

# ***News from the Somerset County Board of Elections***

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September 16, 2020  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **The Somerset County Board of Elections Adds 14 Poll Locations and 8 Ballot Drop Box Locations for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election.**

Somerset County's Election Board Administrator, Jerry L. Midgette announced today that pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order #179 and newly enacted legislation codifying that Order, 14 poll locations and 8 ballot drop box locations have been added for Somerset County voters. Now for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election, there will be a total of 51 poll locations and 13 ballot drop box locations (Locations Attached). Voters will be able to drop off their Vote by Mail ballot at one of the ballot drop box locations beginning the week of September 28, 2020. These ballot drop boxes will be available 24 hours daily for ballot drop off by the voter or authorized Bearer until 8:00 PM on November 3, 2020. The ballot drop boxes will be under video surveillance at all times.

The voters will have three choices in which to return their ballots to the Board of Elections, said Midgette. They can use the United States Postal Service or one of the county's 13 ballot drop boxes. For the November election, voters for the first time will be allowed to deliver their own ballot to their assigned poll location on Election Day. Voters will be required to sign a certification that the ballot being delivered to the poll is their own ballot and Poll Workers will only be permitted to accept the ballot of the person signing the certification, said Midgette.

Please be reminded that for bearers (persons delivering a ballot for another voter):

- One must complete the Bearer Portion of the outer envelope in front of the voter.  
This applies whether the bearer is mailing the ballot, delivering it in person or dropping it in one of Somerset County's drop boxes.
- One may serve as bearer for up to 3 voters in a single election.  
This includes any combination of ballots delivered in person or put in the mail or drop box.  
Delivering your own ballot does not count toward the limit of 3.
- Candidates for elected office may not act as bearers.

"To minimize confusion and ensure your vote will count in this November 3, 2020 General Election, all voters are urged to vote as early as possible and follow the guidance as set forth in this announcement for returning a Vote by Mail Ballot to the Board of Elections", said Midgette. In addition, if you returned your voted ballot to the Board of Elections, you should not go to the polls and vote a Provisional Ballot also. It is against the law and you could be prosecuted for committing a felony, said Midgette.

"Somerset County voters are reminded that ballots must be received by the Board of Elections by the close of polls on Election Day at 8:00 p.m. Ballots that are post-marked by November 3<sup>rd</sup> can be counted if they are received no later than 8:00pm on November 10, 2020" said Midgette. In addition, for this election, ballots received from the United States Postal Service within 48 hours after November 3<sup>rd</sup> without a postmark can also be counted.

"This information will also be posted on the Election Board's website" said Midgette.

The Somerset County Board of Elections office is currently not open to the public due to the Coronavirus. However, ballots can be dropped off at the ballot drop box located at the front entrance to the County Administration Building at 20 Grove St. Election Board staff can be reached by phone at 908-231-7084 weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. The office is located on the first floor of the Somerset County Administration Building at 20 Grove St., Somerville.

For more information, go to the Board of Elections website at <http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/elections> or contact us at (908) 231-7084 or [electionbd@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:electionbd@co.somerset.nj.us),

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