



- 1850 Ocean County was off-set from Monmouth County by charter on February 15, becoming the state's 20th county, the second largest in area. Population was just over 10,000 residents.
- 1852 The Sheriff's House, with jail attached was constructed behind the courthouse and completed in April.
- 1857 Barnegat Lighthouse opens.
- 1862 Railroads begin service through Ocean County.
- 1914 Two bridges were built across the Barnegat Bay: one connecting Toms River to Seaside Heights and the other connecting Manahawkin to Long Beach Island.
- 1924 The Ocean County Health Association (now Ocean County Health Department) was formed.
- 1925 The Ocean County library opens its doors to the public.
- 1932 Casino Pier opens on the Seaside Heights Boardwalk.
- 1940 The heirs of John D. Rockefeller donated the billionaire's estate in Lakewood to Ocean County. This would later become Ocean County's first park.
- 1947 Ocean County Fair begins. By 1967, the one-day "Ocean County Field Day" had become a three-day "Ocean County Fair" with the participation of over 80 4-H clubs, and attendance of over 60,000 people.
- 1954 The Garden State Parkway opens.
- 1960 The Ocean County Vocational Technical School is founded with the development of a Licensed Practical Nursing Program.
- 1964 Ocean County College, New Jersey's first two-year community college was established in Toms River.
- 1968 Ocean County Airport opens.
- 1974 Six Flags Great Adventure opens.
- 1976 Ocean County Mall opens.
- 1977 Ocean County Transportation system Ocean Ride was created.
- 1978 The movie, Amityville Horror is filmed throughout Ocean County, including the Toms River Branch of the Ocean County Library.
- 1985 The Ocean County Justice Complex opens.
- 1988 Ocean County purchases Atlantis Golf Course.
- 1991 First farm (139 acres) was preserved through the Ocean County Farmland Preservation Program.
- 1997 The Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Fund was established. In the first year, the fund was used to purchase more than 550 acres of land.
- 1998 The Toms River East American Little League team wins the Little League World Series in South Williamsport, PA.
- 2000 Ocean County celebrates its sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary. Population in Ocean County grows to over 510,000 residents.
- 2001 The Ocean County Connection opens in the Ocean County Mall, bringing Ocean County government services to residents.
- 2006 Kean Ocean partnership begins, allowing students to earn a Kean University degree on the OCC campus.
- 2008 Ocean County's Fire and EMS Training Center celebrates its 10 year anniversary.
- 2009 The United States Air Force's McGuire Air Force Base, the United States Army's Fort Dix and the United States Navy's Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst merged to form Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.
- 2010 The population of Ocean County, New Jersey was 576,567, according to the United States census.
- 2012 Superstorm Sandy hits Ocean County on Oct. 29 devastating portions of the county
- 2013 In partnership with the Ocean County Vocational Technical School Ocean County opens Cuisine on the Green, which became home to the OCVTS' culinary education program, located at the Ocean County Golf Course at Atlantis
- 2015 Ocean County Parks celebrates 75 years anniversary
- 2018 Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Fund acquires the Forked River Mountains, an almost 8,000 acre parcel of land, ensuring it stays open space.
- 2019 Cedar Bridge Tavern opens to the public after a multi-year renovation to restore the historic tavern.
- 2020 The population of Ocean County, New Jersey was 637,229, according to the United States census. This was the highest population count in the county's history.
- 2021 Due to legislation signed in 2020 by the Governor, the term Board of Chosen Freeholders becomes Board of Commissioners.
- 2023 Ocean County broke ground on a new Ocean County Library Branch in Stafford Township.
- The Ocean County Pumpout Boat Program celebrates 25 years of keeping Ocean County's waterways clean.
- 2024 Ocean County opens the Ocean County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Training Center in Little Egg Harbor.
- Ocean County breaks ground on the new Justice Complex Annex, which will include eight new courtrooms.
- 2025 Ocean County dedicates the Ocean County Administration to Joseph Buckelew, naming the building, the Joseph Buckelew Ocean County Government Center.
- Ocean County celebrates its 175th Anniversary with a time capsule burial.