

# ★ KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS ★

# 2012 ELECTION AND VOTING RIGHTS TOOLKIT

Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2012

# **REGISTER**

\* Register to Vote

# **LOCATE**

- ★ Eligibility Guidelines for Absentee Ballots
- \* How to Vote By Absentee Ballot
- ★ How to Locate a Polling Place

# **EDUCATE**

- ★ Learn About Elections
- ★ Get Involved
- \* Know Your Rights if You...

# **VOLUNTEER**

- ★ Before Election Day
- ★ On Election Day

# **VOTE**

- ★ Know Your Rights
- ★ Reporting Voting Rights Violations
- ★ More Voting Rights Election Day Resources



# **REGISTER**



# Who can register to vote?

U.S. citizens at least 18 years old on Election Day who have been a resident of the city or county for at least 30 days and have not been declared mentally incompetent or are not currently incarcerated or on parole for a felony conviction.

If you are a student, homeless, living with a mental or physical impairment, or have a criminal conviction, you can still vote! Visit the "Educate" page of our website for more information.

# What is voter registration?

New York requires voters to register with a local board of elections prior to Election Day. Registration can be completed in person or by mail.

# When should you register?

New York requires voters to register at least 25 days prior to an upcoming election. N.Y. Elec. Law § 5-210.

**For the Sept. 13, 2012 primary elections**, you must register by Aug. 17, 2012, either by postmarking a registration form or registering in person at the local board of elections.

**For the Nov. 6, 2012 presidential election**, you must register by Oct. 12, 2012, either by postmarking a registration form or registering in person at the local board of elections. (Individuals honorably discharged from the military or naturalized as U.S. citizens after Oct. 12 may register in person at the board of elections until Oct. 26).

If you miss the deadline, you will not be able to vote this year. You should register now for future elections.

# Where can you register?

New York voters can register by mail or in person at the local board of elections.

**To register by mail,** send your voter registration form to your local board of elections. Voter registration forms are available online (http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html) in English and Spanish. In New York City, registration forms are available online (http://vote.nyc.ny.us/register.html) in Chinese, Korean, and Bengali. Voter registration forms are also available by calling 1-800-FOR-VOTE (TDD/TTY Dial 711), or at the Department of Motor of Vehicles, state public assistance agencies, public libraries and many government offices.

**To register in person**, visit your local board of elections (http://www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBoards.html) and fill out a registration form. New York City residents can register at a New York City Board of Elections office (http://vote.nyc.ny.us/offices.html).

# How do I...

- ... Provide proper identification with my voter registration? Prospective voters must have a valid New York State driver's license number or the last four digits of a Social Security Number. First time registrants registering by mail may also register by providing a copy of: a valid photo ID, a current utility bill, a bank statement, a government check, or certain other government documentation that shows your name and address. More information about identification is available at http://www.vote411.org/bystateresult.php?state=NY.
- ... Change the address or name on my voter registration? Voters who move to a new county must complete a new voter registration and will not be able to vote if they do not reregister before the deadline. Voters who move or change their name within the same county should notify the local board of elections. Voters who did not notify the board of elections can vote on Election Day at the polling place for their new address, N.Y. Elec. Law §8-302, but will have to vote by affidavit ballot or court order.
- ... Vote for a presidential candidate if I moved to a new county after the registration deadline? Even if you are not eligible to vote in a local election district, otherwise eligible American citizens over age 18 are entitled to vote in the presidential election by special presidential ballot. To get one, call your former board of elections.
- ... Check on my registration status? Voters can check their registration status by visiting New York's voter lookup page (https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx) or by contacting your local board of elections.



# **New York State Voter Registration Form**

# Register to vote

With this form, you register to vote in elections in New York State. You can also use this form to:

- · change the name or address on your voter registration
- · become a member of a political party
- change your party membership

## To register you must:

- be a US citizen;
- be 18 years old by the end of this year;
- not be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction;
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere.

### Send or deliver this form

Fill out the form on page 2 of this PDF document and mail it to your county's address from the list of addresses below. or take the form to the office of your County Board of Elections.

Mail or deliver this form at least 25 days before the election you want to vote in. Your county will notify you that you are registered to vote.

### **Questions?**

**Call your County Board of Elections** 

listed on the back of this form or 1-800-FOR-VOTE(TDD/TTY Dial 711)

Find answers or tools on our website

www.elections.state.ny.us

## Verifying your identity

We'll try to check your identity before Election Day, through the **DMV number** (driver's license number or non-driver ID number), or the last four digits of your social security number, which you'll fill in below.

If you do not have a DMV or social security number, you may use a valid photo ID, a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or some other government document that shows your name and address. You may include a copy of one of those types of ID when you mail this form.

If we are unable to verify your identity before Election Day, you will be asked for ID when you vote for the first time.

Información en español: si le interesa obtener este formulario en español,

中文資料:若您有興趣索取中文資料表格, 請電: 1-800-367-8683

한국어: 한국어 양식을 원하시면 1-800-367-8683 으로 전화 하십시오.

