



**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**      **ASSEMBLY:**              No  
**SENATE:**                              No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, **may possibly** be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:**                      No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:**                      Yes

**VETO MESSAGE:**    No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:**              Yes

**LEGISLATOR STATEMENT:**                              No

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:**    No

**HEARINGS:**    No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:**                              Yes

Nikita Biryukov [newjerseymonitor.com](http://newjerseymonitor.com), 'New law expands early in-person voting for this year's gubernatorial primary', *Press of Atlantic City, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 4 Mar 2025 <<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/19F20A81C715A110>> 4/21/26, 4:08 PM NewsBank

CL/MMcB

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 23, *approved March 4, 2025*  
Senate, No. 3990 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT extending the early voting period for primary elections and  
2 <sup>1</sup>extending the challenger appointment deadline,<sup>1</sup> amending  
3 P.L.2021, c.40 <sup>1</sup>and R.S.19:7-3, and making an appropriation<sup>1</sup>.  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
7

8 <sup>1</sup>1. R.S.19:7-3 is amended to read as follows:

9 19:7-3. The appointment of or application for challengers shall be  
10 filed with the county board not later than the **【second】** third Tuesday  
11 preceding any election. No person shall be appointed a challenger  
12 under this Title who is not a registered voter in the county in which  
13 the district is located in which such person is appointed to serve, and  
14 no appointed challenger shall serve in any district other than that to  
15 which appointed except for challengers appointed by the chairman of a  
16 county committee, pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection b. of  
17 R.S.19:7-1.<sup>1</sup>

18 (cf: P.L.1999, c.232, s.28)  
19

20 <sup>1</sup>**【1.】** 2.<sup>1</sup> Section 1 of P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1) is amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 1. a. In addition to all other forms of voting provided for by this  
23 Title, a registered voter shall be permitted to vote at a specially  
24 designated polling place before the day of certain primary and general  
25 elections in this State. This procedure shall be known as early voting.  
26 The early voting period shall:

27 (1) start on the **【4th】** <sup>1</sup>**【11th】** 7th<sup>1</sup> calendar day before a non-  
28 presidential primary election for a non-presidential general election  
29 and end on the second calendar day before that non-presidential  
30 primary election;

31 (2) start on the **【6th】** <sup>1</sup>**【11th】** 7th<sup>1</sup> calendar day before a  
32 presidential primary election for a presidential general election and  
33 end on the second calendar day before that presidential primary  
34 election; or

35 (3) start on the 10th calendar day before a general election and end  
36 on the second calendar day before that general election.

37 The voting process during the early voting period shall be  
38 conducted using electronic poll books and optical-scan voting  
39 machines that read hand-marked paper ballots or other voting

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SJU committee amendments adopted February 20, 2025.

1 machines that produce a voter-verifiable paper ballot. Any  
2 municipality conducting regular municipal elections in May pursuant  
3 to the provisions of the "Uniform Nonpartisan Elections Law,"  
4 P.L.1981, c.379 (C.40:45-5 et seq.), may, by an ordinance adopted by  
5 its governing body, also conduct early voting for the regular municipal  
6 election, in accordance with the provisions of this act, P.L.2021, c.40  
7 (C.19:15A-1 et al.). If adopted by a municipal governing body, the  
8 early voting period for a regular municipal election in May shall start  
9 on the 4th calendar day before the regular municipal election and end  
10 on the second calendar day before that regular municipal election. An  
11 early voting period shall only be permitted for a non-presidential or  
12 presidential primary election and a general election in this State and, if  
13 adopted by a municipal governing body, a regular municipal election  
14 conducted in May. Pursuant to the provisions of this act and Title 19  
15 of the Revised Statutes and in accordance with procedures that may be  
16 established by the Secretary of State for verifying eligible voters, each  
17 county board of elections shall verify that a registered voter is  
18 qualified to vote in the election and shall prescribe the manner by  
19 which a registered voter may vote during such period.

20 b. (1) For the primary and the general election, each county board  
21 of elections shall designate at least three, but not more than five, public  
22 locations within each county as the sites for early voting to occur,  
23 except that the county board shall designate at least five, but not more  
24 than seven, public locations for early voting if the number of registered  
25 voters in the county is at least 150,000 but less than 300,000, and shall  
26 designate at least seven, but not more than 10, public locations for  
27 early voting if the number of registered voters in the county is 300,000  
28 or more. This provision shall not be interpreted to prevent county  
29 boards of elections, at their discretion, from establishing additional  
30 locations in excess of the five, seven, or 10 location limits respectively  
31 set forth herein; provided, however, that the State shall be required to  
32 provide reimbursement for the costs of locations up to and including  
33 the five, seven, or 10 respective limits established herein, and shall not  
34 be required to provide reimbursement for additional locations beyond  
35 those limits under section 6 of this act, P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-6).  
36 The number of registered voters in each county shall be determined  
37 ahead of the selection of early voting sites pursuant to a uniform  
38 standard which shall be developed by the Secretary of State through  
39 the rulemaking process pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure  
40 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.). Whenever possible, early  
41 voting locations shall be geographically located so as to ensure both  
42 access in the part of the county that features the greatest concentration  
43 of population, according to the most recent federal decennial census of  
44 the United States, and access in various geographic areas of the  
45 county. All early voting locations shall be public facilities, such as  
46 county courthouses, public libraries and the offices of the municipal  
47 clerk, county clerk, and county board of elections, or places of public  
48 accommodation as provided under Title 10 of the Revised Statutes.

1 No public school building and no building used as a public school, as  
2 that term is defined under N.J.S.18A:1-1, shall, however, be  
3 designated as an early voting location. The locations shall be  
4 designated at the same time as all other polling places are designated  
5 by the board of elections. In the event of a tie vote among members of  
6 the county board with respect to the selection of sites for early voting,  
7 the county clerk shall cast the deciding vote. Once early voting  
8 locations are designated in each county, county boards of election shall  
9 evaluate and, if deemed necessary, revise these locations in order to  
10 accommodate significant changes in the number of registered voters  
11 within each county, reflect the population distribution and density  
12 within each county, or because of similar circumstances. The  
13 Secretary of State may develop the criteria to be used by county boards  
14 of election to revise the location of early voting sites and shall  
15 prescribe how often such revision shall take place.

16 A voter shall be permitted to vote at any early voting site in the  
17 voter's county.

18 (2) Whenever a municipality that conducts regular municipal  
19 elections in May chooses to participate in early voting for the regular  
20 municipal election, the county board of elections shall designate at  
21 least one public location, but not more than three public locations,  
22 within the municipality as the site or sites for early voting to occur.  
23 This provision shall not be interpreted to prevent a county board of  
24 elections, at its discretion, from establishing additional locations in  
25 excess of the three location limit set forth herein; provided, however,  
26 that the State shall be required to provide reimbursement for the costs  
27 of locations up to and including the three location limit established  
28 herein, and shall not be required to provide reimbursement for  
29 additional locations beyond that limit under section 6 of this act,  
30 P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-6). Whenever possible, each such location  
31 shall be geographically located in the part of the municipality that  
32 features the greatest concentration of population, according to the most  
33 recent federal decennial census of the United States. All early voting  
34 locations shall be public facilities, such as municipal courthouses and  
35 the offices of the municipal clerk, or places of public accommodation  
36 as provided under Title 10 of the Revised Statutes. No public school  
37 building and no building used as a public school, as that term is  
38 defined under N.J.S.18A:1-1, shall be designated as an early voting  
39 location. The locations shall be designated at the same time as all  
40 other polling places are designated by the board of elections. In the  
41 event of a tie vote among members of the county board with respect to  
42 the selection of sites for early voting, the municipal clerk shall cast the  
43 deciding vote. Once early voting locations are designated in each  
44 municipality, county boards of election shall evaluate and, if deemed  
45 necessary, revise these locations in order to accommodate significant  
46 changes in the number of registered voters within each municipality,  
47 reflect the population distribution and density within each  
48 municipality, or because of similar circumstances. The Secretary of

1 State may develop the criteria to be used by county boards of election  
2 to revise the location of early voting sites and shall prescribe how  
3 often such revision shall take place.

4 A voter shall be permitted to vote at any early voting site in the  
5 voter's municipality.

6 c. Each early voting site in a county or municipality shall be open  
7 for early voting on Monday through Saturday from at least 10 AM to 8  
8 PM, and on Sunday from at least 10 AM to 6 PM. Any voter who is  
9 on line at the time scheduled for the closing of an early voting site  
10 shall be permitted to vote.

11 d. The election officers responsible for conducting early voting  
12 shall be the same as those responsible for conducting a primary and a  
13 general election, as appropriate, pursuant to this Title. The number of  
14 such officers and their hours of service shall be as determined by each  
15 county board of elections. The compensation for such officers shall be  
16 the same as provided to district board of election members serving at a  
17 school election pursuant to R.S.19:45-6, or that required pursuant to  
18 Article I, paragraph 23 of the New Jersey Constitution, whichever is  
19 greater.

20 e. The restrictions governing the conduct of voters at a polling  
21 place on the days that early voting occurs, the procedures governing  
22 who is permitted in a polling place on such occasions and the  
23 prohibition on electioneering within 100 feet of a polling place during  
24 an election, shall be as provided in chapters 15, 34, 50 and 52 of Title  
25 19 of the Revised Statutes and every other applicable section of this  
26 Title.

27 f. In real time using the electronic poll books each day during the  
28 early voting period, and prior to the start of each regularly scheduled  
29 primary and general election, and regular municipal election in each  
30 non-partisan municipality choosing to participate in early voting, each  
31 county board shall make such changes as may be necessary to the  
32 voter's record in the Statewide voter registration system to indicate that  
33 a voter has voted in that election using the early voting procedure.

