

New Jersey Preparedness and Response

National Association of Secretaries of State
2026 Winter Conference

Meshach Walker, Election Security Coordinator
Offices of the Secretary of State/Division of Elections



Dr. Dale Caldwell
New Jersey Lieutenant Governor
Secretary of State

Overview

Section

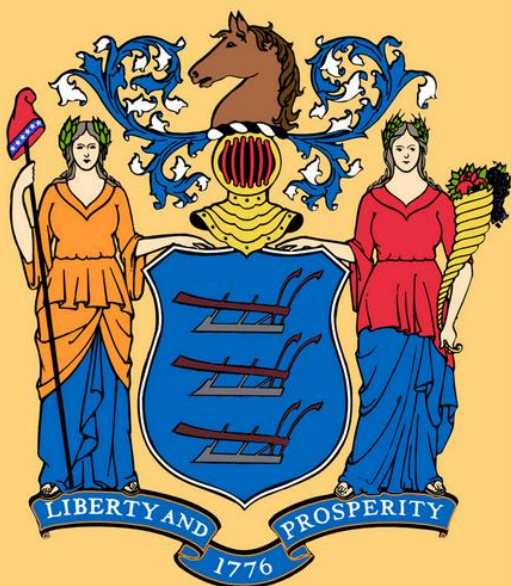
Key Focus

1 Left of Boom

- Election Security in New Jersey
 - Readiness is the response before the response
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2 Right of Boom

- The ever changing statewide threat landscape
- Readiness turned into results



Left of Boom

① Election Security in New Jersey

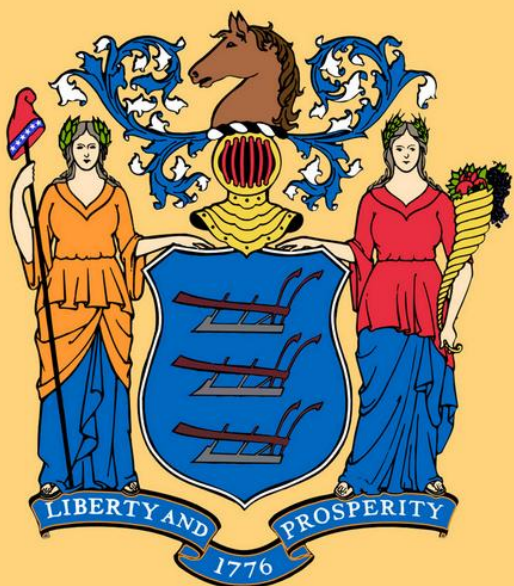
Election Security

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graph TD; A(Election Security) --> B(Cyber); A --> C(Operational); A --> D(Physical);
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Cyber

Operational

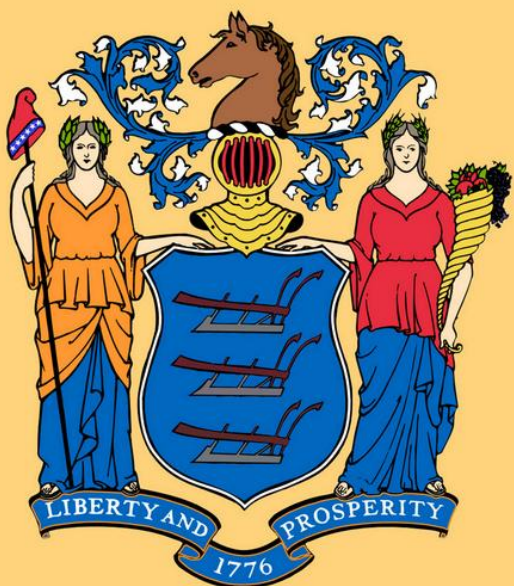
Physical



Left of Boom

2 Readiness is the response before the response

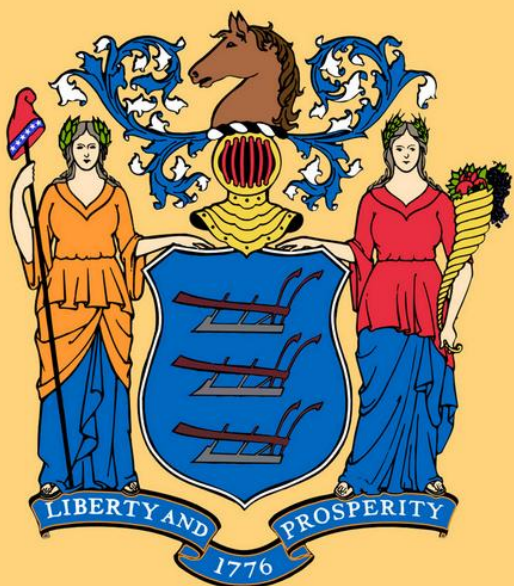
- Strengthened partnerships that stay engaged before, during, and after critical periods.
- Built cyber readiness through threat intelligence, OSINT operations, and practical training.
- Matured operational readiness through continuity training, exercises, and repeatable procedures.
- Improved physical readiness through safety planning, assessments, and secure operations.