# llame al 1-800-367-8683

# Mail your completed form to the address for the county in which you reside:

**New York City** Executive Office 32 Broadway, New York, NY

10004 (212) 487-5300

32 North Russell Road Albany, NY 12206 (518) 487-5060

#### **Allegany** 6 Schuyler St. Belmont, NY 14813

(585) 268-9294 **Broome** Government Plaza 60 Hawley St PO Box 1766

Binghamton, NY (607) 778-2172

### Cattaraugus 302 Court St. Little Valley, NY 14755

(716) 938-2400 Cayuga

#### 10 Court St. Auburn NY 13021 (315) 253-1285

Chautauqua 7 North Erie St. Mayville, NY 14757 (716) 753-4580

### Chemung

378 South Main St PO Box 588 mira, NY 14902 (607) 737-5475

# Chenango

Norwich, NY 13815 (607) 337-1760

#### Clinton

Cnty Government Ctr. 137 Margaret St. Ste. 104 Plattsburgh, NY 12901 **(518) 565-4740** 

### Columbia

401 State St Hudson NY 12534 (518) 828-3115

#### Cortland

112 River St. Suite 1 Cortland, NY 13045 (607) 753-5032

**Delaware** 3 Gallant Ave Delhi, NY 13753 (607) 746-2315

## **Dutchess**

47 Cannon St. Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

### (845) 486-2473

Erie 134 W. Eagle St. Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 858-8891

#### Essex

7551 Court St PO Box 217 Elizabethtown, NY 12932

#### (518) 873-3474

Franklin 355 West Main St. Ste. 161 Malone, NY 12953

## (518) 481-1663

**Fulton** 2714 St. Hwy 29 Ste. 1

Johnstown NY 12095 (518) 736-5526

### Genesee

County Building #1 15 Main St. PO Box 284 Batavia NY 14021 (585) 344-2550

### Greene

411 Main St. Ste. 437 Catskill, NY 12414 (518) 719-3550

### Hamilton

PO Box 175 Lake Pleasant, NY 12108 (518) 548-4684

# Herkimer

109 Mary St. Ste. 1306 Herkimer, NY 13350 (315) 867-1102

# 175 Arsenal St.

Watertown, NY 13601 (315) 785-3027

7660 N. State St. (315) 376-5329

Livingston County Govt. Ctr 6 Court St. Room 104 Geneseo, NY 14454

# (585) 243-7090

Madison County Office Bldg. N. Court St. PO Box 666 Wampsville, NY 13163

# (315) 366-2231

39 Main St. W. Rochester, NY 14614 (585) 753-1550

## Montgomery

Old Courthouse 9 Park St. PO Box 1500 Fonda, NY 12068 (518) 853-8180

#### Nassau 240 Old Country Rd

5th Fl. Mineola, NY 11501 (516) 571-2411

## Niagara

Ste. 100 ock port, NY 14094 (716) 438-4040

#### Oneida

**Union Station** 321 Main St. 3rd FL Utica, NY 13501 (315) 798-5765

#### Onondaga 1000 Erie Blvd West

icuse, NY 13204 (315) 435-3312 Ontario

74 Ontario St. Canandaigua, NY 14424 (585) 396-4005

# Orange

25 Court Lane PO Box 30 Goshen, NY 10924 (845) 291-2444

# **Orleans**

Box 9

(585) 589-3274 Oswego 185 E. Seneca St.