34 g. (1) Each county board shall be responsible for forming and  
35 executing a written plan to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the  
36 integrity of the voting process and the security of ballots used during  
37 the early voting period, including the security of voting machines,  
38 voted ballots, and election records. The plan shall be based on  
39 guidelines established by the Secretary of State and shall be submitted  
40 thereto no later than December 15 of each year. The Secretary of State  
41 shall review and, if deemed necessary thereby, require changes to a  
42 plan no later than February 1 of each year. Each plan shall specify a  
43 chain of custody and security plan for the voting machines, and a chain  
44 of custody for the voted ballots and election records and materials, and  
45 shall require, among other specifications deemed necessary by the  
46 Secretary of State and county boards of election, that all voted ballots  
47 shall be transferred at the end of each early voting day to county  
48 boards of election for safekeeping. After the voted ballots are

1 transferred to the county board of elections at the end of each early  
2 voting day, a county board may elect to impound those voted ballots  
3 on a secure server, or by any other means deemed appropriate by the  
4 Secretary of State. The voted ballots shall not be canvassed until the  
5 closing of the polls on election day as required pursuant to section 4 of  
6 this act, P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-4). The results of the voted ballots  
7 cast during early voting shall remain confidential and shall be  
8 disclosed only in accordance with the provisions of Title 19 of the  
9 Revised Statutes, regulations, and guidelines concerning the disclosure  
10 of election results, and a violation shall be subject to the penalties  
11 established by law.

12 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, in the year  
13 in which P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1 et al.) becomes law, each county  
14 board shall submit its plan to the Secretary of State within 30 days  
15 following the effective date of this act and the Secretary of State shall  
16 review it and, if deemed necessary thereby, require changes in the plan  
17 within 45 days following the effective date of this act.

18 h. Each county board shall make certain that each polling place  
19 used for early voting shall be accessible to individuals with disabilities  
20 and the elderly, in compliance with the "Americans with Disabilities  
21 Act of 1990" (42 U.S.C. s.12101 et seq.), and that each polling place  
22 provides such voters, including the blind and visually impaired, the  
23 same opportunity for access and participation, including privacy and  
24 independence, as other voters in compliance with the "Help America  
25 Vote Act of 2002" (42 U.S.C. s.15481).

26 i. The Secretary of State shall establish a printing on demand  
27 ballot and elections system. At a minimum, the system shall be  
28 compatible with the Statewide voter registration system established  
29 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2005, c.145 (C.19:31-31) and any  
30 electronic poll books provided by section 1 of P.L.2019, c.80  
31 (C.19:31-35). Each polling place used for early voting shall have a  
32 computer, tablet, or other electronic device to print provisional ballots  
33 for voters required to vote by provisional ballot in accordance with the  
34 provisions of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes or due to an equipment  
35 malfunction as further provided under section 3 of P.L.2019, c.80  
36 (C.19:31-37), or any other election related material, if needed. A  
37 computer, tablet, or other electronic device and the printer used to  
38 print election materials at a polling place shall not be used unless it has  
39 been certified by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall  
40 adopt and publish standards and regulations governing the certification  
41 and use of computer, tablets, or other electronic devices and printers to  
42 print election materials at each polling place used for early voting.  
43 The Secretary of State shall not certify a computer, tablet, or other  
44 electronic device or printer unless it is in compliance with the  
45 secretary's standards.

46 j. Each polling place used for early voting shall also have such  
47 appropriate supplies, ballots and other materials deemed necessary by

1 the Secretary of State or as is required currently for a polling place on  
2 the day of any election by Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.  
3 (cf: P.L.2021, c.40, s.1)

4  
5 <sup>1</sup>3. a. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
6 Department of State the sum of \$6,000,000 for the purposes of this act.

7 b. There is appropriated from the General Fund as State aid to  
8 each county governing body and to each municipal governing body  
9 that conducts early voting such sums as the State Treasurer and the  
10 Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department  
11 of the Treasury deem necessary to effectuate the purpose of this act.<sup>1</sup>

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13 <sup>1</sup>[2.] 4.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.

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Extends early voting period for primary elections and extends  
challenger appointment deadline; appropriates \$6 million.

## CHAPTER 23

AN ACT extending the early voting period for primary elections and extending the challenger appointment deadline, amending P.L.2021, c.40 and R.S.19:7-3, and making an appropriation.

**BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. R.S.19:7-3 is amended to read as follows:

Filing of appointment, application for challengers.

19:7-3. The appointment of or application for challengers shall be filed with the county board not later than the third Tuesday preceding any election. No person shall be appointed a challenger under this Title who is not a registered voter in the county in which the district is located in which such person is appointed to serve, and no appointed challenger shall serve in any district other than that to which appointed except for challengers appointed by the chairman of a county committee, pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection b. of R.S.19:7-1.

2. Section 1 of P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1) is amended to read as follows:

C.19:15A-1 Early voting.

1. a. In addition to all other forms of voting provided for by this Title, a registered voter shall be permitted to vote at a specially designated polling place before the day of certain primary and general elections in this State. This procedure shall be known as early voting. The early voting period shall:

(1) start on the seventh calendar day before a non-presidential primary election for a non-presidential general election and end on the second calendar day before that non-presidential primary election;

(2) start on the seventh calendar day before a presidential primary election for a presidential general election and end on the second calendar day before that presidential primary election; or

(3) start on the 10th calendar day before a general election and end on the second calendar day before that general election.

The voting process during the early voting period shall be conducted using electronic poll books and optical-scan voting machines that read hand-marked paper ballots or other voting machines that produce a voter-verifiable paper ballot. Any municipality conducting regular municipal elections in May pursuant to the provisions of the "Uniform Nonpartisan Elections Law," P.L.1981, c.379 (C.40:45-5 et seq.), may, by an ordinance adopted by its governing body, also conduct early voting for the regular municipal election, in accordance with the provisions of this act, P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1 et al.). If adopted by a municipal governing body, the early voting period for a regular municipal election in May shall start on the 4th calendar day before the regular municipal election and end on the second calendar day before that regular municipal election. An early voting period shall only be permitted for a non-presidential or presidential primary election and a general election in this State and, if adopted by a municipal governing body, a regular municipal election conducted in May. Pursuant to the provisions of this act and Title 19 of the Revised Statutes and in accordance with procedures that may be established by the Secretary of State for verifying eligible voters, each county board of elections shall verify that a registered voter is qualified to vote in the election and shall prescribe the manner by which a registered voter may vote during such period.

b. (1) For the primary and the general election, each county board of elections shall designate at least three, but not more than five, public locations within each county as the sites for early voting to occur, except that the county board shall designate at least five, but not

more than seven, public locations for early voting if the number of registered voters in the county is at least 150,000 but less than 300,000, and shall designate at least seven, but not more than 10, public locations for early voting if the number of registered voters in the county is 300,000 or more. This provision shall not be interpreted to prevent county boards of elections, at their discretion, from establishing additional locations in excess of the five, seven, or 10 location limits respectively set forth herein; provided, however, that the State shall be required to provide reimbursement for the costs of locations up to and including the five, seven, or 10 respective limits established herein, and shall not be required to provide reimbursement for additional locations beyond those limits under section 6 of this act, P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-6). The number of registered voters in each county shall be determined ahead of the selection of early voting sites pursuant to a uniform standard which shall be developed by the Secretary of State through the rulemaking process pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.). Whenever possible, early voting locations shall be geographically located so as to ensure both access in the part of the county that features the greatest concentration of population, according to the most recent federal decennial census of the United States, and access in various geographic areas of the county. All early voting locations shall be public facilities, such as county courthouses, public libraries and the offices of the municipal clerk, county clerk, and county board of elections, or places of public accommodation as provided under Title 10 of the Revised Statutes. No public school building and no building used as a public school, as that term is defined under N.J.S.18A:1-1, shall, however, be designated as an early voting location. The locations shall be designated at the same time as all other polling places are designated by the board of elections. In the event of a tie vote among members of the county board with respect to the selection of sites for early voting, the county clerk shall cast the deciding vote. Once early voting locations are designated in each county, county boards of election shall evaluate and, if deemed necessary, revise these locations in order to accommodate significant changes in the number of registered voters within each county, reflect the population distribution and density within each county, or because of similar circumstances. The Secretary of State may develop the criteria to be used by county boards of election to revise the location of early voting sites and shall prescribe how often such revision shall take place.

A voter shall be permitted to vote at any early voting site in the voter's county.

(2) Whenever a municipality that conducts regular municipal elections in May chooses to participate in early voting for the regular municipal election, the county board of elections shall designate at least one public location, but not more than three public locations, within the municipality as the site or sites for early voting to occur. This provision shall not be interpreted to prevent a county board of elections, at its discretion, from establishing additional locations in excess of the three location limit set forth herein; provided, however, that the State shall be required to provide reimbursement for the costs of locations up to and including the three location limit established herein, and shall not be required to provide reimbursement for additional locations beyond that limit under section 6 of this act, P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-6). Whenever possible, each such location shall be geographically located in the part of the municipality that features the greatest concentration of population, according to the most recent federal decennial census of the United States. All early voting locations shall be public facilities, such as municipal courthouses and the offices of the municipal clerk, or places of public accommodation as provided under Title 10 of the Revised Statutes. No public school building and no building used as a public school, as that term is defined under N.J.S.18A:1-1, shall be designated as an early voting location. The locations shall be designated at the same time as all other polling places are designated by the board of elections. In the event of a tie

vote among members of the county board with respect to the selection of sites for early voting, the municipal clerk shall cast the deciding vote. Once early voting locations are designated in each municipality, county boards of election shall evaluate and, if deemed necessary, revise these locations in order to accommodate significant changes in the number of registered voters within each municipality, reflect the population distribution and density within each municipality, or because of similar circumstances. The Secretary of State may develop the criteria to be used by county boards of election to revise the location of early voting sites and shall prescribe how often such revision shall take place.

