

# THE ROAD TO THE VOTING BOOTH

## Part III

How to Conduct a Successful  
Voter Registration Drive  
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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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*The League of Women Voters of New York State is a multi-issue, non-partisan, grassroots organization of women and men organized in 60 local Leagues throughout the state. Since its formation in 1919, the League has encouraged the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influenced public policy through education and advocacy at the local, state and national levels.*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

There are many reasons why all citizens should be encouraged to register and to vote.

- Voting is not only a right, it is a privilege. As recently as the 1960's, African-Americans were killed or jailed for their efforts to register and vote. In other areas of the world today, people are still fighting and dying for the right to vote.
- Every voter makes a difference.
- When you do not vote, you let someone else choose the winner—someone whose stand on the issues may be very different than yours.
- Voting should be as important as a rite of passage into adulthood as getting a driver's license.
- Politicians listen to those groups which they know vote. You're more likely to be able to influence an elected official's position on issues if you vote.

Registration is only the beginning of the process. *Everyone who registers needs to be encouraged to vote!*

## **PLANNING A VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE**

A successful voter registration drive must be well organized and, above all, **nonpartisan**. Organizers must provide accurate registration and voting information. The steps below outline the proper procedures to use when planning your registration drive. Following these steps will enable you to assist many citizens to register to vote in New York State.

1. **Select an individual or form a committee to oversee registration activities.** In NYS, you do not have to be officially appointed to assist citizens in registering to vote.
2. **Target the group to be registered**, for example:
  - a. high school and/or college students
  - b. employees
  - c. newly naturalized citizens
  - d. new residents to your community
  - e. senior housing, independent living and assisted-living residents
  - f. the general public.
3. **Work with your county Board of Elections.** Voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications are available from them. Notify them early if you will need a large number of forms. Some Boards require a written request on school or agency letterhead. The National Mail Voter Registration Form, available on the website of the Election Assistance Commission (<http://www.eac.gov/>), is a useful addition to the usual registration form especially when doing corporate or college registrations where many people may not be New York State residents.
4. **Select a site.** A visible, accessible area with a constant flow of traffic is best. Remember to get permission from those in charge of the building or event. Consider festivals, fairs, sporting events, concerts, schools (including colleges and universities), shopping malls, train stations, local stores and businesses.
5. **Select dates and times.** Late summer and early fall are the traditional times to hold voter registration drives. Spring is usually better when registering high school students. Registration activities should take place within a brief, set time frame (e.g., September 20-22, 10 AM - 2 PM). This makes it easier to attract volunteer workers.
6. **Coordinate with other groups**, for example, the AARP, NAACP, Chamber of Commerce or a community group. Staging an event or a celebrity appearance, or setting up a table at another organization's event can be effective in attracting potential new voters.
7. **Gather needed materials and information:**
  - a. registration forms
  - b. absentee ballot applications
  - c. absentee voting information
  - d. list of registration deadlines
  - e. political calendar
  - f. blue or black pens
  - g. instructions for volunteers
  - h. name tags for volunteers
  - i. tables and chairs
  - j. identifying signs and/or posters, LWV banners

