



Sent by Sebastian D'Elia to All users (e-mail accounts) through UC First Alert

The Office of Union County Clerk Joann Rajoppi advised Union County voters that new options have been made available for early voting by email or fax. The procedures are designed to help ensure that registered voters can participate in the election, even if they cannot get to their regular polling place.

Many Union County residents have been forced to leave the area, either for their own safety or to look after other family members, and the gas shortage has added to the difficulty in getting around. With these new options, voters can participate from any location without having to travel back to their regular polling place.

The new options were issued by the State of New Jersey Division of Elections and apply statewide. Basically, they enable displaced voters to use electronic procedures that are normally available only to military and overseas voters.

If you are a Union County resident displaced by Hurricane Sandy, the first step is to visit the County Clerk's website, <http://ucnj.org/government/county-clerk/vote-by-mail> and download an application for a Vote-by-Mail ballot.

After you fill out the application, email it to the County Clerk's office at lbobish@ucnj.org or fax it to 908-558-3592. The deadline for submitting applications by fax or email is 5:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday November 6.

The next step is conducted by the Union County Clerk's office, which will verify that you are registered to vote in Union County. The Clerk will then send a ballot back to you by email or fax, whichever you have chosen.

The last step is to fill out your ballot and send it back by email to UCBOE@ucnj.org or by fax to 908-527-4127. Be sure to include the secrecy waiver form that came with your ballot. The deadline for sending your ballot and waiver is 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday November 6.

Many Union County residents have already voted early through the existing Vote-by-Mail procedure. That involves obtaining a paper ballot and mailing it to the Clerk.

This option is still available for Union County residents on Sunday November 4 and Monday November 5.

To use this option, visit the Clerk's offices in person at 2 Broad Street in Elizabeth or 300 North Avenue in Westfield. The Clerk will verify that you are registered to vote in Union County and will provide you with a paper ballot. You can fill out the paper ballot on the spot, seal it, and drop it in a secure container. There is no need to send it through the mail.

The offices are open for in-person early voting today, Sunday November 4 until 4:30 p.m., and on Monday November 5 until 3:00 p.m.

Many residents have already obtained a Vote-by-Mail ballot and sent it by regular mail. These ballots must still be postmarked on or before November 5, but to accommodate delays in postal service related to Hurricane Sandy the deadline for receipt of these ballots has been extended to November 19.

Union County residents with any question about voting can call the County Clerk's office at 908-527-4996. Information is also available at <http://ucnj.org/government/county-clerk>.

Additional information about voting in New Jersey is available from the State Elections Office, elections.nj.gov or call 1-877-NJVOTER (1-877-658-6837).