



# CITY OF HACKENSACK

65 Central Avenue - HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY 07601

Main Number: 201-646-3900

[www.Hackensack.org](http://www.Hackensack.org)

April 8, 2026

**Mayor**

*Caseen Gaines*

**Deputy Mayor**

*Agatha Toomey*

**Councilman**

*Roberto Diaz*

**Councilman**

*Philip Carroll*

**Councilwoman**

*Sonya Clark-Collins*

**City Manager**

*Thomas Freeman*

**Acting City Clerk**

*Timothy J. Hoffman*

**Chief Financial Officer**

*James Mangin*

**Tax Collector**

*Christine Bahney*

**Tax Assessor**

*Arthur Carlson*

The Honorable Mikie Sherrill  
Governor of New Jersey  
The State House  
P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Sherrill,

We are writing to thank you for signing the legislation expanding seven days of early voting to May nonpartisan municipal elections. This is a significant step in ensuring that New Jersey remains a leader in protecting the fundamental right to vote.

For the residents of Hackensack, this issue is deeply personal. Just one year ago, as candidates for these very offices, we stood before the previous administration and the public to advocate for the implementation of early voting. We recognized then what is even clearer today: that for the working families of Hackensack, a voter's schedule should never be an obstacle to their participation in our local democracy.

At that time, our predecessors chose to hide behind a perceived "loophole" in the law, blocking Hackensack voters from early voting access at no local taxpayer expense because our election was held in May. While Bergen County eventually provided a last-minute workaround, the situation highlighted a genuine flaw in the state's framework.

Democracy should not be a patchwork of local exceptions, and a voter's zip code should never determine their level of access to the ballot box.

By signing this bill, you have effectively closed that "loophole," vindicating the stance we took long before we assumed these seats. It is gratifying to see that the vision we championed for Hackensack is now the standard for the entire State of New Jersey. We take pride in the fact that our local struggle helped illuminate the need for this legislative remedy, and that we were ahead of the curve in requesting these necessary reforms.

Thanks to your leadership, in New Jersey, the ability to vote early is now a right for everyone, no matter what town they live in or what month the election is held. We have finally put the needs of working people ahead of the convenience of those in power.

We look forward to a continued partnership that prioritizes our people over politics.

Sincerely,

  
Caseen Gaines   Agatha Toomey   Roberto Diaz   Philip Carroll   Sonya Clark-Collins