

Voter Registration and Information Session

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.



Hello!

- I am Gabrielle Beck (she/her), a senior at Tenafly High School.
- LWV is a non-partisan political organization encouraging informed and active governmental participation
- You can find me at @voterstomorrownj
- Turnout in odd-year elections is extremely low - but together, we can increase participation in our democracy. As we continue to battle COVID-19 and with the introduction of in-person early voting it is important to provide election information so voters, especially new voters, know all of their voting options and rights



Voters
of
Tomorrow
NJ

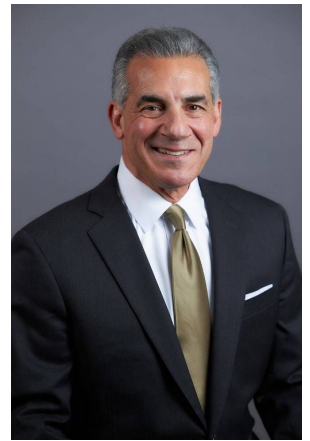
1

Gubernatorial Election

Candidates:

- Phil Murphy (D)*
- Jack Ciattarelli (R)
- Madelyn Hoffman (G)
- Gregg Mele (L)
- Joanne Kuniarsky (SWP)

*Incumbent



2

Candidate Profiles

Phil Murphy:

- **Occupation:** Governor
- **Party:** Democrat
- Among his major accomplishments during his first term, Murphy increased the minimum wage – currently \$12, rising to \$15 in 2024. He expanded voting access. The governor set a goal of 100% clean energy usage by 2050 through a new energy master plan. Murphy made community college tuition free for those with limited means. He made significant investments to improve NJ Transit. He also led the state through the COVID-19 pandemic, including the vaccination of about three-quarters of those eligible. In addition, Murphy is a proponent of LGBTQ+ curriculum and reformed sexual education in NJ schools.



Jack Ciattarelli:

- **Party:** Republican Party
- **Occupation:** Candidate for governor
- Ciattarelli's platform include a proposal to lower property taxes and implement a variety of corporate and income tax cuts. He pledges to end the state's so-called "sanctuary" policies for undocumented immigrants and end police reporting of use of force unless a firearm is discharged. Ciattarelli would prohibit abortions after 20 weeks and supports parental notification for minors seeking an abortion. He backs vaccine choice and opposes mask and vaccination mandates. Furthermore, Jack Ciattarelli is shown on video at a campaign stop in July saying that he'd "roll back" new LGBTQ curriculum requirements in the state's schools.



Madelyn R. Hoffman

- **Party:** Green (four pillars: environmentalists, social justice, grassroots democracy, and nonviolence)
- **Occupation:** Adjunct professor of political science and public speaking
- Hoffman has served as the executive director of New Jersey Peace Action. She is a long-time environmental and social justice activist who previously run for governor and the U.S. Senate. Hoffman supports New Jersey's adoption of a Green New Deal. She would implement such social justice reforms as reparations and ending youth incarceration. And Hoffman supports tuition-free public college for New Jersey students.



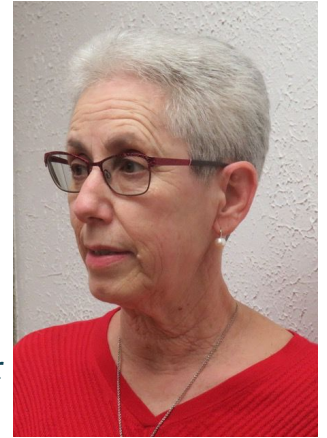
Gregg Mele

- **Party: Libertarian** (political philosophy that upholds liberty as a core principle. Libertarians seek to maximize autonomy and political freedom, emphasizing freedom of choice, individualism and voluntary association)
- **Occupation: Attorney**
- Mele ran for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2018 and for mayor of Bridgewater in 2019. He wants to promote school choice and homeschooling. Mele backs more competitive contracting and bidding process to improve transit and roadway infrastructure. He calls for releasing all prisoners currently being held on marijuana possession.



Joanne Kuniansky

- **Party:** Socialist Workers (far-left political ideology, organize support for labor and social struggles)
- **Occupation:** Deli worker at Walmart
- Kuniansky has run for office in three states. She has advocated for workers' rights, including a shorter work week with no cut in pay. She wants to end police brutality, anti-Semitic assaults and attacks on abortion rights.



There are 4 Bergen County Races on this Ballot:

- **Clerk:** John Hogan (D)* and Bridget Kelly (R), The County Clerk's responsibilities include the recording, filing and maintenance of many public records including those affecting property and business ownership
- **Surrogate:** Michael Dressler *(D) and Simone Tsigounis (R), responsibility of probating wills, qualifying executors, appointing administrators for those estates without wills, and qualifying guardians of incapacitated persons and minors
- **Sheriff:** Anthony Cureton (D)* and Robert J. Kugler (R), responsible for upholding the safety of our residents and providing essential services to our local municipalities and police departments.
- **Commissioners** (formerly called Freeholders): Steven Tanelli (D)*, Tracy Zur (D) *, Timothy Walsh (R), and Ronald Joseph Lin (R), act as the county's legislative body

3

Voting Registration

Who May Register to Vote...



- You are a United States Citizen
- You are at least 17 years of age (but not vote until reaching the age of 18)
- You will be a resident of the State and county 30 days before the election.

How and Where to Register

- Register to vote *online* at Vote411.org or <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/register>
- *In person*, register with your Municipal Clerk or county Commissioner of Registration/Superintendent of Elections.
- *By mail* registration forms are available at motor vehicle agencies, public assistance offices, most libraries, Municipal Clerk and county Commissioner of Registration offices. Copies of the registration form may be printed from the internet at www.lwvnj.org or www.njelections.org.

