reasons to contact your Commissioner of Registration:

- To register to vote
- To file a change of name
- To file a change of address



Reasons to contact your County Clerk:

• To obtain a Vote By Mail Application and Vote By Mail Ballot

Reasons to contact your county Board of Elections:

- To change which party you are registered with
- To find information about elections in your county
- To report if your polling place is inaccessible to you as a person with a disability
- To report if you experience difficulty obtaining accommodations or help from poll workers when voting
- A listing of Commissioners of Registration, County Clerks, and County Boards of Elections can be found at:
 http://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/loc_officials_doe.html
 - A list of these officials is also found on the next few pages.

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Board Of Elections



Reasons to contact your county Board of Elections:

- To change which **party** you are registered with
- To find **information about elections** in your county
- To report if your polling place is **inaccessible** to you as a person with a disability
- To report if you experience difficulty obtaining accommodations or help from poll workers when voting

Atlantic County	Bergen County
Board of Elections	Board of Elections
Historic Court House Complex	One Bergen County Plaza, Room 310
5903 Main Street	Hackensack, NJ 07601
Mays Landing, NJ 08330	201-336-6225
609-645-5878	www.co.bergen.nj.us/paboe/index.htm
http://aclink.org/boardofelections/index.asp	
Burlington County	Camden County
Board of Elections	Board of Elections
49 Rancocas Road	6991 N. Park Drive
Room G-22, P.O Box 6000	Suite 109
Mount Holly, NJ 08060	Pennsauken, NJ 08110
609-265-5062	856-661-3600
http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/Pages/	
viewdepartment.aspx?did=30	
Cape May County	Cumberland County
Board of Elections	Board of Elections
10-12 W. Mechanic Street, P.O. Box 5000	555 Shiloh Pike
Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08210	Bridgeton, NJ 08302
609-465-1050	856-453-5801
http://www.capemaycountygov.net/	http://www.co.cumberland.nj.us/
Cit-e-Access/webpage.cfm?TID=5&TPID=545	content/173/251/1901/957.aspx
Essex County	Gloucester County
Hall of Records	Board of Elections
465 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.	P.O. Box 352
4th Floor, Room 411	Woodbury, NJ 08096
Newark, NJ 07102	856-384-4500
973-621-5071	http://www.co.gloucester.nj.us/government/departments/elections/boardofelections/cfm

Board Of Elections

Hudson County	Hunterdon County
Board of Elections	Board of Elections
Hudson County Plaza	71 Main Street , Bldg. 3A, 3rd Floor
257 Cornelison Avenue, 4th Floor	P.O. Box 2900
Jersey City, NJ 07302	Flemington, NJ 08822
201-369-3436	908-788-1190
	http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/elect/
	electbd.htm
Mercer County	Middlesex County
Board of Elections	Board of Elections
640 S. Broad Street, P.O. Box 8068	777 Jersey Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08650-0068	New Brunswick, NJ 08901
609-989-6522	732-745-3471
http://www.state.nj.us/counties/mercer/	http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/elections/index/
commissions/elections	asp
Monmouth County	Morris County
Board of Elections	Board of Elections
300 Halls Mill Road	Administrative Building, P.O. Box 900
Freehold, NJ 07728	Morristown, NJ 07963
732-431-7150	973-285-8350
http://visitmonmouth.com/page.aspx?ID=897	http://www.morriselections.org/
Ocean County	Passaic County
Board of Elections	Board of Elections
129 Hooper Avenue, P.O. Box 2006	401 Grand Street, Room 123
Toms River, NJ 08754	Paterson, NJ 07503
732-929-2167	973-881-4527
http://www.co.ocean.nj.us/electionboard/	http://passaiccountynj.org/Departments/ window-elections.htm
Salam County	
Salem County	Somerset County
Board of Elections	Board of Elections
94 Market Street	Grove Street, P.O. Box 3000
Salem, NJ 08079	Somerville, NJ 08876
856-935-7510 ext. 8330	908-231-7084
http://www.salemcountynj.gov/cmssite/default.asp?contentID=731%20	http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/elections/
Sussex County	Union County
Board of Elections	Board of Elections
83 Spring Street, Suite 305	271 North Broad Street
•	
Newton, NJ 07860	Elizabeth, NJ 07208
973-579-0950	908-527-4123
http://www.sussex.nj.us/cit-e-access/webpage.cfm?TID=7&TPID=1503	http://www.ucnj.org/electionboard
Warren County	
Board of Elections	
413 Second Street	
Belvidere, NJ 07823	
908-475-6313	
http://www.co.warren.nj.us/election.html	

Commissioner Of Registration



Reasons to contact your Commissioner of Registration:

- To **register** to vote
- To file a change of name
- To file a change of address

Atlantic County Superintendent of Elections 1333 Atlantic Ave. 4th Floor Atlantic City, NJ 08401 (609) 343-2246 http://www.aclink.org/elections/	Bergen County Elections One Bergen County Plaza Hackensack, NJ 07601 201-336-6100 http://www.co.bergen.nj.us/elections/default. html
Burlington County Superintendent of Elections 755 Eayrestown Road Mount Holly, NJ 08060 609-265-5111 http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/Pages/ ViewDepartment.aspx?did=64	Camden County Superintendent of Elections 7250 Westfield Avenue Pennsauken, NJ 08110 856-661-3555 http://www.camdencounty.com/government/ voter-information/superintendent-elections
Cape May County 10-12 W. Mechanic Street Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08210 609-465-1050 http://www.co.cape-may.nj.us/cit-e-access/webpage.cfm?TID=5&TPID=801	Cumberland County 555 Shiloh Pike Bridgeton, NJ 08302 856-453-5801
Essex County Superintendent of Elections 465 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Newark, NJ 07102 973-621-5061	Gloucester County Superintendent of Elections P.O. Box 352 Woodbury, NJ 08096 856-384-4500
Hudson County Superintendent of Elections 257 Cornelison Avenue Jersey City, NJ 07302 201-369-7740	Hunterdon County 71 Main Street Flemington, NJ 08822-9952 908-788-1190