- k. stamps to sell (except in New York City)
  - l. list of offices to be filled and the names of candidates (if available)
  - m. copies of this publication (available from LWVNYS)
  - n. sealed box (optional).
8. **Recruit, train, and assign volunteers.** Volunteers should be trained to fill out the Registration forms (see Appendices A, B and C), and be provided with information about registration deadlines. You will need to make a special effort to impress volunteers with their responsibility to protect the right to vote of the citizens they are helping to register. Volunteers must understand the importance of filling out the forms correctly and returning them promptly to election officials. LWV should provide training to all volunteers, including how to help residents from other areas who might request information or assistance. (This is especially important when holding a registration drive at a college or university.)
- Volunteer assignments should be carefully planned to make the best use of limited time. Try to select times that will keep the volunteers busy. Make sure no one is working alone, but do not over-staff a site. Encourage volunteers to get out from behind the table and work the crowd.
9. **Follow strict guidelines.** It is best to instruct registrants to mail their completed forms. You could sell stamps for this purpose (except New York City where forms are pre-stamped), or if your League can afford it, you can provide stamps. Alternatively, you could provide a sealed box into which registrants can deposit their completed forms. Be sure to take the sealed box to your county Board of Elections at the end of each day. Some boards of elections allow delivery of a group of forms without a lockbox, but if you choose to do this, realize that you are legally responsible for guaranteeing that every one of those forms reaches the Board of Elections. Some LWV members offer to mail the forms for people. This also is a legal responsibility, and if a form does not get delivered, the LWV could be held responsible.
10. **Publicize your drive well in advance.** Use the media---newspapers, radio, TV, and the internet, to promote voter registration. Submit editorials, articles and public service announcements providing information about registration deadlines. Advertise your voter registration drive including the sites and times. Remember to use posters, flyers and billboards, as well as your website. You can also e-mail organizations in your community.
11. **Keep good records and evaluate the drive.** It will make future voter registration drives easier to plan.
12. **Congratulate yourself for a job well done.**

## **VOTING ELIGIBILITY**

### ***Voting Qualifications***

To be eligible to vote in NYS, you must be:

- be a United States citizen
- be 18 years old by December 31 of the year in which you file this form (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
- not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere.

**Ex-felons** who have been pardoned or restored to the rights of citizenship by the governor, or whose maximum sentence of imprisonment has expired, or who have been discharged from parole may register and vote.

## **POLITICAL CALENDAR**

- General elections: annually, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November
- Primary elections: usually the first Tuesday after the second Monday in September (subject to change by the New York State Legislature).
- Village elections: annually or biennially, usually the third Tuesday in March or June
- School District elections: usually in May
- Fire District elections: the second Tuesday in December
- Special elections: as needed

## **REGISTRATION**

Registration is the act of entering one's name and place of residence on a list of persons eligible to vote. To become a registered voter, a citizen must fill out and sign a registration form which is then processed by the county Board of Elections. It is simply a means of identifying voters. Once registered, you are eligible to vote in general, local, school and special elections.

### ***Why Register?***

You must be registered in order to vote.

### ***Permanent Registration***

Your registration is permanent unless you move. Name, address or party enrollment changes can be made by submitting a new registration application.

Under the provisions of the National Voter Registration Act (commonly referred to as the "Motor Voter" bill because it provides for new voter registration on applying for or renewing drivers' licenses or non-driver ID cards), if you move within your county and have not had the opportunity to notify the Board of Elections you can go to the polling place in your new location

and vote by Affidavit Ballot. This will be sent to the Board of Elections, which will verify the new address. The vote will be counted and the address change will be noted.

### ***How to Register***

#### **1. Register by Mail**

Forms should be available from your county Board of Elections, town or city halls, post office, political parties, various state agencies (see list in #2 below), some social service agencies, and the LWV. They can be obtained from the NYS Board of Elections website ([www.elections.state.ny.us](http://www.elections.state.ny.us)), local Board of Election websites and the LWVNYS website ([www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)), or by calling 1-800-FOR\_VOTE or 1-866-LWVNYS1.

Postage is required (except in New York City). Forms must be postmarked no later than 25 days before the election and received by your county Board of Elections no later than 22 days before the election.

#### **2. Register in Person**

You may register to vote at your county Board of Elections on any business day throughout the year. You may also register at a wide variety of NYS agencies, as a result of the “Agency-Based Voter Registration Program,” which is a component of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). These agencies include the following:

- a. Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
- b. Department of Health – WIC Program
- c. Department of Labor
- d. Department of Social Services
- e. Department of State
- f. Department of Veteran’s Affairs
- g. Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services
- h. City and State Universities of NY (CUNY and SUNY)
- i. Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- j. Commission on quality of Care for the Mentally Disabled
- k. Division of Veterans’ Affairs
- l. Military Recruiting Offices
- m. Office for the Aging
- n. Office of the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
- o. Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
- p. Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities
- q. Workers’ Compensation Board

Citizens who move within their county or within New York City after the last day of local registration, whether or not they were already registered, may register in person at their county Board of Elections up to 10 days before the election. New citizens, naturalized after the local registration day, may register in person at their county Board of Elections up to 10 days before the election.

