

REGISTRATION

& VOTING

**Board of Elections in the City of New York
32 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, New York 10004**

**THIS PAMPHLET IS AVAILABLE
IN ENGLISH, SPANISH, CHINESE AND KOREAN
UPON REQUEST CALL:
(212) V-O-T-E-N-Y-C-
1-866- V-O-T-E-N-Y-C**

Revised 12/16/2009

CONTENTS

The Board's Role.....	3
Borough Office Addresses & Phone Numbers.....	4
Registering to Vote.....	5-6
Party Affiliation/Voting in Primary Elections.....	6-7
Keeping your Registration Current.....	7-8
Absentee Voting.....	8-9
Where to Vote.....	9-10
Voter's Guide to New York City Elections.....	10-11
The Difference between Elections/ Proposals/Referendum.....	11
Voting on Election Day.....	12-14
Frequently Asked Questions.....	14-19

BOARD'S ROLE

The Board of Elections in the City of New York is an administrative body composed of ten Commissioners, two from each borough recommended by the two major parties and then appointed by the City Council for a term of four years. The Commissioners appoint a bipartisan staff to oversee the daily activities of its Executive and five borough offices. The Board is responsible under New York State Election Law for the following within the City of New York:

- Processing voter registration applications
- Maintaining and update voter registration records
- Processing and verifying candidate petitions/documents
- Filing Campaign Finance Disclosures statements of candidates and campaign committees
- Recruiting, training and assigning various Poll Workers to conduct elections
- Operating poll site locations
- Ensuring each voter their right to vote at the polls or by absentee ballot
- Canvassing and certifying of the vote
- Conducting voter education outreach by distributing election information
- Preparing maps of various political subdivisions

BOROUGH OFFICE ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

MANHATTAN BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**200 Varick St., 10 Fl.
New York, New York 10014
(212) 886-2100**

QUEENS BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**126-06 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, Queens 11415
(718) 730-6730**

BRONX BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**1780 Grand Concourse
Bronx, New York 10457
(718) 299-9017**

STATEN ISLAND BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**1 Edgewater Plaza, 4th Fl.
Staten Island, New York 10305
(718) 876-0079**

BROOKLYN BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**345 Adams Street, 4th Fl.
Brooklyn, New York 11201
(718) 797-8800**

PHONE BANK

**1-212-VOTE-NYC (868-3692)
1-866-VOTE-NYC
TDD 212-487-5496**

NEW YORK CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE
32 Broadway 7th floor
New York, New York 10004
(212) 487-5300**

PHONE BANK

The Phone Bank is linked to a caller distribution system which enables Board personnel to handle up to 70 calls at a time. The Phone Bank operates Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Callers can obtain information regarding the following: poll site, voter status, registration deadlines, voting machine instructions. They may also request applications for: voter registration, absentee ballot and to become a Poll Worker. The hours are expanded during peak election periods. The Phone Bank has an “IVR (Integrated Voice Response)” system that allows us to give 24 hour service to the public. The system features multi-language recordings in English, Spanish, Chinese and Korean. Outside the regular hours of operation, the “automated operator” records names and addresses of callers requesting applications.

INTERNET

The Board of Elections website provides: Election Dates; information on how to obtain a voter registration application, a printable voter registration application; that can be filled out and mailed to the Board of Elections; the locations and telephone numbers of the offices of the Boards of Elections in the 5 Boroughs; District Maps; transportation maps regarding poll sites for Election Day; etc. Our WEB SITE address is <http://vote.nyc.ny.us>

REGISTERING TO VOTE

Qualifications

To register to vote in the City of New York, you must:

1. Be a citizen of the United States (Includes those persons born in Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands).
2. Be a New York City resident for at least 30 days.
3. Be 18 years of age on the date of the next election.
4. Not be currently incarcerated, convicted felon or be on parole for a felony conviction.
5. Not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court.
6. Not claim the right to vote elsewhere (outside the City of New York).