Commissioner Of Registration

Mercer County Superintendent of Elections 640 S. Broad Street Trenton, NJ 08650 609-989-6750 http://www.state.nj.us/counties/mercer/departments/intendent/index.html	Middlesex County Commissioner of Registration 777 Jersey Avenue New Brunswick, NJ 08901-3605 732-745-3471
Monmouth County Superintendent of Elections 300 Halls Mill Road Freehold, NJ 07728 732-431-7785	Morris County Superintendent of Elections PO Box 900 Morristown, NJ 07963-0900 973-285-6715
Ocean County Commissioner of Registration 129 Hooper Avenue Toms River, NJ 08754-2006 732-929-2167	Passaic County Superintendent of Elections 311 Pennsylvania Avenue Paterson, NJ 07503 973-881-4515/4516
Salem County Commissioner of Registration 94 Market Street Salem, NJ 08079-9856 856-935-7510 ext. 8330	Somerset County Commissioner of Registration 20 Grove Street Somerville, NJ 08876-1262 908-231-7084
Sussex County Commissioner of Registration 83 Spring Street Newton, NJ 07860-2080 973-579-0950	Union County Commissioner of Registration 271 North Broad Street Elizabeth, NJ 07208 908-527-4121
Warren County Commissioner of Registration 413 Second Street Belvidere, NJ 07823 908-475-6313	

County Clerk

Reasons to contact your County Clerk:

• To obtain a Vote By Mail Application and Vote By Mail Ballot

Atlantic County

County Clerk 5901 Main Street Mays Landing, NJ 08330-1797 609-641-7867

http://www.atlanticcountyclerk.org/

Burlington County

County Clerk 49 Rancocas Road Mount Holly, NJ 08060-1397 609-265-5122

http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/pages/ viewdepartment.aspx?did=2

Cape May County

County Clerk 7 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 5000 Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08210-5000 609-465-1013

http://www.capemaycountygov.net/cit-eaccess/webpage.cfm?tid=5&tpid=417

Essex County

County Clerk P.O. Box 690 Newark, NJ 07101-0690 973-621-4921

http://www.essexclerk.com/index.html

Hudson County

County Clerk 257 Cornelison Avenue Jersev City, NJ 07302 201-369-3470

http://www.hudsoncountyclerk.org/

Bergen County

County Clerk One Bergen County Plaza Room 130

Hackensack, NJ 07601

201-336-7073

http://www.co.bergen.nj.us/countyclerk/

Camden County

County Clerk 520 Market Street P.O. Box 150

Camden, NJ 08101-0150

856-225-7219

http://www.camdencounty.com/government/ elected-officials/county-clerk

Cumberland County

County Clerk 60 W. Broad Street Bridgeton, NJ 08302-2665 856-453-4860

http://www.co.cumberland.nj.us/ content/173/2133/3337/3363.aspx

Gloucester County

County Clerk 1 North Broad Street Woodbury, NJ 08096-3327 856-853-3241

http://www.co.gloucester.nj.us/depts/c/cclerk/ default.asp

Hunterdon County

County Clerk 71 Main Street Flemington, NJ 08822-2900 908-788-1214

http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/countyclerk.htm

County Clerk

Mercer County

County Clerk 209 S. Broad Street Trenton, NJ 08650-0068 609-989-6998

http://www.state.nj.us/counties/mercer/

officials/clerk/index.html

Monmouth County

County Clerk 300 Halls Mill Road Freehold, NJ 07728-1254

732-431-7790

http://www.visitmonmouth.com/page.

aspx?ID=125

Ocean County

County Clerk 118 Washington Street Toms River, NJ 08754-2191

732-929-2018

http://www.oceancountyclerk.com/

Salem County

County Clerk 92 Market Street Salem, NJ 08079-1913 856-935-7510 Ext. 820

http://salemcountyclerk.org/

Sussex County

County Clerk 83 Spring Street Newton, NJ 07860-2080

973-579-0900

http://www.sussex.nj.us/

Warren County

County Clerk 413 Second Street Belvidere, NJ 07823-1500 908-475-6211

http://www.co.warren.nj.us/CountyClerk/Index.

html

Middlesex County

County Clerk

75 Bayard Street, 4th Floor New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1110

732-745-3827

http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/countyclerk/

index.asp

Morris County

County Clerk

P.O. Box 315 - Court Street Morristown, NJ 07963-0315

973-285-6059

http://www.morriscountyclerk.org/

Passaic County

County Clerk 401 Grand Street

Paterson, NJ 07505

973-225-3632 ext 500 or 501

http://www.passaiccountynj.org/countyclerk/

countyclerk.htm

Somerset County

County Clerk 20 Grove Street

P.O. Box 3000

Somerville, NJ 08876-1262

908-231-7013

http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/clerk/

Union County

County Clerk 2 Broad Street

Room 113

Elizabeth, NJ 07201-2299

908-527-4996/4997

http://www.unioncountynj.org/ctyclerk/index.html

Notes





Disability Rights New Jersey 210 South Broad Street, 3rd Floor Trenton, New Jersey 08608

DRNJ is located in barrier-free, fully accessible offices.

DRNJ can be reached by telephone at:

(800) 922-7233

(toll-free in New Jersey only)

OR

(609) 292-9742 (609) 633-7106 (TTY)