



## **New Jersey Republican Party Election Improvement Committee**

### *Recommendations for Secure and Fair Elections*

In a year of unprecedented political occurrences, many of the normally unnoticed failures of our election system were laid bare. The NJGOP listened to the feedback of the people of New Jersey and convened an Election Improvement Committee consisting of GOP leadership with deep experience in the details of our elections to address the concerns of voters on both sides of the aisle.

The New Jersey Republican Party believes that New Jerseyans deserve an open and fair election where they can easily cast their vote, be sure their vote will be counted, and not be diluted by fraud or error. We oppose universal vote-by-mail and believe each voter should have the choice to vote in person or request a ballot. Only eligible, registered voters, residing in New Jersey, should receive ballots. We support common sense ballot security measures, like Voter ID, coupled with free and easily accessible ID cards for all who need them. We support greater transparency in vote counting before, during, and after Election Day. We believe voter confusion is voter disenfranchisement, that American elections should be conducted with American made election equipment, and we oppose ballot harvesting.

The following are common sense recommendations made by the committee, that policymakers at all levels of government should implement.

- Overhaul the statewide voter registration system:
  - Join the Election Registration Information Center (ERIC), a non-partisan non-profit organization that assists states in maintaining an up-to-date voter registration system.
  - Remove duplicate entries for single voters, remove deceased voters, and remove people who have moved.
  - Create a mechanism for accuracy checks on registrations created at the MVC.
  - Ensure voters are moved from active to inactive status after four straight missed general elections and are removed from receiving ballots by mail.
- Make an audit of results permanent standard operating procedure to ensure machine-counted ballot results match hand counted ballot results, and no hardware or software error occurred. Increase publicity efforts of these audit results.
- The 2020 election education campaign was a failure and must be improved to avoid further voter confusion and disenfranchisement.
- Improve the function and clarify the operation of the “Track My Ballot” website to avoid further voter confusion.
- County Boards of Elections should maintain a publicly available accounting of paper ballots received, counted, and received but not yet counted.



- The state of New Jersey should implement an automatic recount mechanism if an election is within 0.5%.
- Boards of Elections should employ additional bipartisan staff and scanners for ballot processing on and after Election Day, and more office staff before Election Day to answer questions from voters.
- Require nominating petitions to be available on January 1st and make permanent the validity of digital signatures on these petitions, with provisions for signature challenges.
- Reform the ballot cure process to include making available daily records of cure letters sent and received by the county.
- Ensure court access for all candidates and political parties on Election Day.
- Establish clear drop box standards in state law, including a process for verifying bearer rules are followed, and making video footage available to campaigns and political parties.
- The Legislature should pass legislation which requires the Secretary of State to create a website for voters to report irregularities regarding mail-in ballots and establishes “Vote by Mail Study Commission.”
- All future election equipment purchases should be equipment that is American made by American majority owned companies.

Additionally, the NJGOP will recommend to our partner organizations a number of concrete steps they can take immediately to ensure free and fair elections. Some of these actions may include legal action, inquiries with various government entities, and other official actions.

Tens of thousands of votes cast throughout New Jersey were rejected this year. Thousands more votes were never cast because of confusion, error, or inadvertent mistakes. Ensuring that the citizens of our state have confidence in their elections is critical. It is our belief that implementing these recommendations will advance that cause.

Sincerely,

Chairman Michael Lavery  
Mayor Matthew Moench  
RNC Committeewoman Ginny Haines  
RNC Committeeman Bill Palatucci  
Commissioner Margaret Frontera  
Mayor Janice Fields  
Councilman Dr. John Azzariti  
Chairwoman Jacci Vigilante

Chairwoman Laura Ali  
Chairman Frank Holman  
Committeewoman Darlene Shotmeyer  
Assemblywoman Serena DiMaso  
Committeeman Larry Casha  
Committeeman Don Katz  
Committeeman Tom Rotondi  
Claire Gustafson