

LISA POLITO NICOLAY
Commissioner

PETER D ELDER
Deputy



JACKIE ORTIZ
Commissioner

NATALIE SHEPPARD
Deputy

Monroe County Board of Elections

2/29/2024 Board of Elections Press Conference Transcript

Commissioner Jackie Ortiz:

Welcome everyone, thank you for joining us today! As we approach critical elections this year we wanted to discuss our plan, set expectations for voters and be sure we're doing all we can to proactively communicate critical information to the voting public.

This year we have three major elections and each have specific early voting days associated with them as well as deadlines for each of the other methods of voting available:

- April 2nd Presidential Primary
- June 25th Local Primary
- November 5th General Election

As it is a Presidential election year, we understand we will likely have upwards of 70% turnout this fall and many voters who have not voted since the last Presidential election and much has changed since then.

Commissioner Nicolay will walk us through our planned communications and EV details

Commissioner Lisa Polito Nicolay:

All eligible voters for the April Presidential Primary were mailed post cards earlier this week providing their jurisdiction information current Election Day polling site assignment.

- We have a sample here (many said they missed it last year so we want to bring it front and center this year (point out important info)
- We will be mailing a notice like this, 3x's this year, before each election. Unfortunately, we cannot afford to do this every year but with the level of participation this year, we are appreciative of the County Legislature and their support in acquiring additional funding to mail more notices this year.

Again, you will notice that it is highlighted twice on the front and back of the card that a voters polling location may have changed.

- Please do not assume you are voting at the same site you always have
- Sites at times decide no longer participate so we have to find replacements or reroute voters to the next available site
- Redistricting has played a major role in the changing of poll site assignments

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- We have approximately 214 polling locations locked for the April primary, “This year we want to make sure we emphasize that your polling location may have changed due to the process of planning efficiency around redistricting. There is a critical need to continue having quality Polling Sites and we give a huge thank you to the County and City administrations, Town Supervisors, Town Clerks, organizational leaders, and community members who have worked very hard to partner with us to secure the over 200 Election Day polling locations and 17 Early Voting Sites.”
- If you do misplace and or lose this card all of this information is available on our website voter app located at www.monroecounty.gov/elections

Commissioner Ortiz will now discuss the other methods by which voters may participate in elections this year

Commissioner Jackie Ortiz:

Early Voting, which began in 2019 and is now a staple of all elections – we have secured 17 locations across the county, which you can see on this illustration. These sites are available to all voters regardless of their home address. If you for one reason or another think Election Day hours will not work for you, the election day site is not preferred or any other reason, you have 8 days, 9 hours each day to select a convenient location, date and time that works for you .

We place a lot of emphasis on Election Day but New York and all stakeholders have worked diligently on providing multiple access points **for voters to cast their ballots**

Absentee Voting is an additional option- if you will be out of the county or have a disability preventing ease of mobility then please apply for an absentee ballot.

Applications are online on our website as well as the State Board of Elections or you can call the Board for assistance

- 03/23/24* Last day application for ballot must be received by BOE. §8-400 (2)(c)
- 04/01/24* Last day to apply in person for ballot. §8-400 (2)(c)
- IF you are voting by this method, please remember you cannot change your mind. If you go into a polling location your only option will be to vote by affidavit – this is because we now tally all votes to be reported on Election night

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Accessible Ballot – Voters with visual impairments and or print disabilities have the option of requesting an Accessible ballot via our Enhanced Voting system. Once the application is complete, the Board will through a secure portal send your ballot electronically equipped with audio options to complete and submit. That application is also on the website

New This Year, Early Vote by Mail – those who simply wish to vote from home can do so with the new option of early vote by mail. You wish to eliminate going to any physical location, this is the option for you! No excuse needed. Again applications available on our website or call the board of elections and we can assist you.

- 03/23/24* Last day application for ballot must be received by BOE. §8-400 (2)(c)

Commissioner Nicolay will close us out with some final housekeeping items and messages

Commissioner Lisa Polito Nicolay – Housekeeping Items

- Registration for Presidential Primary Election 03/23/24* Last day voter registration application must be received by BOEs by mail
- You must be registered in the Democrat or Republican party to participate in April
- If you have moved or have not received the post card discussed earlier within the next 2 weeks please check your registration status and contact the Board of Elections

Thank you for joining us today, we cannot stress enough that voters should visit our website as it has a wealth of information www.monroecounty.gov/elections. Questions or concerns please do not hesitate in reaching out to the Board directly.