### ***Special Presidential Ballot***

If you move out of your current jurisdiction before Election Day and will not meet the residence requirements of the jurisdiction into which you move, you need not lose your right to vote for President of the United States. Simply apply for a special presidential ballot. Contact your local



Board of Elections to find out the date by which you must apply, and the date by which the ballot must be returned to the Board of Elections. Voters moving into a new jurisdiction must request a special presidential ballot from the jurisdiction in which they are registered to vote.

### ***Party Enrollment***

Enrollment is the act of joining a political party. There are currently (2011) six recognized political parties in NYS: Democratic, Republican, Independence, Conservative, Green and Working Family. A recognized party is one whose candidate for governor received at least 50,000 votes on that party's line in the last gubernatorial election. When you register, you may enroll in one of the recognized parties by checking the appropriate box. (See official party philosophies in Appendix E.) If you choose not to enroll in any party, you must check the box on the registration form labeled, "I do not wish to enroll in a party."

Registered voters may change their party enrollment at any time by completing the enrollment section of the registration form. (Note: to be an "independent" you must check "I do not wish to enroll in a party." If you check "Independence" you are enrolling in the Independence Party.) The Board of Elections will notify you when the change takes place, which, by law, will be after the next general election.

In order to carry petitions for a candidate, you must be an enrolled member of the party for which you are circulating the petition.

Although only enrolled members of a political party may vote in that party's primary election, registered voters may work for and vote for any candidate of any party in the general election.

### ***Protections Against Registration Fraud***

Every person who registers by mail or on local registration days receives confirmation of the registration by mail from the Board of Elections. This is to verify the registrant's residence.

Each year the county Board of Elections mails a non-forwardable postcard to every registered voter 15-30 days before the local registration day as a routine check to verify the person's address and to inform the person of the location of their polling place. Any postcard not deliverable is returned to the Board of Elections which then mails out a card to be forwarded to a new address informing the voter of the need to re-register.

### ***Voter Registration and Jury Duty***

Some people have the mistaken idea that they can avoid jury duty if they do not register to vote. The names of the jurors in New York State are drawn from multiple lists including but not limited to:

- licensed drivers
- state taxpayers
- registered voters.

Therefore, failing to register to vote does not mean you will not be called for jury duty.

### ***Primary Election***

A primary is held to choose a party's candidates if more than one person is running for a particular office. The winner of the primary election will be that party's candidate in the general election. Only enrolled party members may vote in that party's primary election.

## **VOTING: SPECIAL CASES**

### ***Applying for an Absentee Ballot***

Registered voters may vote by absentee ballot in primary and general elections for the following reasons:

- absence from their county or New York City on election day
- temporary illness or physical disability
- permanent illness or physical disability
- duties related to primary care of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled
- patient or inmate in a Veterans' Administration Hospital
- detention in jail/prison, awaiting trial, awaiting action by a grand jury, or in prison for a conviction of a crime or offense which was not a felony.

Absentee Voting is a two-step process. First you must complete and send in an application for an absentee ballot, then you must send in the completed ballot.

Applications for absentee ballots are available from your county Board of Elections and the LWV, and may also be available at hospitals, nursing homes, colleges, libraries, senior citizen centers, social service agencies, state government offices and from political parties. The applications can be downloaded from the websites of the NYS Board of Elections ([www.elections.state.ny.us](http://www.elections.state.ny.us)), many local Boards of Elections, and the LWVNYS ([www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)).

An Absentee Ballot may also be requested by sending a letter to the county Board of Elections. (It must be received no earlier than 30 days and no later than seven days before the election.) The letter must contain the address where the voter is registered, the address to which the ballot is to be sent, the reason for the request, and the voter's signature. An application form will be mailed with the ballot. This application form must then be completed and returned along with the ballot.

If you apply to a Board of Elections for an absentee ballot by mail, it will be mailed to you. If you cannot pick up your ballot, or will be unable to receive it through the mail, you can designate someone to pick it up for you. Only the person designated on your application may pick up and deliver your ballot.