50 W. High St. Ballston Spa, NY 14012 State Rte. 31 12020 (518) 885-2249

388 Broadway, St Schenectady, NY Oswego, NY 13126 12305 (315) 349-8350 (518) 377-2469

## Otsego

140 County Hwy. 33W Cooperstown, NY 13326

### (607) 547-4247

Putnam 25 Old Route 6 Carmel, NY 10512 (845) 808-1300

## Rensselaer

**Ned Pattison** Government Ctr. 1600 Seventh Ave. Troy, NY 12180 (518) 270-2990

#### Rockland

11 New Hempstead Rd. New City, NY 10956 (845) 638-5172

### St. Lawrence 48 Court St. Canton, NY 13617 (315) 379-2202

Saratoga

Schenectady

### Schoharie

County Office Bldg. 284 Main St. PO Box 99 Schoharie, NY 12157 (518) 295-8388

Schuyler County Office Bldg. 105 9th St., Unit 13 Watkins Glen, NY 1/1891

### (607) 535-8195

Seneca One DiPronio Dr Waterloo NY 13165 (315) 539-1760

### Steuben

3 E. Pulteney Sq Bath, NY 14810 (607) 664-2260

#### Suffolk PO Box 700

Yaphank Ave. Yaphank, NY 11980 (631) 852-4500

#### Sullivan Gov't. Ctr.

100 North St PO Box 5012 Monticello, NY 12701 (845) 807-0400

# Tioga

County Office Bldg. 56 Main St Owego, NY 13827 (607) 687-8261

Tompkins Court House Annex 128 E. Buffalo St. lthaca, NY 14850 (607) 274-5522

#### Ulster

284 Wall St Kingston, NY 12401 (845) 334-5470

#### Warren

Cnty. Municipal Ctr. 1340 St. Rte. 9 Lake George, NY

# (518) 761-6456

Washington 383 Broadway Fort Edward, NY 12828

### (518) 746-2180 Wayne

7376 State Rte. 31 PO Box 636 ons NY 14489 (315) 946-7400

#### Westchester 25 Quarropas St

White Plains, NY (914) 995-5700

#### Wvoming 4 Perry Ave Warsaw, NY 14569 (585) 786-8931

Ste. 1124 417 Liberty St. Penn Yan, NY 14527 (315) 536-5135

# New York State Voter Registration Form (See instructions on page 1)

It is a crime to procure a fals	e registr	ation or to furnish false information to the Board of Elections.	Please print in blue or black ink.
• Overtige of the second	1	Are you a citizen of the U.S.? Yes No  If you answer No, you cannot register to vote.	For board use only
Qualifications	2	Will you be 18 years of age or older on or before election day?  Yes No  If you answer No, you cannot register to vote unless you will be	e 18 by the end of the year.
Your name	3	Last name First name	Suffix Middle Initial
More information	6	Birth date M M / D D / Y Y Y Y  Telephone (optional)	5 Sex
The address where you live	7	Address (not P.O. Box)  Apt. Number Zip code  City/Town/Village  New York State County	
The address where you receive mail Skip if same as above	8	Address or P.O. Box P.O. Box Zip code City/Town/Village	
Voting history	9	Have you voted before?  Yes No	What year?
Voting information that has changed Skip if this has not changed or you have not voted before	11	Your name was Your address was Your previous state or New York State County was	
Identification You must make 1 selection For questions, please refer to Verifying your identity above.	12	<ul> <li>New York State DMV number</li> <li>Last four digits of your Social Security number x x</li> <li>I do not have a New York State driver's license or a Social Security number</li> </ul>	x - x x - curity number.
Political party You must make 1 selection To vote in a primary election, you must be enrolled in one of these listed parties — except the Independence Party, which permits non-enrolled voters to participate in certain primary elections.	13	<ul> <li>□ Republican party</li> <li>□ Conservative party</li> <li>□ Working Families party</li> <li>□ Independence party</li> <li>□ Green party</li> <li>□ Other</li> <li>□ I do not wish to enroll in a party</li> </ul>	the United States. In the county, city or village days before the election. It was a state of the county of the co
Optional questions	14	☐ I need to apply for an Absentee ballot (optional). ☐ I would like to be an Date ☐ Date	

# (Optional) Register to donate your organs and tissues

If you would like to be an organ and tissue donor, you may enroll in the NYS Department of Health (DOH)  $Donate\ Life^{TM}$  Registry online at **www.nyhealth.gov** or complete the form below and mail it in with your Voter Registration Form.



You will receive a confirmation letter from DOH, which will also provide you an opportunity to limit your donation.

Last name	
First name	
Middle Initial Suffix	
Address	
Apt. Number	Zip code
City	
Birth date M M / D D / Y Y	Sex M F
Eye color	Height Ft. In

# By signing below, you certify that you are:

- 18 years of age or older;
- consenting to donate all of your organs and tissues for transplantation, research, or both;
- authorizing the Board of Elections to provide your name and identifying information to DOH for enrollment in the Registry;
- and authorizing DOH to allow access to this information to federally regulated organ procurement organizations and NYS-licensed tissue and eye banks and hospitals upon your death.

Sign	Date



# Formulario de registro de votantes del estado de Nueva York

# Registrese para votar

Con este formulario, usted se registra para votar en las elecciones del estado de Nueva York. También puede usar este formulario para:

- cambiar el nombre o el domicilio en su información electoral
- · afiliarse a un partido político
- · cambiar su afiliación a un partido político

### Para registrarse, usted debe:

- ser ciudadano de los Estados Unidos.;
- haber cumplido 18 años a fines de este año:
- no estar en la cárcel ni en libertad condicional (parole) por haber cometido un delito grave;
- no tener derecho a votar en otro lugar.

### Envíe o entregue este formulario

Llene el formulario que sigue y envíelo al domicilio que corresponda a su condado que figura al dorso de este formulario, o lleve este formulario a la oficina de la Junta Electoral de su condado.

Envíe este formulario por correo o entréguelo como mínimo 25 días antes de la elección en la que quiera votar. Su condado le notificará que está registrado para votar.

### Si tiene alguna pregunta,

llame a la Junta Electoral de su condado que aparece al dorso de este formulario o al 1-800-FOR-VOTE (TDD/TTY Margue 711)

Encuentre las respuestas o las herramientas que necesita en nuestro sitio de internet www.elections.state.ny.us

### Verificación de su identidad

Intentaremos verificar su identidad antes del día de las elecciones, mediante el número de DMV (número de la licencia de conductor o número de ID de no conductor), o mediante los cuatro últimos dígitos del número de su seguro social, que usted escribirá más abaio.