Although you can register any time during the year, your application must be delivered or postmarked **at least 25 days before the next election** for it to be effective for the election.

How To Register – [Registration form - English](#)

To register to vote, you must fill out in blue or black ink a voter registration application and send it to the Board of Elections or personally deliver it to one of our offices. The [our offices](#) registration application must have the original signature on it. It cannot be faxed. It is to be noted that in 2002, the United States Government enacted into law the “Help America Vote Act”, (HAVA) which requires that any first time voter registering must provide some additional identification. The law requires that the voter provide his/her Driver’s License or Non-Driver ID number, the last four digits of his/her Social Security Number, or a bank statement, utility bill, etc.

The Voter Registration Application has been changed to accommodate this identification information.

If, however, these forms of identification are not provided when a person registers to vote the Board will send a letter to the FIRST TIME VOTER asking the voter to provide forms of required identification information.

If you would like an application mailed to you, call the Board at 212-VOTE-NYC (868-3692) or 1-866-VOTE-NYC. Applications are also available at all motor vehicle offices, public libraries, post offices and many other government agencies.

Voter registration in New York City is permanent. However, to assure that your registration remains valid you must notify the Board of Elections of your new address whenever you move, or if you change your name.

PARTY AFFILIATION

Party Affiliation in New York State:

The voter registration application contains a section where you can indicate your choice for party affiliation. If you would like to register without designating a party, simply mark the space indicating “I do not wish to enroll in a party.”

The new registration application list the Parties with ballot status, which as of -2006 are:

- Democratic
- Republican
- Independence
- Conservative
- Working Families

Any other group may be written in under OTHER (write in) and we will enter up to the first 15 characters of that name into the registration system.

Generally, a person who chooses “OTHER” or “I DO NOT WISH TO ENROLL IN A PARTY” cannot vote in a primary election.

Party Affiliation and the Primary System

In most party primary elections, **only** voters enrolled in one of the parties qualified to hold a primary in New York City may vote to nominate their party’s candidate to run in the general election.

Candidates nominated by the parties for each office then appear on the general election ballot, along with any independent candidates who gain access to the general election ballot without running in a party primary.

Voting in Party Primary Elections

Because a primary is strictly a party election, only voters enrolled in one of the parties conducting a primary may participate in that party’s election, unless a party’s rules otherwise provides. All registered voters vote in General and Special Elections.

To Change Your Party Affiliation

You can change your party affiliation by indicating the change on the voter registration application and sending it to the Board. We will process the change and send you a new voter card reflecting the change in party. You cannot **CHANGE** your enrollment and vote in the NEW PARTY of your choice in the same year.

Please note: a change of enrollment will go into affect one week **AFTER** the next November general election. The last day to change your enrollment is the same as the last day to register for the general election. (25 days prior to the general election).

KEEPING YOUR REGISTRATION CURRENT

What the Law Says

Your residence address determines the particular contests in which you are eligible to vote. Because of the role that address plays in the electoral system, **New York State law requires voters to notify the Board of Elections within 25 days of an address change to preserve their voting rights.**

To Make Changes to Your Registration

You must notify the Board, in writing, to make any change to your registration (change [voter registration application](#) of address or name). You may make the change on a voter registration application and send the completed voter registration application to the Board of Elections.

Controls for Keeping the Registry Current

The Board has developed a program to keep the registry current: In conjunction with NCOA (National Change of Address)/System, the Board of Elections matches its list of registered voters to a United States Postal Service list of people who have moved. This is run every month by the Board of Elections. This system is generated by the United States Postal Service and will indicate to the Board those registered voters who have moved within the state or out of the state. To those voters, the Board will send a Confirmation Notice to verify that the voter has moved.

In August of every year, an Information Notice is mailed to every registered voter in New York City giving him/her the dates of the upcoming elections, their ED/AD, poll site, election hours, etc. Those persons whose notice is returned to the Board as undeliverable, are then sent a Confirmation Notice so they can verify

- a) that they have moved ; or
- b) sign an affidavit stating that they did NOT move.