Completed applications must be postmarked no later than the seventh day before the election or delivered in person to your county Board of Elections no later than the day before the election.

### ***Absentee Voting***

Your completed ballot must be hand delivered to your county Board of Elections by the close of polls on Election Day or postmarked no later than the day before Election Day and received by the Board of Elections within seven days after Election Day.

### ***Blind, Disabled or Elderly Voters***

If you require assistance at the polling place, you may be aided by anyone you select (except your employer or a union representative) or by a poll worker. Poll workers are trained in the

use of the accessible Ballot Marking Device (BMD) which must be in each polling place. This device allows individuals with special needs to vote privately and securely.

The mail-check postcard you receive from your county Board of Elections will indicate if your polling place is accessible. If your polling place is not accessible, you may have it changed to one that is by contacting your county Board of Elections and requesting the necessary form. This form must be filed with the county Board of Elections at least 14 days before the election.

You may vote by absentee ballot. If you are permanently ill or disabled, you have the right to receive an absentee ballot for each subsequent election without further application. Simply file an application with your county Board of Elections describing your illness or disability. The Board will investigate and if satisfied, will mark your registration records “Permanently Disabled.” You will then receive absentee ballots prior to future elections in which you are eligible to vote.

### ***18 Year Olds***

Young people who will be 18 by the end of the calendar year are permitted to register to vote before their birthday. To be eligible to vote, he/she must be 18 on or before Election Day.

### ***Members of the Military***

Persons serving in the military may vote from their designated “home of record,” regardless of where they may be stationed or for how long. If the home of record is in NY, you may register and vote in local, state and federal elections by completing an application and sending it to the Board of Elections in your ‘home of record’ county. The application will register you and serve as your absentee ballot application, and will be valid for 2 federal elections.

Applications are available from your Voting Assistance Officer on base, or you can go to [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov), for forms and information. Be sure to share any change of address with your Board of Elections. If you have questions, contact the state Board of Elections at 518-473-5086 or [www.elections.state.ny.us](http://www.elections.state.ny.us), contact your Voting Assistance Officer at 800-438-8683, or your US Embassy office. You can also receive your applications and ballot via email. Check the NYS Board of Elections web site for more information.

### ***College and University Students***

College students may register and vote in their college community if they claim that community as their legal, permanent residence. However, some local Boards of Elections require students to meet more stringent tests of residency than are required of others.

Before undertaking a college student voter registration drive, obtain information from the county Board of Elections where the college is located regarding that Board’s requirements for registering in the college community. (See Appendix D, as well as the LWVNYS brochure “Your Right to Vote in NYS: College Students.”)

### ***Citizens Living Outside of the US***

Citizens living outside of the US may vote from their last US address. If that address is in NY, your completed application should be sent to the Board of Elections in the county in

which you lived prior to moving overseas. Your application will register you and serve as your absentee ballot application. You may vote for federal offices: President/Vice President, US Senate and congressional representatives. In years in which presidential conventions are held, you may also be eligible to vote for convention delegates.

Once registered, you will receive ballots by mail for each of the elections for which you are eligible to vote. Your application will be valid for 2 federal elections. Once registered, you will receive forms directly from your Board of Elections, on which you must update your overseas address. If you move back to the US, contact your Board of Elections to have your registration reflect that change.

For forms and information, go to [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov), contact the State Board of Elections at 1-800-367-8683 or [www.elections.state.ny.us](http://www.elections.state.ny.us), the Federal Voter Assistance Program at 800-438-8683, or your US Embassy office.

### ***Name Change***

If you marry or change your name, you may vote under the previous name under which you were registered. If you wish to use your new name, you sign it above the signature of your previous name. The Board of Elections will note the change, and in the future, you may vote using your new name.

**APPENDIX A**  
***INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THE***  
***NYS VOTER REGISTRATION FORM***

**\*\*NOTE: FORM MUST BE PRINTED IN BLUE OR BLACK INK ONLY.**

The numbers below refer to the question number on the NYS Voter Registration Form.