Si no tiene número de DMV o de Seguro Social,

debe usar una identificación con foto válida, una factura actual de servicios públicos, un estado de cuenta bancario, su cheque de sueldo, un cheque del gobierno o algún otro documento del gobierno que muestre su nombre y domicilio. Puede incluir una copia de estos tipos de identificación con este formulario. Asegúrese de cerrar los lados del formulario con cinta adhesiva

Si no podemos verificar su identidad antes del día de las elecciones, se le pedirá una identificación cuando vote por primera vez.

Información en español: si le interesa obtener este formulario en español, llame al 1-800-367-8683

中文資料:若您有興趣索取中文資料表格, 請電: 1-800-367-8683

한국어: 한국어 양식을 원하시면 1-800-367-8683 으로 전화 하십시오.

# Domicilio de su Junta Electoral (elija de los que siguen):

**New York City** Executive Offices 32 Broadway, New York, NY

10004 (212) 487-5300

32 North Russell Road Albany, NY 12206 (518) 487-5060

**Allegany** 6 Schuyler St. Belmont, NY 14813 (585) 268-9294

#### **Broome** Government Plaza

60 Hawley St. PO Box 1766 Binghamton, NY

(607) 778-2172

#### Cattaraugus 302 Court St. Little Valley, NY 14755 (716) 938-2400

Cayuga 10 Court St. Auburn, NY 13021 (315) 253-1285

Chautauqua 7 North Erie St. Mayville, NY 14757 (716) 753-4580

### Chemung

378 South Main St PO Box 588 mira, NY 14902 (607) 737-5475

# Chenango

Norwich, NY 13815 (607) 337-1760

### Clinton

Cnty Government Ctr. 137 Margaret St. Ste. 104 (518) 565-4740

## Columbia

401 State St. Hudson NY 12534 (518) 828-3115

## Cortland

112 River St. Suite 1 Cortland, NY 13045 (607) 753-5032

#### **Delaware**

3 Gallant Ave Delhi, NY 13753 (607) 746-2315

#### **Dutchess**

47 Cannon St. Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

#### (845) 486-2473

Erie 134 W. Eagle St. Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 858-8891

#### Essex

7551 Court St PO Box 217 Elizabethtown, NY 12932

#### (518) 873-3474

Franklin 355 West Main St. Ste. 161 Malone, NY 12953

### (518) 481-1663 **Fulton**

2714 St. Hwy 29 Ste. 1 Johnstown NY 12095

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Herkimer 109 Mary St. Ste. 1306 Herkimer, NY 13350 (315) 867-1102