If they have moved within the NYC area, they must notify the Board of Elections with a change of address card. They can fill out a voter registration application and indicate that this is a change of address.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Registered voters who cannot make it to their poll site on Election Day because they will be outside the City of New York on Election Day or are in prison (not convicted of a felony), ill, disabled or in a hospital or long-term care facility may vote by absentee ballot.

There are two options for New York City voters wishing to cast absentee ballots:

1. Voting in person at your Board's Borough office
2. Casting an absentee ballot by mail

In-Person Absentee Voting

Absentee voting in person begins as soon as the absentee ballots have **been** certified and are sent to the Borough Office. Absentee voting in person ends the day before Election Day.

In person absentee voting is conducted during the above period, at the Board of Elections' Borough Offices. The hours are 9:00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. Monday through Friday and on the weekend prior to Election Day.

By-Mail Absentee Voting

Requests for mail absentee ballots must be in writing and must reach the Board's office no later than the seventh day before an election. [Absentee Ballot Applications](#) can be **obtained from the Board of Elections.**

Mail absentee ballot request must include the following information:

- Name
- Address on voter registration application
- Mailing address (if different)
- Reason for requesting absentee ballot application
- **The Type of Election (Primary, General, Special) and the date of the Election**
- Signature

To be counted, the voted absentee ballot (and completed application form) must be postmarked by the day before Election Day and must reach the Board of Elections no later than seven (7) days after the election.

Emergency Absentee Ballots

If the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot by mail has passed and you cannot appear at your poll site on Election Day because of an accident or sudden illness, then you may send a representative with a written letter of authorization to receive an Absentee Ballot on your behalf. A completed application and a voter's completed ballot must be returned to the Board Office by 9:00P.M. on Election Day.

Using an Absentee Ballot

When you receive an absentee ballot, read the directions that are printed in it. You will note that the way to mark your votes is to fill in the ovals next to your choices. Do not use any other marks. Do not write anywhere on the ballot. The only time you may write in the ballot is when you want to vote for someone else whose name does not appear on the ballot – then you may write his or her name in the write-in box and fill in the oval in that box. If there are propositions up for vote, you will find them on the back of the ballot. Mark your vote by filling in the oval next to either “yes” or “no”. The paper ballots are canvassed by scanning them with machines so be sure to follow the directions and mark them correctly.

After marking your votes on the ballot by filling in the ovals next to your choices, fold the ballot and put it in a smaller envelope. Sign and date the back of the envelope. Seal the envelope and put it in the larger envelope that is addressed to the Board of Elections. Mail with sufficient postage or deliver your ballot following the regulations described in the other sections above.

WHERE TO VOTE

Polling places are located throughout the city. You can vote ONLY at your designated polling place. Make sure you are at the correct polling site and Election District/Assembly District (ED/AD) for your address.

Polling Places open 6:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

You can **find your poll site location** by:

- Searching the [Online Poll Site Address locator](#)
- **Call** the Voter Phone Bank at 1.866.VOTE.NYC
- **E-mail** your complete home address to us at vote@boe.nyc.ny.us and we'll e-mail your polling place location back to you. (Please put in the subject line the borough in which you reside).

Making the Polls Accessible

The Board has made a concerted effort to increase the accessibility of poll sites for senior citizens and handicapped voters by removing physical barriers at most New York City poll sites.

The effort includes:

- Construction of building ramps or installing temporary ramps for voters with canes or wheelchairs
- Miscellaneous repairs to doors, handrails, light fixtures, and walkways

In some cases, poll sites have been relocated to more accessible buildings. However, problems remain at some sites, and elderly or handicapped voters who feel that their poll site is inaccessible may call the Voter Registration Unit of their local Borough office for information on voting at an alternative poll site.