Right of Boom

1 The ever changing statewide threat landscape

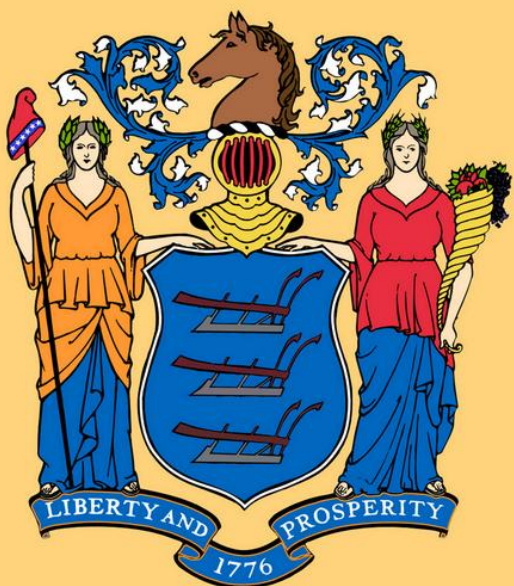
- Physical security threats tested real time decision making and public safety response.
- Facility disruptions affected safety conditions, communications, and continuity.
- Threats overlapped across physical, operational, and cyber conditions in real time.



Right of Boom

2 Readiness turned into results

- SOC and Sitroom model centralized updates, surfaced issues early, and aligned partners quickly.
 - Partner agencies represented include: FBI, NJ National Guard, NJ Secretary of State, NJOHSP/NJCCIC, NJ State Police, NJ Office of the Attorney General, NJ Office of IT, Board of Public Utilities, and NJ OEM.
- Repeatable playbooks guided escalation, communication, and continuity decisions.
- Safety first decisions and consistent messaging reduced confusion and kept operations steady.



Statewide Messaging Coordinated with State Partners

“Issued the following statement in regards to bomb threats made to several polling locations in New Jersey. **Law enforcement has investigated and determined that there are no credible threats at this time.**

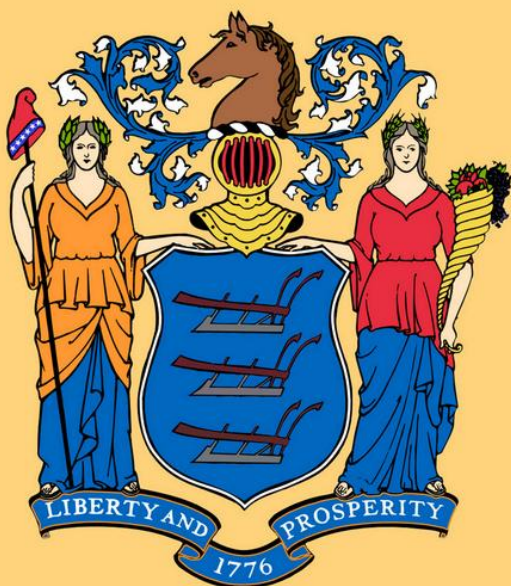
“We are aware of threats made to several polling locations in New Jersey. Law enforcement has determined that there are no credible threats at this time. We are doing everything in our power to protect voters and poll workers and coordinate closely with state, local and federal partners to ensure a smooth and safe election. We encourage every eligible voter to exercise their right to vote before 8:00 p.m. today.”

The New Jersey Division of Elections, together with the Office of the Attorney General and the New Jersey Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Cell, is coordinating with federal, state, and local partners to help county election officials respond. County election officials are relying upon their discretion and continuity of operation plans to make necessary safety changes to protect voters and secure our elections, including temporarily relocating polling locations if necessary.

Threats have been sent via email to the following locations:

- Bergen County
- Essex County
- Mercer County
- Middlesex County
- Monmouth County
- Ocean County
- Passaic County

Residents are reminded to contact 911 in the event of an emergency, and to report any suspicious activity to the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness at 1-866-4-SAFE-NJ (1-866-472-3365) or at tips@njohsp.gov.”



Thank You!

For more information,
please contact: Meshach Walker,
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