# 175 Arsenal St.

Watertown, NY 13601 (315) 785-3027

7660 Ñ. State St. (315) 376-5329

Livingston County Govt. Ctr 6 Court St. Room 104

#### Geneseo, NY 14454 (585) 243-7090

Madison County Office Bldg. N. Court St. PO Box 666

#### Wampsville, NY 13163 (315) 366-2231

39 Main St. W. Rochester, NY 14614 (585) 753-1550

## Montgomery

Old Courthouse 9 Park St. PO Box 1500 Fonda, NY 12068 (518) 853-8180

#### Nassau 240 Old Country Rd.

5th Fl. Mineola, NY 11501 (516) 571-2411

### Niagara

111 Main St Ste. 100 ock port, NY 14094 (716) 438-4040

#### Oneida

Union Station 321 Main St. 3rd FL Utica, NY 13501 (315) 798-5765

#### Onondaga 1000 Erie Blvd West cuse, NY 13204 (315) 435-3312

Ontario 74 Ontario St. Canandaigua, NY

#### (585) 396-4005

14424

Orange 25 Court Lane PO Box 30 Goshen, NY 10924

### (845) 291-2444 **Orleans**

14012 State Rte. 31 (585) 589-3274

### Oswego

185 E. Seneca St. Box 9 Oswego, NY 13126 (315) 349-8350

## Otsego

140 County Hwy. 33W Cooperstown, NY 13326

#### (607) 547-4247

Putnam 25 Old Route 6 Carmel, NY 10512 (845) 808-1300

### Rensselaer

**Ned Pattison** Government Ctr. 1600 Seventh Ave. Troy, NY 12180 (518) 270-2990

#### Rockland

11 New Hempstead Rd. New City, NY 10956 (845) 638-5172

### St. Lawrence 48 Court St. Canton, NY 13617 (315) 379-2202

Saratoga 50 W. High St. Ballston Spa, NY 12020

# (518) 885-2249

Schenectady 388 Broadway, St Schenectady, NY 12305 (518) 377-2469

### **Schoharie**

County Office Bldg. 284 Main St. PO Box 99 Schoharie, NY 12157 (518) 295-8388

## Schuyler

County Office Bldg. 105 9th St., Unit 13 Watkins Glen, NY 1/1891

## (607) 535-8195

Seneca One DiPronio Dr Waterloo NY 13165 (315) 539-1760

# Steuben

3 E. Pulteney Sq. Bath, NY 14810 (607) 664-2260

# PO Box 700 Yaphank Ave.

Yaphank, NY 11980 (631) 852-4500

#### Sullivan Gov't, Ctr. 100 North St

PO Box 5012 Monticello, NY 12701 (845) 807-0400

## Tioga

County Office Bldg. 56 Main St. Owego, NY 13827 (607) 687-8261

Tompkins Court House Annex 128 E. Buffalo St. lthaca, NY 14850 (607) 274-5522

### Ulster

284 Wall St Kingston, NY 12401 (845) 334-5470

#### Warren

Cnty. Municipal Ctr. 1340 St. Rte. 9 Lake George, NY (518) 761-6456

Washington 383 Broadway Fort Edward, NY 12828

# (518) 746-2180

Wayne 7376 State Rte. 31 PO Box 636 ons NY 14489 (315) 946-7400

#### Westchester 25 Quarropas St

White Plains, NY 10601 (914) 995-5700

## Wvoming 4 Perry Ave. Warsaw, NY 14569

(585) 786-8931

(315) 536-5135

Ste. 1124 417 Liberty St. Penn Yan, NY 14527

#### Formulario de registro de votantes del estado de Nueva York (Vea las instrucciones en la página 1) Es delito procurar un registro falso o brindar información falsa a la Junta Electoral. Llene en letra de molde con tinta azul o negra. ¿Es usted ciudadano de los Estados Unidos? 1 Si responde No, no puede registrarse para votar. Calificaciones ¿Tendrá usted 18 años o más el día de las ■Sí ■No elecciones o antes de esa fecha? 2 Si responde No, no puede registrarse para votar a menos que vaya a tener 18 años a fin de año. Sufijo **Apellido** 3 Su nombre Inicial del **Nombre** segundo nombre Fecha de 4 5 Sexo MM F nacimiento Más información 6 Teléfono (optativo) Domicilio (que no sea un P.O. Box) Código Apt. N° postal **Domicilio** 7 donde vive Ciudad/Pueblo/Aldea Condado del estado de Nueva York Domicilio o P.O. Box Domicilio donde recibe Código P.O. Box el correo 8 postal No lo llene si es igual al anterior Ciudad/Pueblo/Aldea ¿Ha votado alguna vez? Sí No ¿En qué año? Antecedentes electorales 10 Información electoral Su nombre era que ha cambiado Su domicilio era 11 No llene esta sección si no ha

## cambiado la información o no ha Su anterior estado o condado dentro del estado de Nueva York era votado anteriormente Identificación ☐ Número de DMV del estado de Nueva York Debe seleccionar una casilla 12 ☐ Últimos cuatro dígitos de su número de Seguro Social xxx-xx-Si tiene preguntas, consulte Verificación de su identidad más ☐ No tengo licencia de conductor del estado de Nueva York ni número de Seguro Social. Partido Demócrata Partido político Declaración jurada: Juro o declaro que Usted debe seleccionar uno Partido Republicano · Soy ciudadano de los Estados Unidos • Habré residido en el condado, ciudad o aldea por Partido Conservador Para votar en elecciones primarias. un mínimo de 30 días antes de las elecciones debe estar afiliado en uno de • Reúno todos los requisitos para inscribirme Partido de las Familias Trabajadoras estos partidos que se enumeran: 13 como votante en el Estado de Nueva York excepto por el Partido de la Partido de la Independencia La firma o marca a continuación es de mi puño y letra. Independencia. • La información que he ofrecido es verdadera. Entiendo que permite que votantes no Partido Verde 15 que de no serlo, se me puede condenar y multar por hasta afiliados participen en ciertas \$5,000 y/o encarcelar por un máximo de cuatro años. elecciones primarias. No quiero afiliarme a ningún partido **Firma** Necesito una boleta de votación por **Preguntas optativas** correo (optativo) 14 **Fecha** Quisiera trabajar en una mesa electoral el día de las elecciones (optativo)

# (optativo) Regístrese para donar órganos y tejidos

Si quiere donar órganos y tejidos, puede inscribirse en el Registro *Donate Life*<sup>TM</sup> del Departamento de Salud (DOH, por sus siglas en inglés) del Estado de Nueva York. Regístrese en internet en **www.nyhealth.gov** o indique su nombre y domicilio a continuación.

Recibirá una carta de confirmación del DOH que también le ofrecerá la posibilidad de limitar su donación.



Código postal
Sexo M F
Estatura Pies Pies Pulg.

## Mediante su firma a continuación, usted certifica que:

- tiene 18 años o más;
- presta su consentimiento para donar todos sus órganos y tejidos para trasplantes, investigación o ambos;
- autoriza a la Junta Electoral a entregar su nombre e información identificatoria al DOH para inscribirse en el Registro;
- y autoriza al DOH a permitir el acceso a esta información a organizaciones de obtención de órganos reguladas por el gobierno federal, a bancos de tejidos y ojos con licencia del Estado de Nueva York y a hospitales en caso de que usted fallezca.