When to Re-Register

Registration is permanent but you must re-register if you

- Change your name
- Change your address
- Complete your sentence, probation, or parole

3 Ways to Vote in the Upcoming General Election

Vote by Mail Ballot

- Registered voters can apply for a vote-by-mail ballot by following the instructions found at VOTE.NJ.GOV or contacting their County Clerk.
- Mail: Your vote-by-mail ballot MUST be postmarked on or before 8:00 p.m. November 2 and be received by your county's Board of Elections on or before November 8.
- Secure Ballot Drop Box: Place your vote-by-mail ballot in one of your county's secure ballot drop boxes by 8:00 p.m. on November 2.

In-Person Early Voting

- This new option enables all registered voters to cast their ballot in person, using a voting machine, during a nine-day period prior to Election Day.
- In-person early voting locations will be open Saturday, October 23 through Sunday, October 31. Hours will be Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. and Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

At Your Polling Place on Election Day

- Vote in person at your polling place, from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 2.

Sample Ballot

Sample ballots are mailed to all registered voters one week before each election. The sample ballot is verification of your registration; contact your County Clerk or Board of Elections if you do not receive one. Sample ballots contain the following information:

- Location of your polling place
- Hours polls are open
- Public questions
- Offices to be voted on, candidates names, district and municipality
- Operating instructions for voting machines
- Instructions for how to “write in” candidate

How to Vote

- You must vote in person unless you applied for a vote by mail ballot.
- Operating instructions are printed on the sample ballot and are available at the polls.
- You have two minutes to vote. If you need help, ask a poll worker. You may change your selections until you cast your ballot.
- In any election you may “write in” your own choice for a particular office. Request instructions for how to “write in” a candidate from poll workers.
- If you are in line at your polling place when the polls close you have a right to vote.

Polling Place Voting Instructions

1. **Find The Sign-In Table** - You will see a group of poll workers sitting at a table with several books in front of them. Approach them and tell them your name and address. They will find your information and have you sign into the book, confirming your information is correct and that you are voting today.
2. **Receive Your Ballot** - The poll workers will find your ballot, based on where you live, and give it and a plastic privacy sleeve to you. Take both to a nearby voting booth.
3. **Vote Your Ballot** - Make sure you follow the instructions on the ballot. If you have questions on how to mark your ballot properly, ask a poll worker. If you make a mistake and need a new ballot, write "VOID" across your ballot, fold it in half, and return it to the poll workers. They will give you a new ballot.
4. **Ask Questions** - If you have any questions regarding your ballot, ask the poll workers to verify that you received the correct ballot before it is placed in the ballot box.
5. **Return Your Ballot** - Place your voted ballot in the privacy sleeve and return it to the poll workers. State law requires a poll worker to place your ballot into the ballot box. Voters are not allowed to do this.
6. *If you experience any problems at the polls, be sure to call the NJ Division of Elections at 877-NJ-VOTER or the Election Protection Hotline: 866-OUR-VOTE for English

That's it. You've now voted and are ready for the next election.

Voting in College... How to Prevent Lost Votes

If you go to college out of state, you can register to vote in either your home state or where you attend college, but you cannot be registered in both locations. If you decide to register in your home state, you will need to sign up for an absentee ballot. By submitting your ballot by mail before the election, you can participate as an absentee voter, with no need to travel to your hometown polling location.



4

Extra Resources

For Additional Election Information and
Volunteer Opportunities

Social Media and Resources

- Instagram: @lwvnorthernvalley; @voterstomorrownj
- Facebook: @LeagueofWomenVotersNorthernValley
- Twitter: @LeagueNValley
- Website: <https://lwvbergen.org/about-us-more/northern-valley-information/>
- Vote 411: <https://www.vote411.org>
- 3 Ways to Vote Bergen County Video:
<https://vimeo.com/604141683?fbclid=IwAR1a2KwvjRfJwPu5bKw72ba7Wcq2iMrYKjrcj1kOYuDR5QWzWXkijSeJSyq>
- Gubernatorial Election Debate:
<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/red-bank/articles/missed-the-gubernatorial-debate-you-can-watch-it-here-16>
- ACLU NJ Voter Guide

Vote 411

Non-Partisan education resource

After entering your address, voters will see what's on their ballot: who is running for state, county, or local offices, and information about public referenda. Voters can compare candidates to each other using the Voters Guide which contains biographical information about candidates and their response to questions the League of Women Voters has asked.



What *you* can do...

Democracy doesn't begin and end on Election Day. It requires us to hold our officials accountable and build strength in our communities.

Here are some important ways to make an impact that can be just as important as voting:

Call and email your lawmakers: It really does make a difference. Lawmakers keep track of how many people contact their offices about particular issues. Lawmakers have even shifted their position on issues once they recognized the level of public support – or public opposition

Attend a rally: The people united can never be defeated! And together our voices ring out more loudly. Rallies – virtual or in-person – show the strength of your cause, demonstrate awareness to elected officials, and create opportunities to connect with like-minded people.

Attend public meetings of local government and request public records: “Of the people, by the people, for the people” aren't just words. They're instructions for how our government should operate. You have the right to see what your lawmakers do, including attending and speaking at public meetings, and requesting government records. You have the right to participate and the right to know!

THANKS!

Any questions?

- You can find me at gabyrbeck@aol.com & [@voterstomorrownj](https://www.facebook.com/voterstomorrownj)
- Contact the League of Women Voters of Northern Valley lwvno.valley@gmail.com or lwvnyblog@gmail.com for potential volunteer opportunities and additional information!

Thank you!

