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ELECTION 2026

State details steps to safeguard voting



Attorney General Jennifer Davenport described the election protections that are in place. ASHLEY BALCERZAK/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Even under new law, interference may loom, says attorney general

Katie Sobko
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

With Election Day in less than two weeks and early in-person voting just days away, the state’s attorney general announced exactly what is being done to ensure that this year’s midterm elec-

tions run smoothly. Attorney General Jennifer Davenport shared the safeguards that are being put in place to protect the right to vote while helping voters, election officials and law enforcement with any ballot-related legal matters.

See ELECTIONS, Page 8A

Man dies in GWB shooting; search on

Near-collision appears to have sparked dispute

Manahil Ahmad
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

A 46-year-old man was fatally shot in a suspected road-rage incident on the George Washington Bridge, prompting an hourslong closure of the bridge’s westbound upper level, authorities said on Oct. 21.

The New York Police Department’s deputy commissioner of public information said the victim was driving a Volkswagen Golf on a ramp leading to the bridge’s westbound upper-level lanes on Oct. 20 when he nearly collided with another vehicle, sparking a dispute.

As both vehicles continued toward New Jersey, an occupant of the other vehicle opened fire, striking the victim, authorities said.

The victim’s car continued west before crashing into the median near the middle of the bridge.

He was taken to Englewood Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The suspect’s vehicle fled the scene, and authorities were continuing their search.

The shooting prompted an investigation that shut down the bridge’s westbound upper level for hours, disrupting traffic between New York and New Jersey.

The victim’s identity was being withheld pending notification of family. The investigation was continuing.

Flu season brings early increase in cases

Doctors warn strain may hit young people harder

Michael Erman and Julie Steenhuysen
REUTERS

NEW YORK – Doctors are urging Americans ages 6 months and older to get vaccinated against the flu after an unusual early rise in cases on the West Coast that virologists are still working to

understand. It could be the strain itself. The predominant flu strain this year is H1N1, which caused the 2009 swine flu pandemic and is now a standard part of the flu shot. But this year’s version of the virus has a new mutation called G155E.

People who have been previously exposed to H1N1, through infection or vaccination, would have only some residual protection from the older versions, scientists say.

“What people are a bit worried about is that the H1N1 strain this year hasn’t been seen by a lot of younger folk, so it may be more severe in them,” said Dr. Jennifer Duchon, a pediatric infectious disease expert at Mount Sinai Children’s Hospital in New York, adding that her hospital has started to see some flu cases. The 2026-2027 flu vaccines, approved by the FDA in August, target H1N1, H3N2 – the dominant strain last flu season – and one influenza B virus.

While most children recover, flu can be deadly, especially for the very youngest and those with underlying health conditions.

Promotion of flu shots has been reduced under Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a longtime anti-vaccine activist who has engineered an overhaul of long-standing childhood vaccine schedules.

See FLU SEASON, Page 8A

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