Firma	Fecha
York y a hospitales en caso de que	usted fallezca

# **LOCATE**



# Figure Out Where (and When) to Vote

## You are eligible to vote by Absentee Ballot if:

- You will be out of the city or county where you live on Election Day;
- You are unable to go to the polls because you are ill, physically disabled or in the hospital;
- You are an inmate or patient in a Veterans' Administration hospital;
- You are detained in jail awaiting grand jury action or trial; or
- You are incarcerated after a conviction for a non-felony offense. N.Y. Elec. Law § 8-400

### **How to Vote by Absentee Ballot:**

- Follow normal registration procedures and abide by standard registration deadlines.
- Apply for an absentee ballot with your local board of elections or online (http://www.elections.ny.gov/Voting-Absentee.html) (In New York City, you can register for an absentee ballot at http://vote.nyc.ny.us/absentee. html). To vote in the presidential election by absentee ballot, your application must be postmarked by Oct. 30 or hand delivered by Nov. 5.
- Complete your absentee ballot and return it to your local board of elections. Absentee ballots must be post-marked by Nov. 5 or hand delivered by Nov. 13.

## **Locate Your Polling Place:**

Before Election Day, locate your polling place. You may receive a helpful information card in the mail listing your polling place, but you are entitled to vote whether you receive the card or not. You can find your polling place at http://vote411.org/pollfinder.php. New York City voters can locate their polling place at http://vote.nyc.ny.us/pollingplaces.html, by calling 866-VOTE-NYC, or emailing vote@boe.nyc.ny.us your complete home address. Polling locations in New York are open from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

# **New York State Absentee Ballot Application**

Please print clearly. See detailed instructions.

This application must either be personally delivered to your county board of elections not later than the day before the election, or postmarked by a governmental postal service not later than 7th day before election day. The ballot itself must either be personally delivered to the board of elections no later than the close of polls on election day, or postmarked by a governmental postal service not later than the day before the election and received no later than the 7th day after the election.

BOARD USE ONLY:	
Town/City/Ward/Dist:	
Registration No:	
Party:	
☐ voted in office	

receiv	ed no later than the 7th day after the election.					
1.	I am requesting, in good faith, an absentee ballot due to (check one reason):         □ absence from county or New York City on election day       □ patient or inmate in a Veterans' Administration         □ temporary illness or physical disability       Hospital         □ permanent illness or physical disability       □ detention in jail/prison, awaiting trial, awaiting         □ duties related to primary care of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled       action by a grand jury, or in prison for a conviction of a crime or offense which was not a felony					
2.	absentee ballot(s) requested for the following election(s):  ☐ Primary Election only ☐ Special Election only  ☐ Any election held between these dates: absence begins:/ absence ends://					
3.	last name or surname first name first name first name					
4.	date of birth/ county where you live/ phone number (optional)					
5.	address where you live (residence) street apt city state zip code  NY					
6.	Delivery of Primary Election Ballot (check one)  I authorize (give name):  Mail ballot to me at: (mailing address)  street no. street name  Deliver to me in person at the board of elections to pick up my ballot at the board of elections.					
7.	Delivery of General (or Special) Election Ballot (check one)  I authorize (give name):					
	street no. street name apt. city state zip code					
8.	Applicant Must Sign Below  I certify that I am a qualified and a registered (and for primary, enrolled) voter; and that the information in this application is true and correct and that this application will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit and, if it contains a material false statement, shall subject me to the same penalties as if I had been duly sworn.  Sign Here: X Date/					
If applicant is unable to sign because of illness, physical disability or inability to read, the following statement must be executed: By my mark, duly witnessed hereunder, I hereby state that I am unable to sign my application for an absentee ballot without assistance because I am unable to write by reason of my illness or physical disability or because I am unable to read. I have made, or have the assistance in making, my mark in lieu of my signature. (No power of attorney or preprinted name stamps allowed. See detailed instructions.)						
Date _	/ Name of Voter: Mark:					
I, the ι ence a	undersigned, hereby certify that the above named voter affixed his or her mark to this application in my pres- ind I know him or her to be the person who affixed his or her mark to said application and understand that					

(signature of witness to mark)

this statement will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit and if it contains a material false

statement, shall subject me to the same penalties as if I had been duly sworn.

### **Instructions:**

## Who may apply for an absentee ballot?

Each person must apply for themselves. It is a felony to make a false statement in an application for an absentee ballot, to attempt to cast an illegal ballot, or to help anyone to cast an illegal ballot.

