

## Electronic Voter Guide: Vote 411

VOTE411.org is a "one-stop-shop" for election-related information, providing nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on the following aspects of the election process:

- An electronic voters guide with information provided by candidates about their background and positions on issues
- Absentee ballot information
- Ballot proposition information (where applicable)
- Election dates
- ID requirements
- Military and Overseas Voting
- Polling place locations
- Registration deadlines
- Voter qualifications
- Voter registration forms
- Voting machines

It can be accessed online through the League's website at [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) or directly at [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) in an easy-to-use electronic format. Citizens can compare candidate information and print a customized sample ballot prior to election day.

## I need to use the ballot marking device. How do I do that?

Individuals with disabilities who cannot mark a paper ballot (and any other voter who wishes to) can use the ballot marking device (BMD) to create a marked paper ballot for casting their votes. This equipment assists the disabled voter through special interfaces, features and accessories. Tell the poll worker that you would like to use the BMD and what accessibility options you will need; they are trained to help you. If you are marking your ballot with the BMD you will follow a process similar to those marking their ballot in the privacy booth: you will check in and be handed either a pre-printed or blank paper ballot with a privacy sleeve, will place it into the BMD, and will mark it using the BMD accessible interfaces. The machine will display the ballot choices, and, when you are satisfied, the BMD will print the completed ballot out into its privacy sleeve. Then you will scan the ballot as described above. On some BMD machine models, the marked ballot is automatically scanned and counted from the BMD or is automatically stored after printing without transporting it. Poll workers can help you with scanning and submitting the ballot.

### Primary Election (See chart for details)

Polls are open on Primary Day from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the following localities: New York City and the counties of Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Putnam and Erie. In all other counties in New York State, polls are open on Primary Day from 12 noon to 9 p.m.

### General Election Tuesday, November 8, 2016

Polls are open 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Countdown to Election Day 2016		PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY TUESDAY, APRIL 19th	CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY TUESDAY, JUNE 28th	STATE AND LOCAL PRIMARY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th	GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8th
Register in person by	Friday, March 25	Friday, June 3	Friday, August 19	Friday, October 14	
Register by mail:	Postmarked by Friday, March 25 and received by March 30	Postmarked by Friday, June 3 and received by June 8	Postmarked by Friday, August 19 and received by August 24	Postmarked by Friday, October 14 and received by October 19	
Apply for absentee ballot in person by	Monday, April 18	Monday, June 27	Monday, September 12	Monday, November 7	
Apply for absentee ballot by mail:	Postmarked by Tuesday, April 12	Postmarked by Tuesday, June 21	Postmarked by Tuesday, September 6	Postmarked by Tuesday, November 1	
Deliver ballot in person by	Tuesday, April 19	Tuesday, June 28	Tuesday, September 13	Tuesday, November 8	
Deliver ballot by mail:	Postmarked by Monday, April 18 and received by Tuesday, April 26	Postmarked by Monday, June 27 and received by Tuesday, July 5	Postmarked by Monday, Sept. 12 and received by Tuesday, Sept. 17	Postmarked by Monday, Nov. 7 and received by Saturday, Nov 12	



## Please Join Us

Membership is open to women and men. There are over 50 local Leagues across NY state. Joining at any level automatically confers membership at every level: local, state and national. Membership enables you to support the League and receive publications from all three levels, and provides the opportunity to be involved in local, state and national issues.

Visit [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) and click on **JOIN LWVNY**. To find a local League in your area, click on **FIND A LOCAL LEAGUE**.



### Did you know you are able to register as an organ and tissue donor when you register to vote?

In 2009, New York became the first state to include an organ and tissue donor enrollment section on voter registration forms. Since inception, over 160,000 individuals have joined the New York State Donate Life Organ and Tissue Donor Registry this way.

Transplantation is a remarkable success story. One organ and tissue donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation, and improve fifty or more lives through tissue donation by restoring eyesight, helping fight infections in burn patients and preventing the loss of mobility and disability. However, the need for donated organs and tissues continues to grow. There are currently more than 123,000 people in the U.S. waiting for organ transplants, and about 10,000 of those people are waiting right here in New York State. Sadly, each year, approximately 6,000 people in the U.S. die waiting for an organ transplant that would have given them a second chance at life with their families.

