

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30, 2016

**Essex County Clerk Christopher J. Durkin urges citizens to return Voter Registration Forms and Vote by Mail Applications as soon as possible to County Election Offices**

The highest amount of voter registrations and vote by mail applications are filled out and processed during a presidential election with the highest volume coming during the two months leading up to Election Day.

Election Day is Tuesday November 8th, 2016 and the voter registration deadline is fast approaching and will soon be upon us. The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday October 18th, 2016.

The Presidential Election heightens the awareness of more and more citizens every four years to be engaged in the voting process. Voter Registration drives are being held throughout the State of New Jersey. All voter registration forms should be returned to the County Commissioner of Registration at the Hall of Records Room 429, 465 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Newark, NJ 07102 as soon as possible to ensure that the voters name appears in the poll book on Election Day and to allow for a stress free voting process.

Voter Registration Forms now allow a voter to register as a first time voter, change their voting address, change their name, and/or change their 'Party' all on the same form.

Since 2003, newly registered voters are asked to provide the last 4 digits of their social security number or their driver's license number on the Voter Registration Form. It usually takes about 48 hours to confirm

the voter information through the statewide database and be officially registered to vote.

There are many prospective voters who fill out a vote by mail application at the same time they register to vote, or change their address or change their name and the County Clerk's Office cannot process the Vote by Mail Application and send a ballot to a voter without the voter registration form being processed first.

The deadline for Vote by Mail Applications to be received by the County Clerk's Office and be mailed to the voter is Tuesday November 1st, 2016. A voter can go to the County Clerk's Office at the Hall of Records 465 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Room 247 Newark in person and apply for a ballot and vote the ballot beginning on Friday September 23rd, 2016 (47 days before Election Day) Monday through Friday from 8:30am until 4:30pm. The deadline for a voter to request a ballot in person or by messenger is the day before Election Day Monday November 7th, 2016 by 3:00pm. A registered voter of Essex County can be a messenger of a Vote by Mail ballot for a maximum of 3 voters including themselves.

Election Day is Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 between the hours of 6:00am – 8:00pm.

Let's vote and together we can make democracy work.

Contact: Christopher J. Durkin. Essex County Clerk 973-650-0771

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