1. Check yes or no. (U.S. Citizen means either by birth or naturalized.)
2. Check yes or no. If you will be 18 by the end of the calendar year but not before election day, you can register but will not be able to vote until you are 18.
3. Enter all requested information. (Suffix refers to Jr., Sr., II, etc.)
4. Date of birth: put down numbers for your month, date and year. For example, if your birthday is July 1, 1975, write: 07/01/1975.
5. Check "M" or "F"
6. "Telephone" is optional; you do not need to supply this information, but if there is a question about your form, your identity, your residence etc. it will take less time to contact you by phone.
7. Address where you live. Be sure to indicate the name of your county.
8. Mailing address. Fill in only if it is different from your home address (a box number, etc.).
9. Check "yes" if you have voted before, even if in another state or NYS county.
10. Fill in the most recent year you voted before or enter a "?" if you don't remember.
11. If you voted before under a different name, a different address and/or in a different NYS county, write down what the old information was.
12. You must check one box. If you do not provide a DMV number or the last four digits or your SSN, provide a copy of a valid photo ID, a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or some other government document that shows your name and address, and mail it in with the form. If you don't provide verifiable ID information, you will be asked for it when you go to the polls for the first time.
13. Check only one box, either the box next to the party of your choice, or the box next to "I do not wish to enroll in a party." (If "Independence Party" is checked, you will be enrolled in that party, you will not be considered an independent voter.)
14. Two optional boxes: Check the appropriate box to request an absentee ballot or to indicate that you want to be an Election Day worker.
15. Read, sign and date.

If you do not receive a Confirmation of Registration from your local Board of Elections within a reasonable time after mailing your registration form, call them to make sure your application was received.

Local Boards of Elections send registered voters a non-forwardable postcard in August to verify their residence, and to inform them of the location of their polling place. If you do not received this card, call your Board of Elections to make sure there is no problem with your registration.

<http://www.elections.state.ny.us/VotingRegister.html>



# 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](http://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, 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.

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

**New York City**  
Executive Offices  
32 Broadway,  
7th Fl.  
New York, NY  
10004  
**(212) 487-5300**

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

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

**Broome**  
Government Plaza  
44 Hawley St.  
PO Box 1766  
Binghamton, NY  
13902  
**(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  
Elmira, NY 14902  
**(607) 737-5475**

**Chenango**  
5 Court St.  
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.  
Room 103  
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**  
Rte. 8  
PO Box 175  
Lake Pleasant, NY  
12108  
**(518) 548-4684**

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

**Jefferson**  
175 Arsenal St.  
Watertown, NY 13601  
**(315) 785-3027**

**Lewis**  
7660 N. State St.  
Lowville, NY 13367  
**(315) 376-5329**

**Livingston**  
County Govt. Ctr.  
6 Court St.  
Room 104  
Genesee, NY 14454  
**(585) 243-7090**

**Madison**  
County Office Bldg.  
N. Court St.  
PO Box 666  
Wampsville, NY 13163  
**(315) 366-2231**

**Monroe**  
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  
Lock 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  
Syracuse, 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**  
14012 State Rte. 31  
Albion, NY 14411  
**(585) 589-3274**

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

**Otsego**  
Ste. 2  
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, Ste. E  
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  
14891  
**(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.  
Ithaca, 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  
12845  
**(518) 761-6456**

**Washington**  
383 Broadway  
Fort Edward, NY  
12828  
**(518) 746-2180**

**Wayne**  
157 Montezuma St. Ext.  
PO Box 636  
Lyons, NY 14489  
**(315) 946-7400**

**Westchester**  
25 Quarropas St.  
White Plains, NY  
10601  
**(914) 995-5700**

**Wyoming**  
4 Perry Ave.  
Warsaw, NY 14569  
**(585) 786-8931**

**Yates**  
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 false registration or to furnish false information to the Board of Elections. Please print in blue or black ink.

## **!** Qualifications

<b>1</b>	<b>Are you a citizen of the U.S.?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	For board use only
	If you answer <i>No</i> , you cannot register to vote.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Will you be 18 years of age or older on or before election day?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	If you answer <i>No</i> , you cannot register to vote unless you will be 18 by the end of the year.	

