

# CAN I VOTE?

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY PEOPLE WITH CRIMINAL RECORDS

### **Can I vote in New York if I'm on probation?**

Yes. Anyone who is on probation, even if convicted of a felony, may register and vote in New York as long as they meet the other eligibility requirements described below.

### **Can I vote in New York if I've been convicted of a felony?**

If you are not currently incarcerated or on parole due to a felony conviction, you can register to vote in New York. You can vote if you are on probation.

### **Can I vote if I was convicted of a misdemeanor?**

Yes, but you will have to vote by absentee ballot if you are in jail.

### **If I was registered to vote before I was convicted, do I have to re-register afterwards?**

Yes. If you have served your maximum prison sentence, been discharged from parole, or been pardoned (and satisfy other eligibility requirements), you must complete a voter registration form, sign the sworn affirmation contained in the form, and submit the completed form to your local county board of election.

### **How do I register to vote?**

You must complete a voter registration form and sign the sworn affirmation that is contained in the form. Then you must mail or deliver the form to your local county Board of Elections. The address for the New York City Board of Elections is 32 Broadway, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10004.

### **How do I get a voter registration form?**

You can get a voter registration form at the post office, your local library, the county board of elections, and many other state agencies. In New York City, registration forms should also be available at all city correctional facilities, probation offices, community boards and other city agencies. They are also available at [www.vote.nyc.ny.us](http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us) and [www.elections.state.ny.us](http://www.elections.state.ny.us).

### **Do I have to have a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities or other documentation about my criminal history in order to register to vote?**

No. You do not need to provide any documentation about your criminal history in order to register.

### **Can I vote in New York if I'm in jail?**

Maybe. You may vote if you were convicted of a misdemeanor or if you are charged with a felony and are awaiting trial or disposition of your case.

### **What address should I put on the voter registration form if I am in jail?**

You should put your permanent home address on the registration form, not the address of the facility where you are incarcerated.

### **How do I vote if I'm in jail?**

You must request an absentee ballot from the Board of Elections. To obtain an absentee ballot you must first submit an absentee ballot application. In New York City, an application should be available at your facility, on the internet at [www.vote.nyc.ny.us](http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us), or you can call 1-866-VOTE-NYC. Outside of New York City, contact your local county Board of Elections or visit [www.elections.state.ny.us](http://www.elections.state.ny.us).

### **What are the other requirements to be eligible to vote in New York?**

At the time of the election, you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of New York for at least 30 days prior to an election.

### **Where can I get help with registration?**

Employees at your local county election board can assist you with completing the registration form. Call the New York State Board of Elections at 1-800-367-8683 to obtain contact information for your local county election board.



BRENNAN  
CENTER  
FOR JUSTICE

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