

# New Jersey Senate

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Honorable Tahesha Way  
Secretary of State  
New Jersey Department of State  
PO Box 300  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Secretary Way,

I am deeply concerned about the lack of protocols in place to ensure the integrity of our upcoming general election—especially in light of New Jersey’s recent history and the unprecedented challenges our state is currently facing.

There are several critical areas of our voting system that need to be addressed: early voting and new voting machines; the Statewide Voter Registration System (“SVRS”); the Motor Vehicle Commission (“MVC”) voter registration process; and the shortage of trained poll workers for in-person voting.

First, what protocols have been put in place to ensure that every vote is properly counted? In addition to the newly instituted early voting in our State, there are also new voting machines in nearly every New Jersey county. There appears to be a lack of consistency with both the older and new machines being used. It has been brought to my attention that some counties are using new machines for early voting and the older machines will be used on Election Day. It is my understanding that there is currently no way to integrate the two systems of voting machines. This means that a significant portion of voting results will need to be manually entered. What protocols are being implemented to ensure that this will be done in a consistent and accurate manner?

Additionally, as you also know, last year more than 6,500 ballots were incorrectly postmarked during New Jersey’s primary election. Whether it’s a result of human error or blatant malfeasance, the integrity of our upcoming general election is at stake through concerning situations like this.

I am unsure which is more troubling—the fact that this egregious mistake occurred or that the Governor, once again, claimed to be in the dark about such important matters.

Secondly, as you are aware, last year’s reactivation of the vote-by-mail list for the 2020 General Election—so that everyone registered to vote would receive a ballot—had unintended and

disastrous consequences with people who had passed away and moved out of state receiving ballots. Since that election in 2020, what has been done to update the SVRS voter list to reflect accurate voter registrations in the State and purge all ineligible voters from the statewide list?

Thirdly, earlier this year I wrote to MVC Chief Sue Fulton to try to understand how the commission will manage its conflicting mandates to: (1) issue driver's licenses to undocumented residents; and (2) automatically register to vote any eligible person who applies for a permit, license, or ID card.

The answer I received from Chief Fulton raised additional concerns that deserve our attention. The MVC clearly expects that some people who are ineligible to vote will not be filtered out of the automatic voter registration (AVR) process, depending on the information that is presented with their transaction. Those undocumented residents will then have to opt-out of automatic voter registration, assuming they understand the language or the warnings presented to them about the penalties for registering to vote illegally.

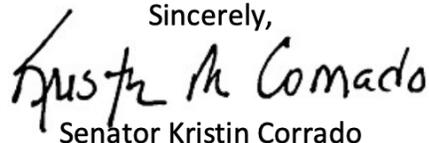
What specific steps is the Administration taking to address the flawed AVR process?

Finally, for months I have called on Governor Murphy to increase the pay of poll workers to \$400 in order to address the significant shortage of workers across the state—as outlined in A-5842, a bipartisan bill that passed both houses in June 2021. After my consistent calls, Governor Murphy finally raised the pay, but only to \$300—and only shortly before early in-person voting is set to begin.

The Administration announced that New Jersey had recently recruited 13,500 new poll workers. There is approximately one week until early, in-person voting begins. The new workers are not familiar with the electronic pollbooks or the new machines. How will the Murphy Administration ensure that the new workers receive adequate training?

As you can see, many questions have arisen due to the serious problems that occurred over the past year. For the purposes of transparency, I urge you to provide full answers and explanations immediately.

Sincerely,



Kristin M. Corrado

Senator Kristin Corrado