## Your name

<b>3</b>	<b>Last name</b> _____	<b>Suffix</b> _____
	<b>First name</b> _____	<b>Middle Initial</b> _____

## More information

<b>4</b>	<b>Birth date</b>   M, M   /   D, D   /   Y, Y, Y, Y	<b>5</b>	<b>Sex</b> <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
	<b>6</b>		<b>Telephone (optional)</b>           -

## The address where you live

<b>7</b>	<b>Address (not P.O. Box)</b> _____
	<b>Apt. Number</b> _____ <b>Zip code</b>
	<b>City/Town/Village</b> _____
	<b>New York State County</b> _____

## The address where you receive mail

Skip if same as above

<b>8</b>	<b>Address or P.O. Box</b> _____
	<b>P.O. Box</b> _____ <b>Zip code</b>
	<b>City/Town/Village</b> _____

## Voting history

<b>9</b>	<b>Have you voted before?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>10</b>	<b>What year?</b>

## Voting information that has changed

Skip if this has not changed or you have not voted before

<b>11</b>	<b>Your name was</b> _____
	<b>Your address was</b> _____
	<b>Your previous state or New York State County was</b> _____

## Identification

You must make 1 selection

For questions, please refer to *Verifying your identity* above.

<b>12</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> New York State DMV number
	<input type="checkbox"/> Last four digits of your Social Security number   x x x - x x -
	<input type="checkbox"/> I do not have a New York State driver's license or a Social Security 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.

<b>13</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Democratic party
	<input type="checkbox"/> Republican party
	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservative party
	<input type="checkbox"/> Working Families party
	<input type="checkbox"/> Independence party
	<input type="checkbox"/> Green party
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> I do not wish to enroll in a party

## Optional questions

<b>14</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> I need to apply for an Absentee ballot (optional).
	<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to be an Election Day worker (optional).



## Affidavit: I swear or affirm that

- I am a citizen of the United States.
- I will have lived in the county, city or village for at least 30 days before the election.
- I meet all requirements to register to vote in New York State.
- This is my signature or mark in the box below.
- The above information is true, I understand that if it is not true, I can be convicted and fined up to \$5,000 and/or jailed for up to four years.

**15**

**Sign**

**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*<sup>TM</sup> Registry online at [www.nyhealth.gov](http://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	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



# Voter Registration Application

**Before completing this form, review the General, Application, and State specific instructions.**  
[http://www.eac.gov/voter\\_resources/register\\_to\\_vote.aspx](http://www.eac.gov/voter_resources/register_to_vote.aspx)

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		This space for office use only.	
Will you be 18 years old on or before election day? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>If you checked "No" in response to either of these questions, do not complete form.</b> (Please see state-specific instructions for rules regarding eligibility to register prior to age 18.)			
<b>1</b>	(Circle one) Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.	Last Name	First Name
			Middle Name(s)
			(Circle one) Jr Sr II III IV
<b>2</b>	Home Address		Apt. or Lot #
			City/Town
			State
			Zip Code
<b>3</b>	Address Where You Get Your Mail If Different From Above		City/Town
			State
			Zip Code
<b>4</b>	Date of Birth	<b>5</b>	Telephone Number (optional)
	_____/_____/_____ Month Day Year		
		<b>6</b>	ID Number - (See item 6 in the instructions for your state)
<b>7</b>	Choice of Party (see item 7 in the instructions for your State)	<b>8</b>	Race or Ethnic Group (see item 8 in the instructions for your State)
			_____
<b>9</b>	I have reviewed my state's instructions and I swear/affirm that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ I am a United States citizen</li> <li>■ I meet the eligibility requirements of my state and subscribe to any oath required.</li> <li>■ The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information, I may be fined, imprisoned, or (if not a U.S. citizen) deported from or refused entry to the United States.</li> </ul>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">Please sign full name (or put mark) ▲</p> <p>Date: <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 20px; vertical-align: middle;"> <span style="border-right: 1px solid black; width: 30%;"></span> <span style="border-right: 1px solid black; width: 30%;"></span> <span style="width: 40%;"></span> </span>  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> <span>Month</span> <span>Day</span> <span>Year</span> </div> </p>

**If you are registering to vote for the first time:** please refer to the application instructions for information on submitting copies of valid identification documents with this form.

