

COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

James N. Hogan
County Clerk

Heather L. Pool
Deputy County Clerk



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**NOTICE FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION
POSSIBLE DELAY IN RECEIVING YOUR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT**

Dear Voters:

There may be a short delay for our voters in receiving their Vote by Mail Ballot through the United States Postal Service.

This delay was caused by the continuing failure and inability of the Gloucester County Board of Elections Commissioners (BOE) to comply with the law to meet, vote, and agree on locations for polling places and “secure ballot drop boxes”. This has delayed the original printing and the mailing of the Vote by Mail Ballots for the November General Election.

On August 14, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 177 (“EO 177”), which declared that the November 3, 2020 General Election would be held “primarily via vote-by-mail ballots” and ordered the Gloucester County Board of Elections (BOE) to select the polling place locations in the county and locations for placement of the “secure ballot drop boxes”.

Because of the deadlock and inaction of the Gloucester County Board of Elections Commissioners (BOE), a judicial decision on September 25, 2020 took away their decision-making authority and instead conferred the powers and responsibilities upon the Gloucester County Clerk.

For many weeks, the four members of the Gloucester County Board of Elections (BOE) were unable to carry out their responsibilities and became deadlocked in the decisions for locations of polling places and placement of the “secure ballot drop boxes”.

With the failure of the BOE to carry out the mandates of the Executive Order of the Governor, on September 17, 2020 a lawsuit was filed and decided by the Superior Court.

On September 25, 2020, the Honorable Mary Beth Kramer, J.S.C. conducted hearings and issued an opinion with a judicial solution to break the deadlock, get the process underway to select new polling locations, allow the ballots to be printed, mail the ballots to the voters, and notify the voters of the locations of the new polling places and locations of the “secure ballot drop boxes”.

Judge Kramer’s opinion stated:

“The court recognizes that this election poses unprecedented challenges. The goal is to allow all voters the opportunity to safely cast their vote.

The ballots must contain the locations of the polling places and the ballot drop boxes. They must be printed and mailed to all the active voters in Gloucester County by October 5, 2020.

The BOE has met several times and has been unable to resolve the issue. The BOE has agreed on thirteen countywide locations for ballot drop boxes. Unfortunately, they are at an impasse

over the location of the polling places. As a practical matter, time is running out.

By statute, Defendant Hogan has the authority as the County Clerk to determine the location of the polling places if the BOE is unable to reach an agreement.”

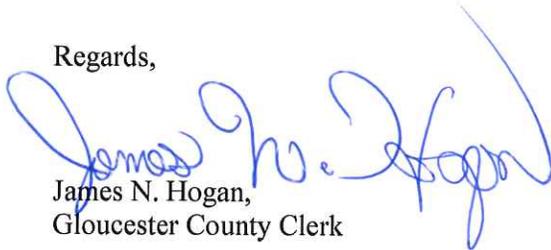
Following this decision, the Gloucester County Clerk, now conferred with the authority to supersede the Gloucester County Board of Elections Commissioners (BOE) and to carry out the mandates of the Executive Order of the Governor, sought the assistance of the Gloucester County Superintendent of Elections, the Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management, and all the municipal clerks.

The polling place locations are being confirmed, made CDC COVID-19 compliant, and being staffed as required by law.

The Vote by Mail Ballots are to be printed, addressed, and mailed as quickly as possible but with perhaps a short delay.

You may contact the Office of the County Clerk at 856-384-4530 if you have any questions or do not receive a Vote by Mail Ballot.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James N. Hogan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "H".

James N. Hogan,
Gloucester County Clerk