A voter shall be permitted to vote at any early voting site in the voter's municipality.

c. Each early voting site in a county or municipality shall be open for early voting on Monday through Saturday from at least 10 AM to 8 PM, and on Sunday from at least 10 AM to 6 PM. Any voter who is on line at the time scheduled for the closing of an early voting site shall be permitted to vote.

d. The election officers responsible for conducting early voting shall be the same as those responsible for conducting a primary and a general election, as appropriate, pursuant to this Title. The number of such officers and their hours of service shall be as determined by each county board of elections. The compensation for such officers shall be the same as provided to district board of election members serving at a school election pursuant to R.S.19:45-6, or that required pursuant to Article I, paragraph 23 of the New Jersey Constitution, whichever is greater.

e. The restrictions governing the conduct of voters at a polling place on the days that early voting occurs, the procedures governing who is permitted in a polling place on such occasions and the prohibition on electioneering within 100 feet of a polling place during an election, shall be as provided in chapters 15, 34, 50 and 52 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes and every other applicable section of this Title.

f. In real time using the electronic poll books each day during the early voting period, and prior to the start of each regularly scheduled primary and general election, and regular municipal election in each non-partisan municipality choosing to participate in early voting, each county board shall make such changes as may be necessary to the voter's record in the Statewide voter registration system to indicate that a voter has voted in that election using the early voting procedure.

g. (1) Each county board shall be responsible for forming and executing a written plan to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the integrity of the voting process and the security of ballots used during the early voting period, including the security of voting machines, voted ballots, and election records. The plan shall be based on guidelines established by the Secretary of State and shall be submitted thereto no later than December 15 of each year. The Secretary of State shall review and, if deemed necessary thereby, require changes to a plan no later than February 1 of each year. Each plan shall specify a chain of custody and security plan for the voting machines, and a chain of custody for the voted ballots and election records and materials, and shall require, among other specifications deemed necessary by the Secretary of State and county boards of election, that all voted ballots shall be transferred at the end of each early voting day to county boards of election for safekeeping. After the voted ballots are transferred to the county board of elections at the end of each early voting day, a county board may elect to impound those voted ballots on a secure server, or by any other means deemed appropriate by the Secretary of State. The voted ballots shall not be canvassed until the closing of the polls on election day as required pursuant to section 4 of this act, P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-4). The results of the voted ballots cast during early voting shall remain confidential and shall be disclosed only in accordance with the provisions of Title 19 of the

Revised Statutes, regulations, and guidelines concerning the disclosure of election results, and a violation shall be subject to the penalties established by law.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, in the year in which P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1 et al.) becomes law, each county board shall submit its plan to the Secretary of State within 30 days following the effective date of this act and the Secretary of State shall review it and, if deemed necessary thereby, require changes in the plan within 45 days following the effective date of this act.

h. Each county board shall make certain that each polling place used for early voting shall be accessible to individuals with disabilities and the elderly, in compliance with the "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990" (42 U.S.C. s.12101 et seq.), and that each polling place provides such voters, including the blind and visually impaired, the same opportunity for access and participation, including privacy and independence, as other voters in compliance with the "Help America Vote Act of 2002" (42 U.S.C. s.15481).

i. The Secretary of State shall establish a printing on demand ballot and elections system. At a minimum, the system shall be compatible with the Statewide voter registration system established pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2005, c.145 (C.19:31-31) and any electronic poll books provided by section 1 of P.L.2019, c.80 (C.19:31-35). Each polling place used for early voting shall have a computer, tablet, or other electronic device to print provisional ballots for voters required to vote by provisional ballot in accordance with the provisions of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes or due to an equipment malfunction as further provided under section 3 of P.L.2019, c.80 (C.19:31-37), or any other election related material, if needed. A computer, tablet, or other electronic device and the printer used to print election materials at a polling place shall not be used unless it has been certified by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall adopt and publish standards and regulations governing the certification and use of computer, tablets, or other electronic devices and printers to print election materials at each polling place used for early voting. The Secretary of State shall not certify a computer, tablet, or other electronic device or printer unless it is in compliance with the secretary's standards.

j. Each polling place used for early voting shall also have such appropriate supplies, ballots and other materials deemed necessary by the Secretary of State or as is required currently for a polling place on the day of any election by Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.

3. a. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of State the sum of \$6,000,000 for the purposes of this act.

b. There is appropriated from the General Fund as State aid to each county governing body and to each municipal governing body that conducts early voting such sums as the State Treasurer and the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury deem necessary to effectuate the purpose of this act.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved March 4, 2025.

**SENATE, No. 3990**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 19, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator BRIAN P. STACK**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Extends early voting period for primary elections.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



S3990 STACK

2

1 AN ACT extending the early voting period for primary elections and  
2 amending P.L.2021, c.40.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1) is amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 1. a. In addition to all other forms of voting provided for by this  
10 Title, a registered voter shall be permitted to vote at a specially  
11 designated polling place before the day of certain primary and  
12 general elections in this State. This procedure shall be known as  
13 early voting. The early voting period shall:

14 (1) start on the **[4th]** 11th calendar day before a non-  
15 presidential primary election for a non-presidential general election  
16 and end on the second calendar day before that non-presidential  
17 primary election;

18 (2) start on the **[6th]** 11th calendar day before a presidential  
19 primary election for a presidential general election and end on the  
20 second calendar day before that presidential primary election; or

21 (3) start on the 10th calendar day before a general election and  
22 end on the second calendar day before that general election.

23 The voting process during the early voting period shall be  
24 conducted using electronic poll books and optical-scan voting  
25 machines that read hand-marked paper ballots or other voting  
26 machines that produce a voter-verifiable paper ballot. Any  
27 municipality conducting regular municipal elections in May  
28 pursuant to the provisions of the "Uniform Nonpartisan Elections  
29 Law," P.L.1981, c.379 (C.40:45-5 et seq.), may, by an ordinance  
30 adopted by its governing body, also conduct early voting for the  
31 regular municipal election, in accordance with the provisions of this  
32 act, P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1 et al.). If adopted by a municipal  
33 governing body, the early voting period for a regular municipal  
34 election in May shall start on the 4th calendar day before the regular  
35 municipal election and end on the second calendar day before that  
36 regular municipal election. An early voting period shall only be  
37 permitted for a non-presidential or presidential primary election and  
38 a general election in this State and, if adopted by a municipal  
39 governing body, a regular municipal election conducted in May.  
40 Pursuant to the provisions of this act and Title 19 of the Revised  
41 Statutes and in accordance with procedures that may be established  
42 by the Secretary of State for verifying eligible voters, each county  
43 board of elections shall verify that a registered voter is qualified to  
44 vote in the election and shall prescribe the manner by which a  
45 registered voter may vote during such period.

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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1       b. (1) For the primary and the general election, each county  
2 board of elections shall designate at least three, but not more than  
3 five, public locations within each county as the sites for early  
4 voting to occur, except that the county board shall designate at least  
5 five, but not more than seven, public locations for early voting if  
6 the number of registered voters in the county is at least 150,000 but  
7 less than 300,000, and shall designate at least seven, but not more  
8 than 10, public locations for early voting if the number of registered  
9 voters in the county is 300,000 or more. This provision shall not be  
10 interpreted to prevent county boards of elections, at their discretion,  
11 from establishing additional locations in excess of the five, seven,  
12 or 10 location limits respectively set forth herein; provided,  
13 however, that the State shall be required to provide reimbursement  
14 for the costs of locations up to and including the five, seven, or 10  
15 respective limits established herein, and shall not be required to  
16 provide reimbursement for additional locations beyond those limits  
17 under section 6 of this act, P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-6). The  
18 number of registered voters in each county shall be determined  
19 ahead of the selection of early voting sites pursuant to a uniform  
20 standard which shall be developed by the Secretary of State through  
21 the rulemaking process pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure  
22 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.). Whenever possible,  
23 early voting locations shall be geographically located so as to  
24 ensure both access in the part of the county that features the greatest  
25 concentration of population, according to the most recent federal  
26 decennial census of the United States, and access in various  
27 geographic areas of the county. All early voting locations shall be  
28 public facilities, such as county courthouses, public libraries and the  
29 offices of the municipal clerk, county clerk, and county board of  
30 elections, or places of public accommodation as provided under  
31 Title 10 of the Revised Statutes. No public school building and no  
32 building used as a public school, as that term is defined under  
33 N.J.S.18A:1-1, shall, however, be designated as an early voting  
34 location. The locations shall be designated at the same time as all  
35 other polling places are designated by the board of elections. In the  
36 event of a tie vote among members of the county board with respect  
37 to the selection of sites for early voting, the county clerk shall cast  
38 the deciding vote. Once early voting locations are designated in  
39 each county, county boards of election shall evaluate and, if deemed  
40 necessary, revise these locations in order to accommodate  
41 significant changes in the number of registered voters within each  
42 county, reflect the population distribution and density within each  
43 county, or because of similar circumstances. The Secretary of State  
44 may develop the criteria to be used by county boards of election to  
45 revise the location of early voting sites and shall prescribe how  
46 often such revision shall take place.