## Please fill out the sections below if they apply to you.

If this application is for a **change of name**, what was your name before you changed it?

<b>A</b>	Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	(Circle one) Jr Sr II III IV
----------	-------------------	-----------	------------	----------------	---------------------------------

If you were **registered before but this is the first time you are registering from the address in Box 2**, what was your address where you were registered before?

<b>B</b>	Street (or route and box number)	Apt. or Lot #	City/Town/County	State	Zip Code
----------	----------------------------------	---------------	------------------	-------	----------

If you live in a rural area but do not have a street number, or if you have no address, please show on the map where you live.

<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Write in the names of the crossroads (or streets) nearest to where you live.</li> <li>■ Draw an X to show where you live.</li> <li>■ Use a dot to show any schools, churches, stores, or other landmarks near where you live, and write the name of the landmark.</li> </ul>	<b>NORTH</b> ↑								
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%; padding: 5px;">Example</td> <td rowspan="3" style="width: 5%; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Route #2</td> <td style="width: 20%; padding: 5px;">● Grocery Store</td> <td rowspan="3" style="width: 55%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Public School ●</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Woodchuck Road</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><b>X</b></td> </tr> </table>	Example	Route #2	● Grocery Store		Public School ●	Woodchuck Road		<b>X</b>	
Example	Route #2	● Grocery Store								
Public School ●		Woodchuck Road								
		<b>X</b>								

If the applicant is unable to sign, who helped the applicant fill out this application? Give name, address and phone number (phone number optional).

<b>D</b>	
----------	--

**Mail this application to the address provided for your State.**

## **APPENDIX D**

### ***COLLEGE STUDENTS' REGISTRATION AND VOTING INFORMATION***

You may register and vote if you are a US citizen and reach your 18th birthday on or before Election Day. While in college, you may decide to vote either in your home district or at your college address.

#### ***What are the reasons for registering and voting in my college community?***

In making the choice where to register to vote, you should consider that, while you might have a close relationship with and interest in your home community, you do also have a stake in the local issues of your college community. Issues such as off-campus housing and zoning restrictions, the environment, taxes, transportation and personal safety all affect your quality of living. Voting in your college community also is more convenient and relieves you of the need to apply for and return an absentee ballot. Every voter needs to have information about the issues and the candidates. Registering and voting at college can give you the opportunity to become involved with, and informed about, the local issues in your college town or city. Becoming involved in the issues, and learning about local politics, are some of the ways in which you can begin to build a relationship with other residents of the community. If you consider the college community your primary residence, you should register to vote in that community.

#### ***Am I really a resident of my college community?***

Although there have been some historical challenges to the residency of college students by some involved in elections in New York State, the county boards of election have become aware of the legal issues involved in questioning or challenging students about their current or future intentions for residing in the college locality. If you are concerned about how you will be treated when submitting your voter registration application in your college community, check with your campus student affairs office, NYPIRG chapter, or other student organizations involved in political activity. You can also check with the town/city clerk or the county board of elections.

Students live in their college towns anywhere from nine to 12 months of the year, for at least four years. This means that students are no more transient than the average American family, which typically moves once every four years. Moreover, the U.S. Census Bureau considers students to be residents of their college community. Federal funds are distributed to municipalities based on figures that include the student population. Students contribute to the college community in many valuable ways. They work as volunteers in a host of civic organizations, help to create jobs in the community, bolster the local economy, and pay sales and gasoline taxes.

#### ***What are the reasons for registering at my home address?***

If you don't consider your college community your primary residence and/or you have a special interest in the local issues at your home address, you have a good reason for voting there. The people and issues you vote for will have impact that is more lasting on you if you intend to return to this location to live. It is also possible that you are still subject to taxes and student loan/scholarship regulations at your home address. If this is the case, having a voice in the policy decisions about these issues might be important for you. Just remember, if you want your vote to be counted at your home residence, you must be registered at that address and be aware of absentee ballot regulations and procedures. If you are not from New York State and wish to vote in your home community, check your state's board of elections web site for information about how to do so.