TDD Service

A Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) has been installed in the Phone Bank to answer inquires of any voter with a hearing impairment who has access to a TDD. The TDD Service Number is 212-487-5496.

Permanent Absentee Ballot

Any voter who is homebound or a resident of a long-term care facility can apply in writing to receive an absentee ballot permanently at a designated address. A ballot will automatically be mailed for each election to the voter. The ballot should be postmarked by the day before the election and must reach the Board of Elections no later than seven (7) days after the election.

VOTERS' GUIDE TO NEW YORK CITY ELECTIONS

The Elections For The Following Public Office May Appear on New York City Ballots

- Electors for President and Vice President of the United States
- United States Senator
- Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
- Governor and Lieutenant Governor of New York State
- State Attorney General
- State Comptroller
- N.Y. State Senator
- N.Y. State Assembly Member
- N.Y.C. Mayor
- N.Y.C. Public Advocate
- N.Y.C. City Comptroller

- Borough President
- N.Y.C. Council Member
- District Attorney
- Surrogate Judge
- State Supreme Court Justice
- N.Y.C. Civil Court Judge

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ELECTIONS/PROPOSALS/REFERENDUM

Election Schedule

Primaries for partisan offices are held in September, with General Elections in November. In Presidential election years, a Presidential Primary Election is held early in the year.

Primary and General Election

A **Primary Election** is held to permit enrolled voters in a qualified political party to select their party's nominees to the general election for public offices and actually elect party officers. Because a primary is a party election usually voters registered in one of the parties qualified to conduct a primary in New York City may vote in their party's primary, unless otherwise permitted by a party's rule.

A **General Election** is held to elect candidates to public offices. Nominees selected in the party primary elections appear on the ballot, along with independent candidates.

Proposals and Referendum Measures

The State Legislature, the Mayor, and/or City Council can place certain Proposals, Questions. Amendments on the ballot for New York city voters to adopt a change in the State Constitution, New York City Charter, change a law or approve the expenditure of funds without legislative actions. In addition, measures can be placed on the ballot if it meets the legal requirements and if proponents show public support by collecting signatures of at least (5%) percent of the city's registered voters.

Ballot Questions

Ballot Questions may appear on a General Election ballot pursuant to applicable provisions of the State Constitution, the City Charter and State Law.

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

Step 1 – “Where to Vote”

Make sure you are at the correct poll site and Election District (E.D.) for your address.

Polling Places open 6:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Click [here](#) to locate & Confirm your polling site- [link to Poll Site Locator](#)

Step 2 – “Be an Informed Voter”

Remember to look at the sample ballot and voting machine instructions at each poll site on the wall before you get on line.

Step 3 – “Signing-In”

To vote, you must go to your assigned Election District poll site which is indicated on your voter registration card or the Annual Information Notice or ask any election official at the polling site to look up your address in the street locator to insure that you are at the right poll site and election district. After you sign your name on the computer listing (poll list) of registered voters, a poll worker will issue you a voter card and direct you to a voting machine.

Step 4 – “If You Need Assistance”

You may be assisted in the voting machine by any person of your choice including a bipartisan team of trained poll workers, except your employer or union representative. At selected sites, Board interpreters are also available to assist voters.

Step 5 – “Voting on a Voting Machine

[Click here to see video on how to use voting machine- link to video](#)

- a) To vote, part the voting machine curtain and enter.
- b) Pull the large red handle from left to right. Do not touch this large handle again until you’ve made all your selections.
- c) Make your selections by turning and leaving the levers down next to the candidate you want. An “X” will appear. If you make a mistake, move the lever back and select the candidate you want.
- d) In some elections, you may vote for a candidate not listed on the ballot by writing-in the candidate’s name. Locate the button over the column of numbered slots on the left of the voting machine; depress the button, and while holding it in, open the slot designated on the ballot machine; depress the button, and while holding it in, open the slot ; write the name of the preferred candidate in the slot. A pencil or pen is provided. In some cases a rubber stamp may be used. These stamps are provided by the candidate with his/her name on the stamp. Cast the vote for other offices in the usual manner
- e) When you finish making your selection(s), leave the levers down and pull the large red handle all the way to the left. The levers will return to their original position, the write in slot will close and your vote will be counted.
- f) Part the curtains and exit.