By enrolling in the New York State Donate Life Organ and Tissue Donor Registry, you are giving legal consent to the donation of your organs and tissues in the event of your death. You are authorizing the State Department of Health to share this information at or near the time of your death with federally regulated organ procurement organizations, New York State licensed eye and tissue banks and entities formally approved by the Commissioner.

To learn more about organ, eye and tissue donation, visit [www.donatelifenewyork.com](http://www.donatelifenewyork.com)

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*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*



# ★ ★ 2016 ★ ★ VOTERS GUIDE Part I ~ Facts For Voters



League of Women Voters® of New York State  
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# Election Days 2016

**Presidential Primary - April 19th**

**Congressional Primary - June 28th**

**State and Local Primary - September 13th**

**General Election – November 8th**

Voting is an important part of being a United States citizen. Elected officials make important decisions that directly affect your life. Voting is your chance to choose the decision makers and tell them what you want. This Voters Guide will answer many of your questions about registering and voting. You may also consult the following:

## **League of Women Voters of New York State**

[www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) ~ 1-866-598-6971

## **New York State Board of Elections**

[www.elections.ny.gov](http://www.elections.ny.gov) ~ 1-800-367-8683

*Voter Registration Search/Polling Place Lookup:*

<https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx>

*Voting Machine Information:*

<http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingMachines.html>

## **For whom/what will I be voting on in the 2016 election?**

When two or more candidates from the same political party seek election for the same office, voters registered in that party vote in the Primary Election to choose the candidate who will represent that party in the General Election. In order to vote in a primary, you must be enrolled in a political party. In the Presidential Primary Election (April 19th) voters will elect candidates for President of the United States. In the Congressional Primary Election (June 28th) voters will elect candidates for Congress and US Senate. In the State and Local Primary Election (September 13th) voters will elect candidates for New York State (NYS) Senate and Assembly races. Residents who wish to change their party to vote in the 2016 primary of that party must have reenrolled before October 10, 2015. If you are not currently registered to vote or are registering in your county for the first time, you can select your party and register at least 25 days before the election you wish to vote in (see dates and deadlines on back panel).

In the General Election (November 8th), voters in NYS will elect federal officials (one of two US senators and your representative in the US Congress), your state senator and assemblyperson, and other officials depending on your location in the state. In the General Election, you may also be voting on statewide and/or local ballot proposals.

## **Who Can Vote?**

To vote, you must:

- be a United States citizen;
- be 18 years old by December 31 of the year in which you register (note: you must be 18 years old by the date of the general, primary or other election in which you want to vote);

- live at your present address at least 30 days before an election;
- not be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction and;
- not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court;
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere.

In New York State, before you can vote you need to register.

## **How do I register?**

You can register to vote by mail or in person. Your registration is permanent but you must fill out a new Voter Registration Form if you move to a new address, change your name, or want to change your political party. **If you change your political party enrollment, the change will not take effect until after the next general election.**

## **Registration by mail**

Voter Registration Forms are available on the New York State Board of Elections website, at the League of Women Voters website, at your county board of elections office, town and city halls, your post office and library, from political parties, state offices, many social service agencies, and the League of Women Voters. Consult the COUNTDOWN TO ELECTION DAY portion of this guide for the deadline dates.

## **Registration in person**

You may register on any business day throughout the year at your local board of elections or any state agency participating in the National Voter Registration Act (most do, including State University and City University campuses). Consult the COUNTDOWN TO ELECTION DAY portion of this guide for the deadline dates.

## **Registration online**

You may also register to vote or make changes to your voter registration through the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles website, [dmv.ny.gov/mydmv/](http://dmv.ny.gov/mydmv/). This MyDMV service allows you to complete an application to register to vote or to update the information you have on file with the Board of Elections. Updated information could include providing your County Board of Elections with your new name, new address, or changing a party enrollment. Applications completed are forwarded to the appropriate County Board of Elections for approval and processing. To use this site, you must have a NYS driver's license, Learner Permit or Non-Driver ID.

## **What if I move?**

Submit a Voter Registration Form with your new information or visit MyDMV (see section above). If you move to a new county, send the form to your new county board of elections. If you are already registered, your change of address must be received by your board of elections by March 30th, to vote in the Presidential Primary, June 8th to vote in the Congressional primary, and August 24th to vote in the State and Local Primary Election, or by October 19th to vote in the General Election. If you move within your county and cannot notify your board of elections, you can go to the polling place for your new address and vote by affidavit (paper) ballot. The ballot will be sent to the board of elections to verify the new address. If verified, your vote will be counted and your change of address will be made a part of

their records. If you have a driver's license or motor vehicle registration and need to file a form with the Department of Motor Vehicles to change your address, you can notify the Board of Elections of your address change at the same time by checking "yes" for that option on DMV's Form MV-232. You can also change your address, party affiliation or name online at [dmv.ny.gov/mydmv](http://dmv.ny.gov/mydmv).

