

### **Preparing for Election Day:**

- **Absentee Ballot Applications:** If you will be out of town on Election Day, or are unable to go to your polling place because of illness or disability, you can request an application for an absentee ballot from your county Board of Elections or download one from the Board of Elections website, [www.vote.nyc.ny.us](http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us). Complete the application and deliver it or mail it to your county Board of Elections, postmarked no later than October 30, 2007. Once the application is received, the Board will mail the ballot out to you. You may also apply in person for an absentee ballot as late as November 5th, the day before the Election.
- **Absentee Voting:** Your ballot must be postmarked no later than November 5th or hand-delivered to the Board of Elections on Election Day, Nov. 6th
- **Military Voting:** Your county board of elections must receive the absentee ballot application by October 26. October 31 is the last day for the county board of elections to receive your application if you are registered.
- **If you are not sure if you are registered,** you can call the Board of Elections at 212-VOTE-NYC (212-868-3692) to check your registration.
- **If you are not sure of your polling place,** you can call the League of Women Voters at 212-725-3541, or link to the poll site locator on our web site, [www.lwvnyc.org](http://www.lwvnyc.org).

### **Election Day at your polling place:**

- A sample ballot should be posted. If you do not know how to use the voting machine, ask one of the election inspectors for assistance.
- If your name does not appear in the polling book and you have checked to make sure you are at the right election district and believe you are eligible to vote in that district, you may vote on a paper ballot called an affidavit ballot. After validation by the Board of Elections, your paper ballot will be counted.
- If you are newly registered and did not provide ID when you registered, you may be asked for it the first time you vote. Federal law now requires persons who register by mail for the first time to provide identification. Identification means a current NYS driver's license or the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you do not have either of these you may provide a copy of a valid photo ID, a current utility bill or some government documentation that shows your name and address.

### **Registration for 2008 Elections:**

- New Voters, including those turning 18 before February 5, 2008, who want to vote in the February 5, 2008 Presidential Primary Election have until January 11<sup>th</sup> to register and enroll in a party holding a presidential primary.
- Under New York State Election Law, the only voters who can vote in primary elections are those who are enrolled in the political party holding the primary. A voter cannot change enrollment and vote in a new party in the same year; currently registered voters who were not enrolled in one of the parties holding primaries in 2008 had to have changed their enrollment by October 12, 2007.

## **New York City Board of Elections Offices**

### **Bronx:**

1780 Grand Concourse  
Bronx NY 10457  
718-299-9017

### **Brooklyn:**

345 Adams Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
718-797-8800

### **Manhattan:**

200 Varick Street  
New York, NY 10014  
212-886-2100

### **Queens:**

126-06 Queens Boulevard  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415  
718-730-6730

### **Staten Island:**

1 Edgewater Plaza  
Staten Island, NY 10305  
718-876-0079

Citywide Board of Elections Information:

212-VOTE-NYC (212-868-3692)  
[www.vote.nyc.ny.us](http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us)

## **FACTS FOR NEW YORK CITY VOTERS: *What's on the 2007 Ballot***

**GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 6, 2007**  
Polls Open 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.



***League of Women Voters of the City of New York***  
***45 East 33<sup>rd</sup> Street***  
***New York, NY 10016***

***The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, volunteer organization founded in 1919 to promote informed and active citizen participation in government.***

If you are unsure about the location of your polling place call the League of Women Voters – 212-725-3541 Monday to Friday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. or use the poll locator on our website:  
[www.lwvnyc.org](http://www.lwvnyc.org).

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, voters will have an opportunity, depending on where they live, to elect District Attorneys in the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island; Supreme Court Justices and Civil Court Judges in each borough and Surrogates and two members of the City Council in Brooklyn and Staten Island. There is also a ballot question on an amendment to the New York State Constitution involving the transfer of land in Hamilton County, which cannot be done without a state constitutional amendment. (See explanations below)

**District Attorney** – An office established under New York State law to protect the public by investigating and prosecuting crime in each county. The District Attorney is elected county-wide for a term of 4 years. This year voters in the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island elect District Attorneys.

**Supreme Court Justice(s)** – Elected in each of New York State's 12 judicial districts to serve 14 year terms, or until they reach 70. Supreme Court Justices in New York City generally hear cases outside the authority of the lower courts, such as civil matters beyond \$25,000, divorce proceedings and criminal prosecutions of felonies. In order to take office as a Supreme Court Justice, the person must have been admitted to the New York State Bar and be a practicing attorney for 10 years.

**Civil Court Judge(s)** – Elected county-wide and in municipal court districts for 10 year terms. Civil Court Judges decide lawsuits involving claims of up to \$25,000. The Civil Court includes a Small Claims Court for claims not exceeding \$5,000, and a Housing Court for landlord-tenant and housing violation proceedings. A New York City Civil Court Judge must be a resident of New York City and admitted to the bar and practicing law for 10 years.