47       A voter shall be permitted to vote at any early voting site in the  
48 voter's county.

1 (2) Whenever a municipality that conducts regular municipal  
2 elections in May chooses to participate in early voting for the  
3 regular municipal election, the county board of elections shall  
4 designate at least one public location, but not more than three public  
5 locations, within the municipality as the site or sites for early voting  
6 to occur. This provision shall not be interpreted to prevent a county  
7 board of elections, at its discretion, from establishing additional  
8 locations in excess of the three location limit set forth herein;  
9 provided, however, that the State shall be required to provide  
10 reimbursement for the costs of locations up to and including the  
11 three location limit established herein, and shall not be required to  
12 provide reimbursement for additional locations beyond that limit  
13 under section 6 of this act, P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-6). Whenever  
14 possible, each such location shall be geographically located in the  
15 part of the municipality that features the greatest concentration of  
16 population, according to the most recent federal decennial census of  
17 the United States. All early voting locations shall be public  
18 facilities, such as municipal courthouses and the offices of the  
19 municipal clerk, or places of public accommodation as provided  
20 under Title 10 of the Revised Statutes. No public school building  
21 and no building used as a public school, as that term is defined  
22 under N.J.S.18A:1-1, shall be designated as an early voting  
23 location. The locations shall be designated at the same time as all  
24 other polling places are designated by the board of elections. In the  
25 event of a tie vote among members of the county board with respect  
26 to the selection of sites for early voting, the municipal clerk shall  
27 cast the deciding vote. Once early voting locations are designated  
28 in each municipality, county boards of election shall evaluate and, if  
29 deemed necessary, revise these locations in order to accommodate  
30 significant changes in the number of registered voters within each  
31 municipality, reflect the population distribution and density within  
32 each municipality, or because of similar circumstances. The  
33 Secretary of State may develop the criteria to be used by county  
34 boards of election to revise the location of early voting sites and  
35 shall prescribe how often such revision shall take place.

36 A voter shall be permitted to vote at any early voting site in the  
37 voter's municipality.

38 c. Each early voting site in a county or municipality shall be  
39 open for early voting on Monday through Saturday from at least 10  
40 AM to 8 PM, and on Sunday from at least 10 AM to 6 PM. Any  
41 voter who is on line at the time scheduled for the closing of an early  
42 voting site shall be permitted to vote.

43 d. The election officers responsible for conducting early voting  
44 shall be the same as those responsible for conducting a primary and  
45 a general election, as appropriate, pursuant to this Title. The  
46 number of such officers and their hours of service shall be as  
47 determined by each county board of elections. The compensation  
48 for such officers shall be the same as provided to district board of

1 election members serving at a school election pursuant to  
2 R.S.19:45-6, or that required pursuant to Article I, paragraph 23 of  
3 the New Jersey Constitution, whichever is greater.

4 e. The restrictions governing the conduct of voters at a polling  
5 place on the days that early voting occurs, the procedures governing  
6 who is permitted in a polling place on such occasions and the  
7 prohibition on electioneering within 100 feet of a polling place  
8 during an election, shall be as provided in chapters 15, 34, 50 and  
9 52 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes and every other applicable  
10 section of this Title.

11 f. In real time using the electronic poll books each day during  
12 the early voting period, and prior to the start of each regularly  
13 scheduled primary and general election, and regular municipal  
14 election in each non-partisan municipality choosing to participate in  
15 early voting, each county board shall make such changes as may be  
16 necessary to the voter's record in the Statewide voter registration  
17 system to indicate that a voter has voted in that election using the  
18 early voting procedure.

19 g. (1) Each county board shall be responsible for forming and  
20 executing a written plan to ensure, to the greatest extent possible,  
21 the integrity of the voting process and the security of ballots used  
22 during the early voting period, including the security of voting  
23 machines, voted ballots, and election records. The plan shall be  
24 based on guidelines established by the Secretary of State and shall  
25 be submitted thereto no later than December 15 of each year. The  
26 Secretary of State shall review and, if deemed necessary thereby,  
27 require changes to a plan no later than February 1 of each year.  
28 Each plan shall specify a chain of custody and security plan for the  
29 voting machines, and a chain of custody for the voted ballots and  
30 election records and materials, and shall require, among other  
31 specifications deemed necessary by the Secretary of State and  
32 county boards of election, that all voted ballots shall be transferred  
33 at the end of each early voting day to county boards of election for  
34 safekeeping. After the voted ballots are transferred to the county  
35 board of elections at the end of each early voting day, a county  
36 board may elect to impound those voted ballots on a secure server,  
37 or by any other means deemed appropriate by the Secretary of State.  
38 The voted ballots shall not be canvassed until the closing of the  
39 polls on election day as required pursuant to section 4 of this act,  
40 P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-4). The results of the voted ballots cast  
41 during early voting shall remain confidential and shall be disclosed  
42 only in accordance with the provisions of Title 19 of the Revised  
43 Statutes, regulations, and guidelines concerning the disclosure of  
44 election results, and a violation shall be subject to the penalties  
45 established by law.

46 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, in the  
47 year in which P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1 et al.) becomes law, each  
48 county board shall submit its plan to the Secretary of State within

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6

1 30 days following the effective date of this act and the Secretary of  
2 State shall review it and, if deemed necessary thereby, require  
3 changes in the plan within 45 days following the effective date of  
4 this act.

5 h. Each county board shall make certain that each polling place  
6 used for early voting shall be accessible to individuals with  
7 disabilities and the elderly, in compliance with the "Americans with  
8 Disabilities Act of 1990" (42 U.S.C. s.12101 et seq.), and that each  
9 polling place provides such voters, including the blind and visually  
10 impaired, the same opportunity for access and participation,  
11 including privacy and independence, as other voters in compliance  
12 with the "Help America Vote Act of 2002" (42 U.S.C. s.15481).

13 i. The Secretary of State shall establish a printing on demand  
14 ballot and elections system. At a minimum, the system shall be  
15 compatible with the Statewide voter registration system established  
16 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2005, c.145 (C.19:31-31) and any  
17 electronic poll books provided by section 1 of P.L.2019, c.80  
18 (C.19:31-35). Each polling place used for early voting shall have a  
19 computer, tablet, or other electronic device to print provisional  
20 ballots for voters required to vote by provisional ballot in  
21 accordance with the provisions of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes  
22 or due to an equipment malfunction as further provided under  
23 section 3 of P.L.2019, c.80 (C.19:31-37), or any other election  
24 related material, if needed. A computer, tablet, or other electronic  
25 device and the printer used to print election materials at a polling  
26 place shall not be used unless it has been certified by the Secretary  
27 of State. The Secretary of State shall adopt and publish standards  
28 and regulations governing the certification and use of computer,  
29 tablets, or other electronic devices and printers to print election  
30 materials at each polling place used for early voting. The Secretary  
31 of State shall not certify a computer, tablet, or other electronic  
32 device or printer unless it is in compliance with the secretary's  
33 standards.

34 j. Each polling place used for early voting shall also have such  
35 appropriate supplies, ballots and other materials deemed necessary  
36 by the Secretary of State or as is required currently for a polling  
37 place on the day of any election by Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.  
38 (cf: P.L.2021, c.40, s.1)

39

40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

41

42

43

STATEMENT

44

45 This bill extends the early voting period for primary elections in  
46 New Jersey.

47 This bill extends the early voting period for all primary elections  
48 in New Jersey to start 11 calendar days before the election. This

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1 includes non-presidential primary elections and presidential primary  
2 elections.

3       Currently, the early voting period for a non-presidential primary  
4 election and a presidential primary election starts, respectively, on  
5 the 4th and 6th calendar day before the election. This bill starts the  
6 early voting period on the 11th calendar day before the non-  
7 presidential primary and the presidential primary election. Under  
8 current law, the early voting period for any election ends on the  
9 second calendar day before the election. Therefore, under the bill,  
10 the early voting period would consist of ten days for primary  
11 elections.

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 3990**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED DECEMBER 19, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator BRIAN P. STACK**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Senator PAUL D. MORIARTY**

**District 4 (Atlantic, Camden and Gloucester)**

**Assemblyman GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

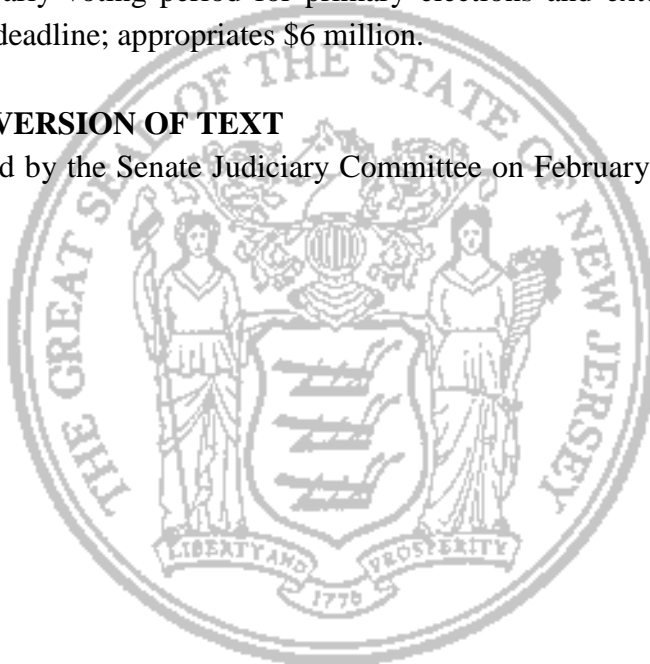
**Senator Wimberly and Assemblywoman Haider**

**SYNOPSIS**

Extends early voting period for primary elections and extends challenger appointment deadline; appropriates \$6 million.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 20, 2025, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/27/2025)**

1 AN ACT extending the early voting period for primary elections and  
 2 <sup>1</sup>extending the challenger appointment deadline,<sup>1</sup> amending  
 3 P.L.2021, c.40 <sup>1</sup>and R.S.19:7-3, and making an appropriation<sup>1</sup>.