### Information for military and overseas voters:

If you are applying for an absentee ballot because you or your family are in the military or because you currently reside overseas, do not use this application. You are entitled to special provisions if you apply using the Federal Postcard Application. For more information about military/overseas voting, contact your local board of elections or refer to the Military and Federal Voting sections at: <a href="http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingMilitaryFed.html">http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingMilitaryFed.html</a>

## Where and when to return your application:

Applications must be mailed seven days before the election, or hand-delivered to your county board of elections by the day before the election. If the address of your county board of elections is not provided on this form, contact information for your local election office can be found on the New York State Board of Elections' website, under "County Boards of Election" directory" at: <a href="http://www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBoards.html">http://www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBoards.html</a>

## Options available to you if you have an illness or disability:

If you check the box indicating your illness or disability is permanent, once your application is approved you will automatically receive a ballot for each election in which you are eligible to vote, without having to apply again. You may sign the absentee ballot application yourself, or you may make your mark and have your mark witnessed in the spaces provided on the bottom of the application. Please note that a power of attorney or printed name stamp <u>is not allowed</u> for any voting purpose.

### When your ballot will be sent:

Your absentee ballot materials will be sent to you at least 32 days before federal, state, county, city or town elections in which you are eligible to vote. If you applied after this date, your ballot will be sent immediately after your completed and signed application is received and processed by your local board of elections. If you provide dates in section 2, identifying the time frame within which you will be absent from your county or from the City of New York, you will be sent a ballot for any primary, general, special election or presidential primary election which might occur during the time frame you have specified. If you prefer, you may designate someone to pick up your ballot for you, by completing the required information in section 6 and/or section 7, as appropriate. Contact your local county board of elections if you have not received your ballot.

# **EDUCATE**



# **Learn About Elections**

Voters have many opportunities to learn about candidates and their platforms before Election Day. Candidates themselves frequently hold public events and local media often run extensive coverage of candidates. Many organizations host election forums and some evaluate candidates based on their voting records.

# **Get Involved**

There are many constitutionally-protected ways to advocate for candidates and issues you believe in before an election, including:

- Posting political signs can be an effective way to make sure your voice is heard on important questions facing your community, and the First Amendment protects your right to do so. Local governments may place certain limits on political signs, but they generally cannot prevent community members from posting signs at all. To learn more about the right to post political signs, read the "Non-Commercial Signs" section of New York State's report on municipal control of political lawn signs (http://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/publications/Municipal\_Control\_of\_Signs.pdf). If you believe that your municipality's local ordinance is unconstitutional, please contact your local NYCLU chapter (http://www.nyclu.org/regions).
- Attending or organizing a rally to ensure that candidates know what is important to your community. Before taking over the town square (or, in New York City, Times Square), check out restrictions on rallying and protesting, the process for obtaining permits, and the rights of participants and organizers. In New York City, read the NYCLU's Guide to Demonstrating in New York City (http://www.nyclu.org/content/know-your-rights-demonstrating-new-york-city).

# **Know Your Rights**

All U.S. citizens who are at least 18 years old on Election Day and have resided in the city or county for at least 30 days are eligible to vote, so long as they have not been declared mentally incompetent or are not currently incarcerated or on parole for a felony conviction.

If this describes you, you are entitled to vote! Make sure you know your rights before Election Day.

Students can register to vote either at school or home, whatever address they consider their

primary legal residence. For more information, visit the Brennan Center's Student Voting Guide for New York (http://www.brennancenter.org/pages/student\_voting\_guide\_new\_york).

**People who are homeless can register to vote** by identifying a place of residence (a street corner, a park, a shelter or any other place where you usually stay) and a mailing address (a local advocacy organization, shelter, outreach center or anyone willing to accept mail for you). For more information, visit the League of Women Voters New York State Voting Guide for Homeless Individuals (http://lwvny.org/vote/RTVHomelessIndividuals.pdf).

**People with mental or physical impairments can vote** at their local polling place with the assistance of a person of their choice. Polling places in New York are required to be accessible unless they apply for, and are granted, an exemption. If a polling place is not accessible, contact the local board of elections and ask for an accommodation or an absentee ballot application.

New York law allows voters to receive assistance from a person of their choice (other than an employer, an agent of an employer, or an officer or agent of a labor union) in the voting booth so long as the voter swears an oath that they require assistance. N.Y. Elec. Law § 8-306. If voting in person is not feasible, voters with mental or physical impairments have the right to vote by absentee ballot, and to automatically receive an absentee ballot for subsequent elections.

For more information, visit the Center for Independence of the Disabled-New York voting page, (http://www.cidny.org/civil-rights-and-voter-access.php), the League of Women Voters New York State Voting Guide for Individuals with Disabilities (http://lwvny.org/vote/RTVDisabilities. pdf), and the League of Women Voters New York State Voting Guide for Individuals with Mental Health Disabilities (http://lwvny.org/vote/RTVMentalHealthDisabilities.pdf). To learn about disability rights trainings for local boards of elections or poll workers, please let us know (hyperlink vote@nyclu.org).