Step 6 -Voting on a Paper Ballot

There are three circumstances at the poll site when you may vote on a paper ballot instead of on a voting machine:

- If the voting machine for your Election District is not operating, you will be given an emergency paper ballot. The poll workers will canvass the emergency ballots along with the voting machines when the polls are closed at the end of the day.
 - Take the ballot that the poll worker given you and take it to the cardboard voting booth and mark your votes with a pencil or a pen with blue or black ink.
 - The way to vote is to fill in the ovals next to your choices. Remember not to use any other markings on the ballot.
 - Fold the ballot and deposit it in the cardboard box on the table.
 - You are finished.
- If your name does not appear on the list of registered voters or if your signature is missing from that list, you will be given an affidavit ballot and an envelope in which to seal it in. At the close of the polls, the sealed envelopes are brought back to the Board of Elections offices where your registration will be verified before your ballot is canvassed.
 - Take the envelope and the ballot that the poll worker gives you and take it to the cardboard voting booth.
 - Complete the envelope
 - Mark your votes on the ballot with a pencil or a pen with blue or black ink.
 - The way to vote is to fill in the ovals next to your choices. Remember not to use any other markings on the ballot.
 - Fold the ballot and put it in the envelope.
 - Seal the envelope and give it to the poll worker.
 - You are finished.
- If you are required by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to show identification before you can vote on the voting machine, and you cannot or choose not to comply, then you will be given an affidavit ballot and an envelope in which to seal it in. At the close of the polls, the sealed envelopes are brought back to the Board of Elections offices where your registration will be verified before your ballot is canvassed.
 - Take the envelope and the ballot that the poll worker gives you and take it to the cardboard voting booth.
 - Complete the envelope
 - Mark your votes on the ballot with a pencil or a pen with blue or black ink.
 - The way to vote is to fill in the ovals next to our choices. Remember not to use any other markings on the ballot.
 - Fold the ballot and put it in the envelope.

- Seal the envelope and give it to the poll worker.
- You are finished.

Frequently Asked Questions

Voter Guide

A “Voter” Guide for both the Primary and General Election in municipal election years **only**, is produced by the NYC Campaign Finance Board. The guide will be sent to every household in New York City with a registered voter. They will be mailed toward the end of August for the primary election and in the middle of October for the general election. If you do not receive one, call the New York City Campaign Finance Board at 212-306-7100. Also look for candidate forums and debates within your community, along with profiles in the news media for other federal and state contests.

"Who Can Vote?"

You must be a registered voter in order to vote in the general or primary elections. To register, you must be a United States citizen, be 18 years old by the date of the election you want to vote, live at your present address for at least 30 days before an election, not been convicted of a felony and incarcerated be in jail or on parole for a felony conviction, and not claim the right to vote elsewhere.

NOTE: The registration form on this website is ONLY for residents of New York City (including Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, The Bronx and Staten Island). Be sure to complete and return your registration application before the deadline.

[Back to top](#)

"Where Can I Get A Mail Registration Application?"

E-mail your mailing address to vote@boe.nyc.ny.us (please put in the subject line the borough in which you reside) or call toll-free 1-866-VOTE-NYC (If out of New York City, call (212)-VOTE-NYC (868-3692)) and ask to have a postage-paid application sent to you. You may also pick one up at your local post office, library or motor vehicle office. Visit our [registration page](#) for more information.

[Back to top](#)

"Can I Register In Person?"

Yes. Many public agencies are now providing voter registration forms and assistance. You can also register at any one of the [borough Board of Elections offices](#) Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

If you don't get a registration card within 4 to 6 weeks of completing your application, you might want to call the Board of Elections [Phone Bank](#) toll-free at 1-866-VOTE-NYC or (212)-VOTE-NYC if out of New York City, to see if your application was processed.