4  
 5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
 6 of New Jersey:

7  
 8 <sup>1</sup>1. R.S.19:7-3 is amended to read as follows:

9 19:7-3. The appointment of or application for challengers shall be  
 10 filed with the county board not later than the **[second]** third Tuesday  
 11 preceding any election. No person shall be appointed a challenger  
 12 under this Title who is not a registered voter in the county in which  
 13 the district is located in which such person is appointed to serve, and  
 14 no appointed challenger shall serve in any district other than that to  
 15 which appointed except for challengers appointed by the chairman of a  
 16 county committee, pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection b. of  
 17 R.S.19:7-1.<sup>1</sup>

18 (cf: P.L.1999, c.232, s.28)

19

20 <sup>1</sup>**[1.] 2.**<sup>1</sup> Section 1 of P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1) is amended to  
 21 read as follows:

22 1. a. In addition to all other forms of voting provided for by this  
 23 Title, a registered voter shall be permitted to vote at a specially  
 24 designated polling place before the day of certain primary and general  
 25 elections in this State. This procedure shall be known as early voting.  
 26 The early voting period shall:

27 (1) start on the **[4th]** <sup>1</sup>**[11th]** 7th<sup>1</sup> calendar day before a non-  
 28 presidential primary election for a non-presidential general election  
 29 and end on the second calendar day before that non-presidential  
 30 primary election;

31 (2) start on the **[6th]** <sup>1</sup>**[11th]** 7th<sup>1</sup> calendar day before a  
 32 presidential primary election for a presidential general election and  
 33 end on the second calendar day before that presidential primary  
 34 election; or

35 (3) start on the 10th calendar day before a general election and end  
 36 on the second calendar day before that general election.

37 The voting process during the early voting period shall be  
 38 conducted using electronic poll books and optical-scan voting  
 39 machines that read hand-marked paper ballots or other voting  
 40 machines that produce a voter-verifiable paper ballot. Any  
 41 municipality conducting regular municipal elections in May pursuant  
 42 to the provisions of the "Uniform Nonpartisan Elections Law,"  
 43 P.L.1981, c.379 (C.40:45-5 et seq.), may, by an ordinance adopted by  
 44 its governing body, also conduct early voting for the regular municipal

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is  
 not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SJU committee amendments adopted February 20, 2025.

1 election, in accordance with the provisions of this act, P.L.2021, c.40  
2 (C.19:15A-1 et al.). If adopted by a municipal governing body, the  
3 early voting period for a regular municipal election in May shall start  
4 on the 4th calendar day before the regular municipal election and end  
5 on the second calendar day before that regular municipal election. An  
6 early voting period shall only be permitted for a non-presidential or  
7 presidential primary election and a general election in this State and, if  
8 adopted by a municipal governing body, a regular municipal election  
9 conducted in May. Pursuant to the provisions of this act and Title 19  
10 of the Revised Statutes and in accordance with procedures that may be  
11 established by the Secretary of State for verifying eligible voters, each  
12 county board of elections shall verify that a registered voter is  
13 qualified to vote in the election and shall prescribe the manner by  
14 which a registered voter may vote during such period.

15 b. (1) For the primary and the general election, each county board  
16 of elections shall designate at least three, but not more than five, public  
17 locations within each county as the sites for early voting to occur,  
18 except that the county board shall designate at least five, but not more  
19 than seven, public locations for early voting if the number of registered  
20 voters in the county is at least 150,000 but less than 300,000, and shall  
21 designate at least seven, but not more than 10, public locations for  
22 early voting if the number of registered voters in the county is 300,000  
23 or more. This provision shall not be interpreted to prevent county  
24 boards of elections, at their discretion, from establishing additional  
25 locations in excess of the five, seven, or 10 location limits respectively  
26 set forth herein; provided, however, that the State shall be required to  
27 provide reimbursement for the costs of locations up to and including  
28 the five, seven, or 10 respective limits established herein, and shall not  
29 be required to provide reimbursement for additional locations beyond  
30 those limits under section 6 of this act, P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-6).  
31 The number of registered voters in each county shall be determined  
32 ahead of the selection of early voting sites pursuant to a uniform  
33 standard which shall be developed by the Secretary of State through  
34 the rulemaking process pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure  
35 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.). Whenever possible, early  
36 voting locations shall be geographically located so as to ensure both  
37 access in the part of the county that features the greatest concentration  
38 of population, according to the most recent federal decennial census of  
39 the United States, and access in various geographic areas of the  
40 county. All early voting locations shall be public facilities, such as  
41 county courthouses, public libraries and the offices of the municipal  
42 clerk, county clerk, and county board of elections, or places of public  
43 accommodation as provided under Title 10 of the Revised Statutes.  
44 No public school building and no building used as a public school, as  
45 that term is defined under N.J.S.18A:1-1, shall, however, be  
46 designated as an early voting location. The locations shall be  
47 designated at the same time as all other polling places are designated  
48 by the board of elections. In the event of a tie vote among members of

1 the county board with respect to the selection of sites for early voting,  
2 the county clerk shall cast the deciding vote. Once early voting  
3 locations are designated in each county, county boards of election shall  
4 evaluate and, if deemed necessary, revise these locations in order to  
5 accommodate significant changes in the number of registered voters  
6 within each county, reflect the population distribution and density  
7 within each county, or because of similar circumstances. The  
8 Secretary of State may develop the criteria to be used by county boards  
9 of election to revise the location of early voting sites and shall  
10 prescribe how often such revision shall take place.

11 A voter shall be permitted to vote at any early voting site in the  
12 voter's county.

13 (2) Whenever a municipality that conducts regular municipal  
14 elections in May chooses to participate in early voting for the regular  
15 municipal election, the county board of elections shall designate at  
16 least one public location, but not more than three public locations,  
17 within the municipality as the site or sites for early voting to occur.  
18 This provision shall not be interpreted to prevent a county board of  
19 elections, at its discretion, from establishing additional locations in  
20 excess of the three location limit set forth herein; provided, however,  
21 that the State shall be required to provide reimbursement for the costs  
22 of locations up to and including the three location limit established  
23 herein, and shall not be required to provide reimbursement for  
24 additional locations beyond that limit under section 6 of this act,  
25 P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-6). Whenever possible, each such location  
26 shall be geographically located in the part of the municipality that  
27 features the greatest concentration of population, according to the most  
28 recent federal decennial census of the United States. All early voting  
29 locations shall be public facilities, such as municipal courthouses and  
30 the offices of the municipal clerk, or places of public accommodation  
31 as provided under Title 10 of the Revised Statutes. No public school  
32 building and no building used as a public school, as that term is  
33 defined under N.J.S.18A:1-1, shall be designated as an early voting  
34 location. The locations shall be designated at the same time as all  
35 other polling places are designated by the board of elections. In the  
36 event of a tie vote among members of the county board with respect to  
37 the selection of sites for early voting, the municipal clerk shall cast the  
38 deciding vote. Once early voting locations are designated in each  
39 municipality, county boards of election shall evaluate and, if deemed  
40 necessary, revise these locations in order to accommodate significant  
41 changes in the number of registered voters within each municipality,  
42 reflect the population distribution and density within each  
43 municipality, or because of similar circumstances. The Secretary of  
44 State may develop the criteria to be used by county boards of election  
45 to revise the location of early voting sites and shall prescribe how  
46 often such revision shall take place.

47 A voter shall be permitted to vote at any early voting site in the  
48 voter's municipality.

1 c. Each early voting site in a county or municipality shall be open  
2 for early voting on Monday through Saturday from at least 10 AM to 8  
3 PM, and on Sunday from at least 10 AM to 6 PM. Any voter who is  
4 on line at the time scheduled for the closing of an early voting site  
5 shall be permitted to vote.

6 d. The election officers responsible for conducting early voting  
7 shall be the same as those responsible for conducting a primary and a  
8 general election, as appropriate, pursuant to this Title. The number of  
9 such officers and their hours of service shall be as determined by each  
10 county board of elections. The compensation for such officers shall be  
11 the same as provided to district board of election members serving at a  
12 school election pursuant to R.S.19:45-6, or that required pursuant to  
13 Article I, paragraph 23 of the New Jersey Constitution, whichever is  
14 greater.

15 e. The restrictions governing the conduct of voters at a polling  
16 place on the days that early voting occurs, the procedures governing  
17 who is permitted in a polling place on such occasions and the  
18 prohibition on electioneering within 100 feet of a polling place during  
19 an election, shall be as provided in chapters 15, 34, 50 and 52 of Title  
20 19 of the Revised Statutes and every other applicable section of this  
21 Title.

22 f. In real time using the electronic poll books each day during the  
23 early voting period, and prior to the start of each regularly scheduled  
24 primary and general election, and regular municipal election in each  
25 non-partisan municipality choosing to participate in early voting, each  
26 county board shall make such changes as may be necessary to the  
27 voter's record in the Statewide voter registration system to indicate that  
28 a voter has voted in that election using the early voting procedure.

29 g. (1) Each county board shall be responsible for forming and  
30 executing a written plan to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the  
31 integrity of the voting process and the security of ballots used during  
32 the early voting period, including the security of voting machines,  
33 voted ballots, and election records. The plan shall be based on  
34 guidelines established by the Secretary of State and shall be submitted  
35 thereto no later than December 15 of each year. The Secretary of State  
36 shall review and, if deemed necessary thereby, require changes to a  
37 plan no later than February 1 of each year. Each plan shall specify a  
38 chain of custody and security plan for the voting machines, and a chain  
39 of custody for the voted ballots and election records and materials, and  
40 shall require, among other specifications deemed necessary by the  
41 Secretary of State and county boards of election, that all voted ballots  
42 shall be transferred at the end of each early voting day to county  
43 boards of election for safekeeping. After the voted ballots are  
44 transferred to the county board of elections at the end of each early  
45 voting day, a county board may elect to impound those voted ballots  
46 on a secure server, or by any other means deemed appropriate by the  
47 Secretary of State. The voted ballots shall not be canvassed until the  
48 closing of the polls on election day as required pursuant to section 4 of

1 this act, P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-4). The results of the voted ballots  
2 cast during early voting shall remain confidential and shall be  
3 disclosed only in accordance with the provisions of Title 19 of the  
4 Revised Statutes, regulations, and guidelines concerning the disclosure  
5 of election results, and a violation shall be subject to the penalties  
6 established by law.

