

# Tips for Voting for College Students

Provided by the

## League of Women Voters of NYC

College students face some difficulties when figuring out how and where to register and vote. These tips help make the voting process easier. Everyone deserves to have their vote count; especially college students whose futures depend on outcomes of the elections.

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

### Why Should You Vote?

Voting is a significant privilege of being a citizen in America. It is one way to make your voice and your opinion count towards critical decisions affecting your every day life. Voting involves actively doing something in order to create the change that you want to see.

Going out to the polls has a greater impact than just being politically involved on social media. Changes happen at the polls, not just online. Voting is the best method to have your voice be heard, and to create change for your life, and for the country.

### Voting Eligibility

1. Be a United States citizen.
2. Be 18 years by the date of the general, primary or other election in which you want to vote).
3. Live at your present address at least 30 days before an election.
4. Not be in jail or on parole for a felony conviction.
5. Not claim the right to vote elsewhere.
6. Have registered to vote.

### How Do I Register to Vote?

1. Fill out and submit a Voter Registration form.
2. You may register in person at your local Board of Elections or at any state agency participating in the National Voter Registration Act, on any business day throughout the year. You may also register by mail.
3. Forms are available from your county Board of Elections, town and city halls, post offices, political parties, state offices, and the League of Women Voters.
4. Contact one of these offices to have a voter registration form sent to you.
5. You may also download a voter registration form in New York State from <http://www.elections.state.ny.us/>. Complete, sign, and submit the form, either in person or mail to the Board of Elections location on the application.

*The League of Women Voters of NYC Voices: Political Advocacy Tool app is designed to make political advocacy easy, and familiarize voters with local, state, and federal political representatives. The app provides a series of monthly alerts aimed at introducing different political causes along with League of Women Voters positions on current issues. By making elected officials easy to reach, the app's goal is to ensure that all voices are heard during the policy-making process. To download the app, go to [www.tryvoices.com](http://www.tryvoices.com)*

## Decide Where to Vote

### Why to Register to Vote at College Community

- You live in your college town from nine to 12 months of the year, for at least four years.
- The U.S. Census Bureau considers college students to be residents of their college community.
- You contribute to the college community in many valuable ways such as volunteering in civic organizations and engagements, helping to create jobs in the community, bolstering the local economy, and paying sales and gasoline taxes.



### Why to Register to Vote at Home Address

- If you have a special interest in the local issues at your home address, a voice in the policy decisions about these issues might be important for you.
- The people and issues you vote for will have an impact that is more lasting on you if you intend to return to home location.
- You may still be subject to taxes and student loan/scholarship regulations at your home address.

## How to Get an Absentee Ballot?

- You need an absentee ballot if you are a registered voter but will be away from your county on Election Day.
- You can request an absentee ballot from your county Board of Elections or download one from the New York State Board of Elections website (<http://www.elections.state.ny.us/>).
- Upon completion, your application must be mailed or delivered to your county Board of Elections.
- Once they have received your application, a ballot will be given or mailed to you.
- To vote by absentee ballot in New York State, your ballot must be post-marked on or before Election Day and must be received by the Board of Elections no later than seven days after Election Day.



College Students who are living on campus, but are registered to vote at their home address, should be aware of absentee ballot regulations and procedures.

### Checking Your Voter Registration Status:

Before the general election, you should receive in the mail a card that informs you of your polling place. If you do not receive such a card, you may visit <https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/> to find out if you are registered.



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