[Back to top](#)

"If I Am A Student In New York City And Have A

Residence In Another State, How Can I Vote In An Election?

If you are a student in New York City, but have a residence in another state and wish to register in New York, you must fill out a registration form indicating your New York residency. That registration will be treated as any other registration. The new registration will cancel out the registration in the other state.

"Do I Have To Register Every Year?"

No. Once you register, you are permanently registered. Name, address or party enrollment changes can be made by submitting a new registration application. If you move, you should notify the Board of Elections as soon as possible, by re-registering.

The Board of Elections will transfer the registration and enrollment of any voter for whom it receives a notice of change of address to another address in New York City, or for any voter who casts a ballot in an affidavit ballot envelope which sets forth the new address.

If the Board of Elections receives notice at least twenty days before a primary, special or general election, it must complete the change of address before the election.

[Back to top](#)

"How Will I Know Where To Vote?"

You should receive a postcard from the Board of Elections some time in August, telling you where to vote. Watch for it! It will also indicate your election district number which you need to know on election day. Or, you can e-mail your complete home address to vote@boe.nyc.ny.us (please put in the subject line the borough in which you reside).

[Click here to use The Online Poll Site Address Locator](#)

[Back to top](#)

"How Do Candidates Get On The Ballot?"

In New York State, most candidates get on the ballot by filing a petition containing a specified number of signatures. The required amount varies, depending on the office sought and whether the candidate is seeking a party nomination or a spot on the ballot as an independent.

[Back to top](#)

"Who Can Sign A Petition?"

Only enrolled party members living within the appropriate district may sign petitions for candidates who seek their party's nomination. However, any registered voter living within the appropriate district may sign

a petition for a candidate seeking to run as an independent in the general election as long as s/he has not already signed on behalf of another candidate.

[Back to top](#)

"Should I Be Concerned About Signing A Petition?"

Absolutely not! The reluctance of some to sign petitions makes it difficult for those without strong political party backing to get the requisite number of signatures and run for elected office. Signing a petition is an important way to participate in the electoral process.

[Back to top](#)

"What Is A Primary Election?"

A primary is an election that may take place within each of New York State's official political parties. It precedes the general election and provides enrolled political party members the opportunity to nominate their party's candidates for elected office as well as to elect various party officials. However, if there is no contest, there is no primary.

[Back to top](#)

"Why Should I Enroll In A Political Party?"

Enrolled party members who help nominate candidates by signing petitions and voting in the primary have greater political clout than non-enrolled voters who can vote only in the general election.

Moreover, you are not obligated to vote for your party's candidate in the general election. In November, you may vote for any candidate from any party.

[Back to top](#)

"How Do I Enroll In A Political Party?"

You voluntarily enroll in any party by indicating your preference on the voter registration form either at the same time that you register to vote or by re-registering.

[Back to top](#)

"What Happens If I Can't Vote On Election Day?"

If you will be out of town on election day or are physically unable to go to the polls, you can vote by absentee ballot.

[Back to top](#)

"How Can I Get An Absentee Ballot?"

Absentee ballot applications can be obtained by writing the Board of Elections, calling toll-free 1-866-VOTE-NYC or (212) VOTE-NYC, e-mailing your request to vote@boe.nyc.ny.us (please put in the subject line the borough in which you reside) or visit our [Absentee page](#).

[Back to top](#)

"How Do I Mark A Paper Ballot"

Be sure to follow the directions that are printed on a paper ballot. Paper ballots are canvassed by scanning them with machines so you must mark them correctly. It is simple to do. Just fill in the ovals-next to your choice. Do not use any other mark. Fill in the ovals with a pencil or a pen with **blue** or **black** ink. Do not write anywhere on the ballot. If you want to vote for someone whose name does not appear on the ballot - you may write his or her name in the write-in box and fill in the oval on that write-in box. If there are propositions up for vote, you will find them on the back of the ballot. Mark your vote by filling in the oval next to either "yes" or "no".