7 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, in the year  
8 in which P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1 et al.) becomes law, each county  
9 board shall submit its plan to the Secretary of State within 30 days  
10 following the effective date of this act and the Secretary of State shall  
11 review it and, if deemed necessary thereby, require changes in the plan  
12 within 45 days following the effective date of this act.

13 h. Each county board shall make certain that each polling place  
14 used for early voting shall be accessible to individuals with disabilities  
15 and the elderly, in compliance with the "Americans with Disabilities  
16 Act of 1990" (42 U.S.C. s.12101 et seq.), and that each polling place  
17 provides such voters, including the blind and visually impaired, the  
18 same opportunity for access and participation, including privacy and  
19 independence, as other voters in compliance with the "Help America  
20 Vote Act of 2002" (42 U.S.C. s.15481).

21 i. The Secretary of State shall establish a printing on demand  
22 ballot and elections system. At a minimum, the system shall be  
23 compatible with the Statewide voter registration system established  
24 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2005, c.145 (C.19:31-31) and any  
25 electronic poll books provided by section 1 of P.L.2019, c.80  
26 (C.19:31-35). Each polling place used for early voting shall have a  
27 computer, tablet, or other electronic device to print provisional ballots  
28 for voters required to vote by provisional ballot in accordance with the  
29 provisions of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes or due to an equipment  
30 malfunction as further provided under section 3 of P.L.2019, c.80  
31 (C.19:31-37), or any other election related material, if needed. A  
32 computer, tablet, or other electronic device and the printer used to  
33 print election materials at a polling place shall not be used unless it has  
34 been certified by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall  
35 adopt and publish standards and regulations governing the certification  
36 and use of computer, tablets, or other electronic devices and printers to  
37 print election materials at each polling place used for early voting.  
38 The Secretary of State shall not certify a computer, tablet, or other  
39 electronic device or printer unless it is in compliance with the  
40 secretary's standards.

41 j. Each polling place used for early voting shall also have such  
42 appropriate supplies, ballots and other materials deemed necessary by  
43 the Secretary of State or as is required currently for a polling place on  
44 the day of any election by Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.

45 (cf: P.L.2021, c.40, s.1)

46

47 13. a. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
48 Department of State the sum of \$6,000,000 for the purposes of this act.

S3990 [1R] STACK, MORIARTY

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1        b. There is appropriated from the General Fund as State aid to  
2 each county governing body and to each municipal governing body  
3 that conducts early voting such sums as the State Treasurer and the  
4 Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department  
5 of the Treasury deem necessary to effectuate the purpose of this act.<sup>1</sup>

6

7        <sup>1</sup>**[2.]** 4.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.

# SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 3990**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 20, 2025

The Senate Judiciary Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3990.

As amended by the committee, this bill extends the early voting period for primary elections in New Jersey and extends the deadline to appoint a challenger for an election.

The bill extends the early voting period for all primary elections in New Jersey to start seven calendar days before the election. This includes non-presidential primary elections and presidential primary elections. Currently, the early voting period for a non-presidential primary election and a presidential primary election starts, respectively, on the 4th and 6th calendar day before the election.

Under current law, the early voting period for any election ends on the second calendar day before the election. Therefore, under the bill, the early voting period would consist of six days for primary elections.

This bill also extends the deadline to appoint a challenger for an election from the second Tuesday preceding any election to the third Tuesday preceding any election.

Finally, the bill appropriates from the General Fund to the Department of State the sum of \$6,000,000 to carry out the purposes of the bill.

The committee amendments to the bill:

- reduce the early voting period for primary elections from 11 calendar days before an election to seven days;
- extend the deadline to appoint a challenger for an election from the second Tuesday preceding any election to the third Tuesday;
- add an appropriation of \$6,000,000 to carry out the purposes of the bill; and
- revise the bill's title and synopsis to reflect the changes made by the amendments.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

## SENATE, No. 3990 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: FEBRUARY 28, 2025

### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Extends early voting period for primary elections and extends challenger appointment deadline; appropriates \$6 million.
- Type of Impact:** Annual expenditure increase to the State General Fund; annual local expenditure and revenue increases.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of State, County Boards of Elections, County Clerks' Offices.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Year 1</u></b>	<b><u>Thereafter</u></b>
<b>State Expenditure Increase</b>	Up to \$6 million	Indeterminate
<b>Local Expenditure Increase</b>	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
<b>Local Revenue Increase</b>	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that extending the early voting period by three days for each primary in a non-presidential election year and extending the early voting period by one day for each primary in a presidential election year will increase costs to counties. The counties will also experience revenue increases in the form of reimbursements from the State for their costs under the bill.
- The bill appropriates \$6 million to the Department of State to carry out the purposes of the bill. If the full amount is not expended in the year of appropriation, the residual amount will be spent in subsequent fiscal years until the full \$6 million is exhausted.
- The actual cost increase to the counties per election depends on the number of hours the poll workers work each day of early voting and the number of poll workers at each early voting location, the additional pay for supervisors at each location, overtime costs for other personnel, mileage, and rental fees for polling locations.

- The actual costs increase may also depend on the type of election (i.e. non-presidential primary or presidential primary).

## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill extends the early voting period for primary elections in New Jersey to start seven calendar days before the election. This includes non-presidential primary elections and presidential primary elections. Currently, the early voting period for a non-presidential primary election and a presidential primary election starts, respectively, on the fourth (three days of early voting) and sixth (five days of early voting) calendar day before the election, and ends on the second calendar day before the election. Therefore, under the bill, the early voting period would increase to six days for primary elections.

The bill appropriates from the General Fund to the Department of State the sum of \$6,000,000 to carry out the purposes of the bill.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS estimates that extending the early voting period by three days for each primary in a non-presidential election year and extending the early voting period by one day for each primary in a presidential election year will increase costs to counties. The counties will also experience revenue increases in the form of reimbursements from the State for their costs under the bill.

The bill appropriates \$6 million to the Department of State to carry out the purposes of the bill. If the full amount is not expended in the year of appropriation, the residual amount will be spent in subsequent fiscal years until the full \$6 million is exhausted.

The actual cost increase to the counties per election depends on the number of hours the poll workers work each day of early voting and the number of poll workers at each early voting location, the additional pay for supervisors at each location, overtime costs for other personnel, mileage, and rental fees for polling locations.

The actual costs increase may also depend on the type of election (i.e. non-presidential primary or presidential primary).

*Section:* State Government

*Analyst:* Anna Harris  
Associate Fiscal Analyst

*Approved:* Thomas Koenig  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5370**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2025

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Haider**

**SYNOPSIS**

Extends early voting period for primary elections and extends challenger appointment deadline; appropriates \$6 million.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/27/2025)**

1 AN ACT extending the early voting period for primary elections and  
2 extending the challenger appointment deadline, amending  
3 P.L.2021, c.40 and R.S.19:7-3, and making an appropriation.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*

7

8 1. R.S.19:7-3 is amended to read as follows:

9 19:7-3. The appointment of or application for challengers shall be  
10 filed with the county board not later than the **[second]** third Tuesday  
11 preceding any election. No person shall be appointed a challenger  
12 under this Title who is not a registered voter in the county in which  
13 the district is located in which such person is appointed to serve, and  
14 no appointed challenger shall serve in any district other than that to  
15 which appointed except for challengers appointed by the chairman of a  
16 county committee, pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection b. of  
17 R.S.19:7-1.

18 (cf: P.L.1999, c.232, s.28)

19

20 2. Section 1 of P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1) is amended to read as  
21 follows:

22 1. a. In addition to all other forms of voting provided for by this  
23 Title, a registered voter shall be permitted to vote at a specially  
24 designated polling place before the day of certain primary and general  
25 elections in this State. This procedure shall be known as early voting.  
26 The early voting period shall:

27 (1) start on the **[4th]** 7th calendar day before a non-presidential  
28 primary election for a non-presidential general election and end on the  
29 second calendar day before that non-presidential primary election;

30 (2) start on the **[6th]** 7th calendar day before a presidential  
31 primary election for a presidential general election and end on the  
32 second calendar day before that presidential primary election; or

33 (3) start on the 10th calendar day before a general election and end  
34 on the second calendar day before that general election.

35 The voting process during the early voting period shall be  
36 conducted using electronic poll books and optical-scan voting  
37 machines that read hand-marked paper ballots or other voting  
38 machines that produce a voter-verifiable paper ballot. Any  
39 municipality conducting regular municipal elections in May pursuant  
40 to the provisions of the "Uniform Nonpartisan Elections Law,"  
41 P.L.1981, c.379 (C.40:45-5 et seq.), may, by an ordinance adopted by  
42 its governing body, also conduct early voting for the regular municipal  
43 election, in accordance with the provisions of this act, P.L.2021, c.40  
44 (C.19:15A-1 et al.). If adopted by a municipal governing body, the  
45 early voting period for a regular municipal election in May shall start  
46 on the 4th calendar day before the regular municipal election and end

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 on the second calendar day before that regular municipal election. An  
2 early voting period shall only be permitted for a non-presidential or  
3 presidential primary election and a general election in this State and, if  
4 adopted by a municipal governing body, a regular municipal election  
5 conducted in May. Pursuant to the provisions of this act and Title 19  
6 of the Revised Statutes and in accordance with procedures that may be  
7 established by the Secretary of State for verifying eligible voters, each  
8 county board of elections shall verify that a registered voter is  
9 qualified to vote in the election and shall prescribe the manner by  
10 which a registered voter may vote during such period.