## **How do I make sure I am registered to vote?**

New York State has a centralized data base of all registered voters and creates the voter rolls at the polling places from this information. You can access the information online by using the Voter Registration Search facility on the NYS Board of Elections website ([voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx](http://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx)). As with all computer systems, there can be problems with the data, and your name could be erroneously eliminated from the rolls. Protect your right to vote by watching your mail for a card from your board of elections with the location of your polling place. If you do not receive such a card well before the election date and do not find yourself listed when using the Voter Registration Search (as above), call your local board of elections to inquire about your status. Ask them: "Am I registered to vote? Will my name appear in the polling place roll book on Election Day?"

## **What if I don't know where to vote?**

The board of elections should send you a card telling you the location of your polling place. If you do not receive it, use the online Voter Registration Search facility on the NYS Board of Elections website or call your county board of elections to verify your registration and ask about your polling place.

## **What if I can't go to my local polling place on election day?**

If you will be away on Election Day or will be unable to go to your polling place because of illness or disability, you can vote by absentee ballot. First you must obtain an Absentee Ballot Application form from your board of elections, or download one from the New York State Board of Elections website or the League of Women Voter's website. Complete the application and submit it by mail or in person; consult the COUNTDOWN TO ELECTION DAY portion of this guide for the deadline dates. Once it has received your Absentee Ballot Application, the board of elections will send or give you an Absentee Ballot form. Complete the ballot and submit it by mail or in person; consult the COUNTDOWN TO ELECTION DAY portion of this guide for the deadline dates.

## **I am in the military and will be away. How will I vote?**

Both the federal government and New York State have recently enacted laws that make it easier for military voters and their family members to vote in a timely and efficient manner. You will have a choice to receive forms and ballots by electronic means, and enough lead time to be sure that you receive forms and ballots in time to meet election deadlines. Call the NYS Board of Elections at 1-800-438-8683, consult your Voting Assistance Officer on base, or visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) for forms and information.

## **How do I vote while I am in college?**

When you are attending college outside your hometown, you may vote in person or by absentee ballot in your home community. You must be registered in your hometown district to vote there. You can only claim the right to vote in one locality. If you attend college in NYS, consider yourself a resident of your college community, and have lived there for at least 30 days before an election, you may register and vote in that community, but not elsewhere. If you are from NYS and attend college in another state and consider your college community your residence, consult the elections authority of that state to determine your voting rights.

## **Can I get time off from work to vote?**

New York State law states that if you do not have sufficient time outside your working hours to vote, you may take off up to 2 hours at the beginning or the end of your shift, with pay, to allow you time to vote. You must notify your employer no more than 10 and not less than 2 days before the day of the election that you will take that time.

## **What can I expect when I go to the polls?**

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 you are not on the rolls at your polling place, but believe you are registered to vote, and have verified with the poll worker that you are at the correct polling place for your address, you are legally entitled to vote on an affidavit (paper) ballot. You should also ask the poll worker for advice about following up on your status. After validation by your county board of elections, your affidavit ballot will be counted. If you determine that you are in the wrong polling place, go to the correct one to vote. Be sure to bring some identification, especially if you are voting for the first time.

## **What is an affidavit ballot?**

An affidavit ballot, sometimes called a "provisional ballot" or "paper ballot," is used when a voter's name has been omitted from the computer-generated roll book. If you need to use one, you must swear that you are a registered voter and provide your current and previous addresses. At a primary election, you must include the party in which you are enrolled. You may also use an affidavit ballot to challenge your party enrollment as stated in the roll book.

## **What identification do I need to vote?**

Federal law requires persons who register by mail and are voting for the first time to provide identification, either on the Voter Registration Form or in person at the polling place. Identification usually means a current NYS driver's license or the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you do not have a current NYS driver's license, you need to provide 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, or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or some other government documentation that shows your name and address. It's a good idea to bring your ID to the polls, especially if you registered by mail and are voting for the first time.