

# Important Information for Voters

## Boonton Public Schools

### School Board Election and Budget Vote

#### Who Can Vote?

The requirements to be eligible to vote in New Jersey include:

- Must be a citizen of the United States;
- Must be at least 18 years of age by the date of the election;
- Must have the capacity to vote;
- Must be registered to vote;
- Must be a resident of New Jersey and the county in which you live at least 30 days prior to the election;
- Cannot be serving a sentence or on parole or probation for an indictable offense.

#### Registering to Vote

To vote in any election, you must be registered to vote at least 21 days prior to the election. **Since this year's election is April 27, 2011 the registration deadline is April 6, 2011.** Registration can be done in person or through the mail with the Morris County Commissioner of Registration. Voter registration forms can be easily found at the Municipal Clerk's office, local library, MVC offices, other state agencies, or online. Visit [www.morriselections.org](http://www.morriselections.org) for voter registration information and forms. Remember that the forms must be filled out and **mailed** in. Faxes and e-mail are not acceptable.

#### What if I can't Vote in Person?

In New Jersey, any voter may vote by Absentee Ballot, now referred to as Vote by Mail Ballot, for any election. You do not need a reason for a Vote by Mail Ballot.

It is important to remember that absentee voting has **two steps**. First, you must fill out the **Application to Vote by Mail Ballot** to receive an absentee ballot. Second, once the ballot is received, which is identical to the ballot at the polls on Election Day, you must fill it out and mail it back to cast your vote. Filling out the application by itself does not constitute a vote!

**Also, remember that once you've applied for an Application to Vote by Mail Ballot, you cannot vote at the polls on Election Day, even if you never filled out the ballot and returned it.**

Applications for Vote by Mail ballots must be received by the Morris County Clerk's office by noon at least seven days before the elections if done through the mail, or by at least 3 p.m. the day before the election if done in person.

**If you would like to vote via a Vote by Mail Ballot in the upcoming election, your application must be mailed in and received by April 20, 2011 or you must hand deliver it by 3:00 p.m. on April 26, 2011.**

### **New Election Law Requirement**

Pursuant to the federal “Help America Vote Act of 2002 “ (HAVA), if you have never voted before, and registered to vote by mail in your county after January 1, 2003, you must provide identification to the Morris County Commissioner of Registration.

***Voting in Person.*** If you do not provide acceptable forms of identification, or if your identification cannot be verified, you will be required to show identification at the polling place when you go to vote. Examples of acceptable forms of identification include: Driver’s license, military or other government identification, United States Passport, or utility bill. If you show identification, you will be permitted to vote in the voting machine. However, if you do not show an acceptable form of identification, you will have to vote by provisional ballot and have until the close of business on the second day after the election to provide identification to the Morris County Board of Elections.

***Voting by Vote by Mail Ballot.*** If you applied for a Vote by Mail Ballot, and were required to show identification, you should have received a request for identification with your absentee ballot materials. The identification requirement does not apply to those voting via absentee because of temporary illness or a temporary or permanent disability, or an absentee military or overseas civilian voter.

### **Where Can you Go if you Have Questions?**

Boonton Schools, Office of the Superintendent – (973) 335-3994 - [www.boontonschools.org](http://www.boontonschools.org)

Boonton Schools E-Mail for Budget Questions - [budget@boontonschools.org](mailto:budget@boontonschools.org)

Morris County Clerk – (973) 829-8219 – [www.morriscountyclerk.org](http://www.morriscountyclerk.org)

Morris County Board of Elections – (973) 285-8350 - <http://www.morriselections.org/>

New Jersey Division of Elections – (609) 292-3760 - <http://www.njelections.org>

Rutgers Eagleton Institute for Voter Information - (877) 658-6837 - <http://www.njvoterinfo.org>