11 b. (1) For the primary and the general election, each county board  
12 of elections shall designate at least three, but not more than five, public  
13 locations within each county as the sites for early voting to occur,  
14 except that the county board shall designate at least five, but not more  
15 than seven, public locations for early voting if the number of registered  
16 voters in the county is at least 150,000 but less than 300,000, and shall  
17 designate at least seven, but not more than 10, public locations for  
18 early voting if the number of registered voters in the county is 300,000  
19 or more. This provision shall not be interpreted to prevent county  
20 boards of elections, at their discretion, from establishing additional  
21 locations in excess of the five, seven, or 10 location limits respectively  
22 set forth herein; provided, however, that the State shall be required to  
23 provide reimbursement for the costs of locations up to and including  
24 the five, seven, or 10 respective limits established herein, and shall not  
25 be required to provide reimbursement for additional locations beyond  
26 those limits under section 6 of this act, P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-6).  
27 The number of registered voters in each county shall be determined  
28 ahead of the selection of early voting sites pursuant to a uniform  
29 standard which shall be developed by the Secretary of State through  
30 the rulemaking process pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure  
31 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.). Whenever possible, early  
32 voting locations shall be geographically located so as to ensure both  
33 access in the part of the county that features the greatest concentration  
34 of population, according to the most recent federal decennial census of  
35 the United States, and access in various geographic areas of the  
36 county. All early voting locations shall be public facilities, such as  
37 county courthouses, public libraries and the offices of the municipal  
38 clerk, county clerk, and county board of elections, or places of public  
39 accommodation as provided under Title 10 of the Revised Statutes.  
40 No public school building and no building used as a public school, as  
41 that term is defined under N.J.S.18A:1-1, shall, however, be  
42 designated as an early voting location. The locations shall be  
43 designated at the same time as all other polling places are designated  
44 by the board of elections. In the event of a tie vote among members of  
45 the county board with respect to the selection of sites for early voting,  
46 the county clerk shall cast the deciding vote. Once early voting  
47 locations are designated in each county, county boards of election shall  
48 evaluate and, if deemed necessary, revise these locations in order to  
49 accommodate significant changes in the number of registered voters

1 within each county, reflect the population distribution and density  
2 within each county, or because of similar circumstances. The  
3 Secretary of State may develop the criteria to be used by county boards  
4 of election to revise the location of early voting sites and shall  
5 prescribe how often such revision shall take place.

6 A voter shall be permitted to vote at any early voting site in the  
7 voter's county.

8 (2) Whenever a municipality that conducts regular municipal  
9 elections in May chooses to participate in early voting for the regular  
10 municipal election, the county board of elections shall designate at  
11 least one public location, but not more than three public locations,  
12 within the municipality as the site or sites for early voting to occur.  
13 This provision shall not be interpreted to prevent a county board of  
14 elections, at its discretion, from establishing additional locations in  
15 excess of the three location limit set forth herein; provided, however,  
16 that the State shall be required to provide reimbursement for the costs  
17 of locations up to and including the three location limit established  
18 herein, and shall not be required to provide reimbursement for  
19 additional locations beyond that limit under section 6 of this act,  
20 P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-6). Whenever possible, each such location  
21 shall be geographically located in the part of the municipality that  
22 features the greatest concentration of population, according to the most  
23 recent federal decennial census of the United States. All early voting  
24 locations shall be public facilities, such as municipal courthouses and  
25 the offices of the municipal clerk, or places of public accommodation  
26 as provided under Title 10 of the Revised Statutes. No public school  
27 building and no building used as a public school, as that term is  
28 defined under N.J.S.18A:1-1, shall be designated as an early voting  
29 location. The locations shall be designated at the same time as all  
30 other polling places are designated by the board of elections. In the  
31 event of a tie vote among members of the county board with respect to  
32 the selection of sites for early voting, the municipal clerk shall cast the  
33 deciding vote. Once early voting locations are designated in each  
34 municipality, county boards of election shall evaluate and, if deemed  
35 necessary, revise these locations in order to accommodate significant  
36 changes in the number of registered voters within each municipality,  
37 reflect the population distribution and density within each  
38 municipality, or because of similar circumstances. The Secretary of  
39 State may develop the criteria to be used by county boards of election  
40 to revise the location of early voting sites and shall prescribe how  
41 often such revision shall take place.

42 A voter shall be permitted to vote at any early voting site in the  
43 voter's municipality.

44 c. Each early voting site in a county or municipality shall be open  
45 for early voting on Monday through Saturday from at least 10 AM to 8  
46 PM, and on Sunday from at least 10 AM to 6 PM. Any voter who is  
47 on line at the time scheduled for the closing of an early voting site  
48 shall be permitted to vote.

1 d. The election officers responsible for conducting early voting  
2 shall be the same as those responsible for conducting a primary and a  
3 general election, as appropriate, pursuant to this Title. The number of  
4 such officers and their hours of service shall be as determined by each  
5 county board of elections. The compensation for such officers shall be  
6 the same as provided to district board of election members serving at a  
7 school election pursuant to R.S.19:45-6, or that required pursuant to  
8 Article I, paragraph 23 of the New Jersey Constitution, whichever is  
9 greater.

10 e. The restrictions governing the conduct of voters at a polling  
11 place on the days that early voting occurs, the procedures governing  
12 who is permitted in a polling place on such occasions and the  
13 prohibition on electioneering within 100 feet of a polling place during  
14 an election, shall be as provided in chapters 15, 34, 50 and 52 of Title  
15 19 of the Revised Statutes and every other applicable section of this  
16 Title.

17 f. In real time using the electronic poll books each day during the  
18 early voting period, and prior to the start of each regularly scheduled  
19 primary and general election, and regular municipal election in each  
20 non-partisan municipality choosing to participate in early voting, each  
21 county board shall make such changes as may be necessary to the  
22 voter's record in the Statewide voter registration system to indicate that  
23 a voter has voted in that election using the early voting procedure.

24 g. (1) Each county board shall be responsible for forming and  
25 executing a written plan to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the  
26 integrity of the voting process and the security of ballots used during  
27 the early voting period, including the security of voting machines,  
28 voted ballots, and election records. The plan shall be based on  
29 guidelines established by the Secretary of State and shall be submitted  
30 thereto no later than December 15 of each year. The Secretary of State  
31 shall review and, if deemed necessary thereby, require changes to a  
32 plan no later than February 1 of each year. Each plan shall specify a  
33 chain of custody and security plan for the voting machines, and a chain  
34 of custody for the voted ballots and election records and materials, and  
35 shall require, among other specifications deemed necessary by the  
36 Secretary of State and county boards of election, that all voted ballots  
37 shall be transferred at the end of each early voting day to county  
38 boards of election for safekeeping. After the voted ballots are  
39 transferred to the county board of elections at the end of each early  
40 voting day, a county board may elect to impound those voted ballots  
41 on a secure server, or by any other means deemed appropriate by the  
42 Secretary of State. The voted ballots shall not be canvassed until the  
43 closing of the polls on election day as required pursuant to section 4 of  
44 this act, P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-4). The results of the voted ballots  
45 cast during early voting shall remain confidential and shall be  
46 disclosed only in accordance with the provisions of Title 19 of the  
47 Revised Statutes, regulations, and guidelines concerning the disclosure  
48 of election results, and a violation shall be subject to the penalties  
49 established by law.

1 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, in the year  
2 in which P.L.2021, c.40 (C.19:15A-1 et al.) becomes law, each county  
3 board shall submit its plan to the Secretary of State within 30 days  
4 following the effective date of this act and the Secretary of State shall  
5 review it and, if deemed necessary thereby, require changes in the plan  
6 within 45 days following the effective date of this act.

7 h. Each county board shall make certain that each polling place  
8 used for early voting shall be accessible to individuals with disabilities  
9 and the elderly, in compliance with the "Americans with Disabilities  
10 Act of 1990" (42 U.S.C. s.12101 et seq.), and that each polling place  
11 provides such voters, including the blind and visually impaired, the  
12 same opportunity for access and participation, including privacy and  
13 independence, as other voters in compliance with the "Help America  
14 Vote Act of 2002" (42 U.S.C. s.15481).

15 i. The Secretary of State shall establish a printing on demand  
16 ballot and elections system. At a minimum, the system shall be  
17 compatible with the Statewide voter registration system established  
18 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2005, c.145 (C.19:31-31) and any  
19 electronic poll books provided by section 1 of P.L.2019, c.80  
20 (C.19:31-35). Each polling place used for early voting shall have a  
21 computer, tablet, or other electronic device to print provisional ballots  
22 for voters required to vote by provisional ballot in accordance with the  
23 provisions of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes or due to an equipment  
24 malfunction as further provided under section 3 of P.L.2019, c.80  
25 (C.19:31-37), or any other election related material, if needed. A  
26 computer, tablet, or other electronic device and the printer used to  
27 print election materials at a polling place shall not be used unless it has  
28 been certified by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall  
29 adopt and publish standards and regulations governing the certification  
30 and use of computer, tablets, or other electronic devices and printers to  
31 print election materials at each polling place used for early voting.  
32 The Secretary of State shall not certify a computer, tablet, or other  
33 electronic device or printer unless it is in compliance with the  
34 secretary's standards.

35 j. Each polling place used for early voting shall also have such  
36 appropriate supplies, ballots and other materials deemed necessary by  
37 the Secretary of State or as is required currently for a polling place on  
38 the day of any election by Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.  
39 (cf: P.L.2021, c.40, s.1)

40

41 3. a. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
42 Department of State the sum of \$6,000,000 for the purposes of this act.

