

The Palestinian American Community Center (PACC) is a 501c3 non profit organization and does not endorse any party or candidate.

PACC is creating this resource guide. Resources are helpful tools and support from community organizations, government agencies, and more. These resources can help you learn more about voting, access legal help, find community programs, and more.

What is a Primary?

There are primaries and general elections. The primary election comes FIRST. When you vote in a primary you get to pick the person you want to represent the political parties in your district. It is the election before the election.

For example: There are **5 democrats** and **3 republicans** running for the Governor's Race. Only **1 Democrat** and **1 Republican** each can win. Then, in the General Election those two people run against each other.



Do you like **green** or **orange**? Which shade of green or orange is your favorite?



What seats will be elected this primary election?

Assembly Race

Voters will choose candidates who will represent us in the state legislature. These are people who help make important decisions about laws and policies that affect our daily lives in New Jersey. They live in our **district** and they are the **most accessible** people to us.

- Each **District** is represented by 2 assembly members and 1 Senator.

Gubernatorial Race

This is the election for New Jersey's **Governor**. The Governor helps lead the state and make important decisions about issues like education, healthcare, and the economy.

- The **Governor** has the final say on whether a bill becomes a law in New Jersey.

How to go about choosing your candidate?

- If elected officials perform well in their roles and align with our values and community needs, we support their continued service by re-electing them.
- However, if they fail to meet expectations or do not represent our interests, we hold them accountable by voting for new leadership and ensuring they do not gain further influence.
- They can either help us or hurt us early on in defending rights or taking them away.
- Look-up "the name of your county & Sample Ballot" online to see who is running. Then, research each candidate to see who is the best fit to represent you.

What is a Party Affiliation?

Your *party affiliation* is the political party you choose to support. There are major parties like **Democrats** and **Republicans**, but you can also choose other **parties**. In NJ, you must be registered with a party to vote in their primaries. For example, you must be registered as a Democrat to vote in Democratic Primary, and you must be registered as a Republican to vote in the Republican primary.

- If you're registered with a political party and want to switch, you must do so at least 55 days before the election. However, if you're "unaffiliated," you can choose which party's primary you want to vote in on the day of the primary election.

Why do the NJ Primaries matter?

Currently, we have representatives that are very harmful to us that we cannot let move onto the general election. Equally important, we have candidates running who have spoken up for us. Both people can run in the same party which is why we want to learn who they are in the primaries to set them up to win in the general election.

How does this affect our rights and fight for liberation?

Right now, there is a harmful bill **A3558**, using the problematic IHRA definition of being anti-Israel as anti-semitic. This definition is being snuck into multiple bills that would take away our right to speak about Palestine and put us in jeopardy of receiving real consequences. It will also get in the way of the work we have ahead in our fight for liberation. Who we vote for in the primaries can be the difference between if we get to speak about Palestine or not. **Go to noihranj.org for more information.**

Important Dates for NJ 2025 Primary Election - Keep Track So You Don't Miss Anything!

April 19 - Mail-In Ballots Start Being Sent Out
If you want to vote by mail, this is when the ballots will start arriving at your home.

May 20 - Voter Registration Deadline
You must be registered to vote by this date if you want to participate in the Primary Election.

June 3 - Last Day to Apply for a Mail-In Ballot
If you want to vote by mail, this is the deadline to apply for your mail-in ballot and declare your party affiliation.

June 4 - Sample Ballots Start Getting Sent Out
This is a preview of your real ballot, so you can see who you're voting for.

June 6 to June 8 - Early Voting
If you want to vote early, you can go to any polling place in your county during these days.

June 6 - Deadline for Military or Overseas Voters
If you're in the military or live overseas, you need to apply by this date to get your ballot by email.

June 10 - Primary Election Day
This is the big day to vote in person.
Last Day for Mail-In Ballots
If you're voting by mail, your ballot must be received by the Post Office by this date or you can drop off your ballot in person at a ballot drop box or your county election office by this time.

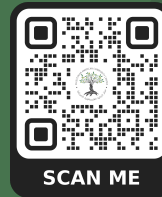
Don't Miss These Dates!
Make sure to vote! Your voice matters.

Link to State & Local Resources to Help Meet Individual and Family Needs

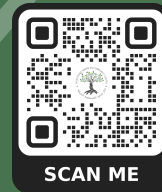
How to use the Guide:

- Scan the QR Code
- Explore the links
- Contact the agencies you wish to benefit from

Community Organizations and City Service Resource Hub



PACC Resources



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PACC's Beginners Guide to 2025 NJ Elections and Community Resources