[Back to top](#)

"I'm Disabled. Where Can I Vote?"

Most polling places are now accessible to the handicapped. If yours is not, you may ask to have your records transferred to a nearby accessible polling place where the ballot will be the same as in your election district.

You may also vote by absentee ballot. If you have a long-term or permanent illness or disability, you can apply for a permanent absentee ballot and you will automatically receive one before each primary and general election. [Click Here](#) for information.

[Back to top](#)

"What Do I Need When I Go To Vote?"

The "Help America Vote Act" (HAVA) which was enacted into law in 2002, requires all first time voters, to provide additional identification either on or with the voter registration application, i.e., the driver's license number or the last four digits of your social security number. If you do not provide your drivers license number or the last four digits of your social security number at the time you submit your registration form by mail, you can include a copy of any of the following documentation with your registration application : Non-Driver ID Number; Current and Valid Photo ID; Current Utility Bill; Bank Statement; Government Check or Paycheck; Government Document that shows Name and Address. If the voter has not provided any of the acceptable forms of identification by the time they vote in an Election, the voter will not be allowed to vote by machine, but will be able to vote by affidavit ballot. The voter will not be denied the right to vote.

[Back to top](#)

"What Do I Do When I Get To The Poll Site?"

When you enter poll site, you'll see tables and voting machines for one or more election districts (E.D.). At the table for your E.D. you will be asked to sign-above to a facsimile of your original signature on an alphabetical computerized poll-list.

[Back to top](#)

"What If I'm Not Permitted To Vote?"

If you are not on the poll-list, ask the inspector to verify that you are at the proper table for your address. Make sure that it is your correct Election and Assembly District. It may be because your registration form was not received by the deadline or, for a primary, because you aren't enrolled in a party. If you believe that you are eligible, you can still vote. Ask for an affidavit ballot. After the election, the Board of Elections will check its records and your vote will be counted if you are indeed eligible to vote and are at the correct polling site. If not, you will receive a notice that you are not eligible, along with a registration application for future elections.

[Back to top](#)

"How Do Voting Machines Work?"

[Click here for Voting Instructions](#)

When you enter the voting booth, pull the large red handle to activate the machine. Do not move it until you have completed your selections. You have three minutes in which to vote. Make your selections by moving the lever next to the name of each candidate you wish to vote for until an 'X' appears. You can change your mind and move the levers up and down as often as necessary. However, once your choices are made, leave them down and pull the large red handle to register and count your vote.

[Back to top](#)

"Suppose I Need Help?"

If you need some help because you are disabled or cannot read the ballot, federal law allows you to have a friend or relative assist you in the voting booth. Election inspectors at the polling place are also ready to help you.

[Back to top](#)

"If I Register To Vote, Will I Be Called For Jury Duty?"

Jurors are drawn from lists of state taxpayers and licensed drivers as well as from voter registration rolls. Do not give up your right to vote in the hope that you will avoid jury duty. Chances are, if you pay taxes or drive a car, you will still be called. Besides, serving on a jury is a privilege, one that permits you to personally stand up for all Americans' right to a trial by a jury of their peers.

[Back to top](#)

"Can A Felony Conviction Affect My Right To Vote?"

You may **not** register or vote, if you have been convicted of a felony and:

- You are currently incarcerated; or
- You are under parole supervision.

You may register and vote if you were convicted of a felony and:

- You were sentenced to probation;
- You were not sentenced to incarceration or your prison sentence was suspended;
- You have served your maximum prison sentence;
- You have been discharged from parole; or
- You have received a pardon.

You may register and vote, even from jail, if you have been convicted of only a misdemeanor.

The same rules apply whether you were convicted in a New York court, another state's court or a federal court.

You do not need to provide any documentation about your criminal record in order to register and vote.