43 b. There is appropriated from the General Fund as State aid to  
44 each county governing body and to each municipal governing body  
45 that conducts early voting such sums as the State Treasurer and the  
46 Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department  
47 of the Treasury deem necessary to effectuate the purpose of this act.

48

49 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill extends the early voting period for primary elections in New Jersey and extends the deadline to appoint a challenger for an election.

This bill extends the deadline to appoint a challenger from the second Tuesday preceding any election to the third Tuesday preceding any election.

This bill extends the early voting period for all primary elections in New Jersey to start 7 calendar days before the election. This includes non-presidential primary elections and presidential primary elections.

Currently, the early voting period for a non-presidential primary election and a presidential primary election starts, respectively, on the 4th and 6th calendar day before the election. This bill starts the early voting period on the 7th calendar day before the non-presidential primary and the presidential primary election. Under current law, the early voting period for any election ends on the second calendar day before the election. Therefore, under the bill, the early voting period would consist of six days for primary elections.

The bill appropriates from the General Fund to the Department of State the sum of \$6,000,000 for the purposes of the bill.

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE**  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 5370**  
**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**221st LEGISLATURE**

DATED: MARCH 3, 2025

**SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Extends early voting period for primary elections and extends challenger appointment deadline; appropriates \$6 million.

**Type of Impact:** Annual expenditure increase to the State General Fund; annual local expenditure and revenue increases.

**Agencies Affected:** Department of State, County Boards of Elections, County Clerks' Offices.

**Office of Legislative Services Estimate**

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Year 1</u></b>	<b><u>Thereafter</u></b>
<b>State Expenditure Increase</b>	Up to \$6 million	Indeterminate
<b>Local Expenditure Increase</b>	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
<b>Local Revenue Increase</b>	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that extending the early voting period by three days for each primary in a non-presidential election year and extending the early voting period by one day for each primary in a presidential election year will increase costs to counties. The counties will also experience revenue increases in the form of reimbursements from the State for their costs under the bill.
- The bill appropriates \$6 million to the Department of State to carry out the purposes of the bill. If the full amount is not expended in the year of appropriation, the residual amount will be spent in subsequent fiscal years until the full \$6 million is exhausted.
- The actual cost increase to the counties per election depends on the number of hours the poll workers work each day of early voting and the number of poll workers at each early voting location, the additional pay for supervisors at each location, overtime costs for other personnel, mileage, and rental fees for polling locations.
- The actual costs increase may also depend on the type of election (i.e. non-presidential primary or presidential primary).



## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill extends the early voting period for primary elections in New Jersey to start seven calendar days before the election. This includes non-presidential primary elections and presidential primary elections. Currently, the early voting period for a non-presidential primary election and a presidential primary election starts, respectively, on the fourth (three days of early voting) and sixth (five days of early voting) calendar day before the election, and ends on the second calendar day before the election. Therefore, under the bill, the early voting period would increase to six days for primary elections.

The bill appropriates from the General Fund to the Department of State the sum of \$6,000,000 to carry out the purposes of the bill.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS estimates that extending the early voting period by three days for each primary in a non-presidential election year and extending the early voting period by one day for each primary in a presidential election year will increase costs to counties. The counties will also experience revenue increases in the form of reimbursements from the State for their costs under the bill.

The bill appropriates \$6 million to the Department of State to carry out the purposes of the bill. If the full amount is not expended in the year of appropriation, the residual amount will be spent in subsequent fiscal years until the full \$6 million is exhausted.

The actual cost increase to the counties per election depends on the number of hours the poll workers work each day of early voting and the number of poll workers at each early voting location, the additional pay for supervisors at each location, overtime costs for other personnel, mileage, and rental fees for polling locations.

The actual costs increase may also depend on the type of election (i.e. non-presidential primary or presidential primary).

*Section: State Government*  
*Analyst: Anna Harris*  
*Associate Fiscal Analyst*  
*Approved: Thomas Koenig*  
*Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

# Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Extending In-Person Early Voting in New Jersey Primary Elections

03/4/2025

*Extends Early Voting Periods for Non-Presidential Primary Elections from Three to Six Days and for Presidential Primary Elections from Five to Six Days*

*Builds on Efforts to Strengthen Voting Rights and Make Voting More Convenient and Accessible*

**TRENTON** – Governor Phil Murphy today signed [S3990/A5370](#), which extends the in-person early voting period for primary elections and the challenger appointment deadline. Specifically, the bill will appropriate \$6 million from the General Fund to extend the in-person early voting period for non-presidential primary elections from three to six days and for presidential primary elections from five to six days. The bill will take effect immediately, allowing voters an extended in-person early voting period for the upcoming primary election. Nearly 1.2 million people took advantage of in-person early voting for the general election in 2024, a record turnout since the establishment of in-person early voting in New Jersey in 2021.

“I am proud to sign legislation to make democracy more accessible here in New Jersey,” **said Governor Murphy**. “Millions of voters in New Jersey have taken advantage of in-person early voting since its establishment just four years ago. This bill will give voters ample time to go to the polls to ensure their voices are heard by Election Day.”

“Great voter participation leads to a stronger democracy. Which is why, in 2021, our Administration worked to make the state more voter-friendly,” **said Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way, who oversees the Division of Elections in her capacity as Secretary of State**. “By expanding our early voting period, we are giving voters more time to make their voices heard. Making the voting process more accessible ensures everyone has the opportunity to vote and ultimately, protects our democracy.”

The prime sponsors of this bill are Senator Brian Stack and Assemblyman Gabriel Rodriguez. Other primary sponsors include Senator Paul Moriarty and Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson.

“With the signing of this legislation, we are taking a significant step toward making our elections more accessible and efficient for all voters,” **said Senator Stack**. “Extending the early voting period ensures that more people have the time and opportunity to participate in our democratic process without facing long lines or scheduling conflicts. This law reflects our unwavering commitment to strengthening voter access and modernizing our election system, and I am proud to see it become a reality for the people of our state.”

“Having this bill signed into law and expanding the early voting period for both presidential and non-presidential primary elections shows that New Jersey remains committed to making sure every citizen who wants to vote will have the chance to do so,” **said Senator Moriarty**. “In a law that, in essence, will provide voters six days to cast their ballots

in crucial primary elections, we are helping to assure the franchise for all our citizens and helping to grow and nurture our democracy in the name of free and fair elections.”

“Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy—a fundamental right that ensures every voice is heard and every community is represented. This bill is about making in-person voting more accessible for all,” **said Assemblyman Rodriguez**. “Beyond benefiting voters, this bill will also relieve poll workers from overwhelming Election Day crowds and reduce financial strain on municipalities for the additional days. It’s a practical solution that enhances accessibility, efficiency, and participation in our democratic process.”

“Lengthening the early voting period will help us ensure that every eligible New Jerseyan can get to the voting booth and fulfill a vital civic responsibility,” **said Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson**. “In 2024, our state saw an unprecedented number of early voters, with over 1 million residents casting their ballots during early in-person voting. By extending this period we are building on our commitment to expanding access and making sure every voice is heard.”

“New Jersey has made meaningful progress in strengthening democracy over the last few years, including implementing early voting during the pandemic, allowing Black voters in New Jersey to participate in the Souls to the Polls tradition after church,” **said Nuzhat Chowdhury, Director of the Democracy & Justice Program, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice**. “Extending early voting for primaries builds on this progress during a critical time for democracy in this country.”

“The strength of our democracy depends on ensuring every voice is heard at the voting booth. Extending the early voting period for primary elections is an important step in increasing access to the ballot in New Jersey. We’re grateful to the Legislature and Governor Murphy for their leadership in safeguarding the right to vote, and we look forward to continuing to work with lawmakers to further protect and expand voting rights in our state,” **said Alejandra Sorto, Campaign Strategist, ACLU-NJ**.

“We are encouraged to see Governor Murphy sign Bill S3990/A5370 into law, which extends early voting for primary elections. We fully support efforts that increase access to the polls, particularly for first time voters and immigrant communities, who often encounter significant barriers like irregular work hours, language barriers, and other challenges that make voting difficult,” **said Erik Cruz Morales, Policy and Advocacy Manager, New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice**.

“On behalf of New Jersey’s Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, we thank the Legislature and Governor Murphy for expanding our state’s successful early voting program. As voting rights come under attack across the nation, we are heartened that our leaders are standing up for New Jersey’s values by making voting more accessible and convenient for all of our state’s diverse electorate,” **said Amber Reed, Co-Executive Director, AAPI New Jersey**.

“Voting is a holy act of faith, a declaration of the just and inclusive world we are called to create. My grandmother fought for this right, believing in a future where every voice is heard. Expanding early voting isn’t just about convenience—it’s about justice, ensuring working families, elders, and first-time voters have a real chance to participate. Today, we honor those who came before us by breaking down barriers to the ballot box. Faith in New Jersey celebrates this step forward and remains committed to strengthening our democracy for all,” **said Charlene Walker, Executive Director, Faith in New Jersey**.

“For decades, the League of Women Voters has been at the forefront of advocating for voters rights and reforms to defend our democracy,” **said Jesse Burns, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey**. “On

behalf of the LWV, I want to thank Governor Murphy and Lt. Governor Way for their commitment to strengthen elections here in New Jersey and make voting more accessible to all. This bill to extend the early in-person voting period will allow every day, hard-working voters extra time to get to the polls and let their voices be heard for the upcoming primary election.”

“Expanded early voting is key to making sure that voters, particularly Black people and other voters of color, can meaningfully participate in our democracy regardless of what life throws at them,” **said Alex Ault, Policy Counsel, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.** “Whether it’s inflexible work schedules or care for family members that can’t wait, having obligations on election day shouldn’t bar participation in our elections or distort our democracy to just reflect the views of the privileged few. We applaud New Jersey for creating and funding more opportunities to vote, because it leads to a more meaningful democracy.”