People with criminal convictions can vote. Individuals who were convicted of a misdemeanor or a violation are entitled to vote, even if they are still incarcerated (incarcerated individuals must vote by absentee ballot). People who have felony convictions but are not currently incarcerated or on parole are also entitled to vote, even if they are on probation. For more information, visit NYCLU's page on voting after a conviction (http://www.nyclu.org/issues/voting-rights/felon-voting-rights), the League of Women Voter's New York State Voting Guide for Individuals with Criminal Convictions or Those Detained in Jail or Prison (http://lwvny.org/vote/RTVCriminal-Convictions.pdf), or the Brennan Center's Information Page on Voting Rights Restoration in New York (http://www.brennancenter.org/content/pages/voting\_rights\_restoration\_efforts\_in\_new\_york).

People whose first language is not English can vote in their native language in certain counties. Some New York counties require polling sites to provide Spanish, Chinese, Korean or Bengali ballots. Contact your local board of elections prior to Election Day to learn what is avail-

able in your area. If language assistance is not required in your area, you have the right to bring an interpreter with you to the polls. The interpreter can be any person who is not an employer, an agent of an employer, or an officer or agent of a labor union.

# **VOLUNTEER**



# **Before Election Day:**

**Help Others Register To Vote** by volunteering with a local organization that organized election registration drives. In New York City, Common Cause is coordinating city-wide efforts (http://www.commoncause.org/site/apps/ka/ct/contactus.asp?c=dkLNK1MQIwG&b=8198683). To find out about other efforts in your area, please contact your local NYCLU chapter (http://www.nyclu.org/regions).

# On Election Day:

Volunteer as a Poll Worker through your local board of elections. For more information about contacting your local board, visit www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBoards.html.

**Volunteer as an Election-Protection Poll Monitor** through one of the many organizations that places volunteers outside of polling places to document voter intimidation or illegal conduct. Some organizations may require legal experience. Organizations currently seeking election-day volunteers include the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (http://aaldef.org/programs/voting-rights/), Common Cause NY (http://www.commoncause.org/site/apps/ka/ct/contactus.asp?c=dkLNK1MQIwG&b=8204971&en=klKQIaMXKcLTJbOLIcJULgMXJcLSK aMVIpJ4KlN6IzF), and the 866-Our-Vote Election Protection Project of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (http://signup.lawyerscommittee.org/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup\_page\_KEY=2983). Contact your local NYCLU chapter (http://www.nyclu.org/regions) to learn more about efforts in your area.

If your organization is currently seeking volunteers for registration drives or election-day monitoring, please let us know by emailing vote@nyclu.org.

# **VOTE**



# In the fall of 2012, New Yorkers can vote on Sept. 13 in the state primary, and on Nov. 6 in the general election!

The polls are open from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. both days.

# **Know Your Rights**

Voters have rights in New York and around the country. Before going to the polling place, visit the "Educate" (hyperlink to Educate) section of the website to review your rights if you are a student, are homeless, have a criminal record, have concerns over language access or face mental or physical impairments.

## New York voters also have a right to:

- Take up to two hours of paid time off in order to vote if their work schedule otherwise prevents them from voting in person while the polls are open. Voters must tell their employers that they need time off to vote at least two but no more than ten days before the election. N.Y. Elec. Law § 3-110.
- Bring written or printed materials into voting booths, but not to display campaign clothing, stickers, or buttons at the polling place. N.Y. Elec. Law § 17-130(4).
- Vote free from harassment or intimidation.
- Take "Challenge Oaths" if someone challenges your right to vote. You have the right to cast a regular ballot if you can complete the oaths required of you. N.Y. Elec. Law § 8-504.
- Receive instructions from a poll worker on how to use voting equipment before you close the voting booth. N.Y. Elec. Law § 8-306.
- Vote without an ID unless you are a first-time voter voting on a machine.
- Vote by affidavit or provisional ballot (a paper ballot in an envelope) if you have any problems with your registration.

# **Reporting Violations of Voting Rights**

Voters who believe that their rights have been violated have local, statewide and national resources.

- The person in charge of a polling place handles most routine complaints.
- Poll watchers at the polling location from nonprofit organizations or campaigns may be able to provide assistance. Remember, you do not need to disclose who you voted for or intend to vote for to receive assistance.
- The NYCLU's partner the national Voter Protection Hotline (http://www.866ourvote.org) provides assistance to voters before and after the election and on Election Day call 866-OUR-VOTE for help.

# Other Voting Rights and Election Day Resources

- The NYCLU's Voting Rights Page (http://www.nyclu.org/vote) provides resources to voters Prior to Election Day.
- Local NYCLU chapters (http://ww.nyclu.org/regions) provide assistance to individual voters who encounter problems.

- The ACLU (http://www.aclu.org/letmevote) maintains national resources on voting.
- Local board of elections (http://www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBoards.html) (in New York City, the NYC Board of Elections (http://vote.nyc.ny.us) can be reached at 866-VOTE-NYC) and the New York State Board of Elections (http://www.elections.ny.gov) (800-FOR-VOTE) provide assistance to voters.
- The Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Voting Rights Section (http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot) (800-253-3931) tracks voting problems around the country.