**Surrogate Judges in Brooklyn and Staten Island** – Surrogate's Court handles cases involving the affairs of the deceased, including the validity of wills and the administration of estates. The court also shares authority with the Family Court in adoption cases. Surrogate Judges in New York City serve 14 year terms or until December 31st of the year they reach 70.

**City Council Members** – 40<sup>th</sup> Council District in Brooklyn and in the 51<sup>st</sup> Council District in Staten Island. Special elections were held earlier this year to fill vacancies in these Council Districts. The City Charter requires new elections at the next regularly scheduled General Election. Those elected on November 6<sup>th</sup> will serve until December 31, 2009. All 51 seats in the City Council will be up for election in November 2009.

### **Statewide Ballot Question** PROPOSAL NUMBER 1, AN AMENDMENT

*Amendment to Article 14, section 1 of the Constitution, in relation to the use of forest preserve lands for wells for a municipal water supply in the hamlet of Raquette Lake, Hamilton county.*

*The proposed amendment would allow the State to convey one acre of forest preserve land to the town of Long Lake for public use as the site for drinking water wells and necessary related equipment for the municipal water supply for the hamlet of Raquette Lake. In exchange, the State would receive at least twelve acres of land that is at least equal in value to the land conveyed to Long Lake. The land the State receives would be incorporated into the forest preserve. The Raquette Lake reservoir would be abandoned as a source of drinking water supply. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?"*

*If approved by the voters, this amendment will make constitutional an action that has, in fact, already taken place. In 2004 the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) gave extraordinary permission to the Town of Long Lake to drill wells on Adirondack Forest Preserve lands, an action that requires a constitutional amendment.*

**Arguments for:** The hamlet of Raquette Lake in the town of Long Lake had been using unfiltered water from the local reservoir, and was under orders from the State Department of Health to begin filtering the water or an alternative ground water supply. The town determined that a filtration plant was an option it could not afford.

The water supply issue became a serious health and safety problem. The levels of potential carcinogens were elevated. Problems with water quality escalated to warnings from the Department of Health to boil their drinking water. Because the hamlet is surrounded by forest preserve lands, it could not, without a constitutional amendment, drill wells for ground water on that land. The State Constitution generally forbids any forest preserve land from being leased, sold, exchanged, or taken. Hence, DEC granted extraordinary permission for the drilling, in anticipation of passage of necessary legislation to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot. In order to do so, the legislation had to be passed by both houses of the State Legislature by two separately elected legislatures. It has done so, and will be on the ballot in November 2007

Environmental and civic organizations are supportive of this remedy to what was a serious and persistent public health issue. Since the amendment is specific to this situation, it does not give broader constitutional permission to such other solutions; each would require another constitutional amendment.

**Arguments against:** The League of Women Voters could not identify any organizations or opinions in opposition to this very specific amendment.

## **Elections by Borough**

### **Manhattan (New York County)**

**Justice of the Supreme Court** – 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District, Vote for 4  
**Judge of the Civil Court** – county-wide, vote for 3  
**Judge of the Civil Court** – 1<sup>st</sup> Municipal Court District\*\*  
**Judge of the Civil Court** – 9<sup>th</sup> Municipal Court District\*\*  
**Judge of the Civil Court** – 10<sup>th</sup> Municipal Court District\*\*  
**Proposal Number 1, An Amendment**

### **Bronx County**

**Justice of the Supreme Court** – 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
**District Attorney**  
**Judge of the Civil Court** – 1<sup>st</sup> Municipal Court District\*\*  
**Proposal Number 1, An Amendment**

### **Brooklyn (Kings County)**

**Justice of the Supreme Court** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District, Vote for 4  
**Surrogate Judge**  
**Judge of the Civil Court** – County-wide, Vote for 4  
**Member of the City Council** – 40<sup>th</sup> Council District\*\*  
**Judge of the Civil Court** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Municipal Court District\*\*  
**Judge of the Civil Court** – 5<sup>th</sup> Municipal Court District\*\*  
**Judge of the Civil Court** – 6<sup>th</sup> Municipal Court District\*\*  
**Proposal Number 1, An Amendment**

### **Queens County**

**Justice of the Supreme Court** – 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Vote for 3  
**District Attorney**  
**Judge of the Civil Court** – County-wide  
**Judge of the Civil Court** – 4<sup>th</sup> Municipal Court District\*\*  
**Judge of the Civil Court** – 6<sup>th</sup> Municipal Court District\*\*  
**Proposal Number 1, An Amendment**

### **Staten Island (Richmond County)**

**Justice of the Supreme Court** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District, Vote for 4  
**Surrogate Judge**  
**District Attorney**  
**Member of the City Council** – 51<sup>st</sup> Council District\*\*  
**Proposal Number 1, An Amendment**

*\*\*If you need information on your Polling Site, Municipal Court District or Council District, Call the League of Women Voters on 212-725-3541.*