**APPENDIX E**  
**STATEMENTS OF PHILOSOPHY OF RECOGNIZED**  
**POLITICAL PARTIES IN NYS**

In 2006, the LWV of NYS wrote to the five recognized political parties in the state, requesting a statement of each party's philosophy. Following are the responses received.

***Republican Party***

**“Why Am I A Republican?”**

- **I believe** in the promise of America and the goodness of the American people.
- **I believe** that the roots of our society are found in strong families, personal faith, solid communities, and love of country.
- **I believe** that our flag, the "Stars and Stripes", is a true and unique symbol of the pride and patriotism Americans share in their beloved nation.
- **I believe** that America is still the "shining city on a hill", and represents the dreams and aspirations of current and future generations of American citizens.
- **I believe** that our government is best when it is closest to the people that it serves.
- **I believe** that government and governmental programs should be efficient, and provide full accountability for the practices and policies its leaders propose and implement.
- **I believe** in the spirit of free enterprise, in which capitalism is the best means to keep our economy running strong, both now and in the future.
- **I believe** that while government can and should be the provider of some essential services, it should function with limited taxation, financial efficiency and the adoption of innovations to allow taxpayers to get the most for their hard-earned tax dollars.
- **I believe** that America's military is the most powerful military force in the world, and that our brave men and women who serve our nation deserve the respect and admiration a grateful nation can only bestow.
- **I believe** that governments first and foremost responsibility is the providing of safety and security to our citizens.
- **I believe** that the rights of law-abiding citizens should outweigh the rights of criminals and that the enforcement of existing laws, combined with the addition of innovative, common-sense policies, is the best means of furthering a civil society.
- **I believe** that our natural environment is a precious resource for all humankind, and that citizens and government should work together to implement common-sense policies that allow for both environmental protection and economic growth.
- **I believe** that in the spirit of Abraham Lincoln, all persons are created equal, and that I oppose discrimination in any form, against any person, and for any reason.
- **I believe** in an inclusive political party, a party with a "big tent" approach where I am encouraged to share my beliefs and to disagree with those who share opposing viewpoints.
- **I believe** that Republican Party leaders and officials have brought needed change to New York State and I agree that supporting their efforts is the best way to ensure a brighter future for many years to come.”

### ***Democratic Party***

“The Democratic Party is the people’s party, founded on basic principles that value the rights of individuals and respect for the dignity of all New Yorkers.

Democrats believe our communities are stronger when we join together and work toward a common goal. Democrats are dedicated to building futures of hope that are based on the ability of all New Yorkers to find work when they want it and need it.

To achieve that, we need a strong business community that is rewarded for its investments with lower taxes.

Children must be given new and better opportunities through a free and quality education that shows them positive ways to succeed.

And government surely must help the most vulnerable among us, whether they are homeless, elderly, infirm, or otherwise unable to care for themselves.

We are the party that has always showed the way toward change through real leadership – whether it was Franklin Delano Roosevelt leading us out of a depression, John Kennedy leading us into a new world of aspiration and possibility, or Bill Clinton leading us to an era of economic expansion that helped lift and extend opportunities to all Americans.

The Democratic Party will always be the party that fights to provide new answers for our time.”

### ***Independence Party (from the website of the NYS Independence Party)***

“The Independence Party of New York is organized around a core of values, beliefs and principles, and these are embodied in the objectives described in this platform. The following elements define the mission of the party:

- To restore democratic choice and electoral accountability.
- To put an end to budget deficits, unfunded pension liabilities, and other under- funded long term liabilities.
- To create a modern budgetary process that uses professionally acceptable accounting standards and accrual accounting, avoiding mandates, understated liabilities, and off-line budgeting.
- To diminish the pervasive and pernicious role of campaign contributions in buying access to legislative decision making and in promoting claims to public money.
- To promote public policies that are more directly consistent with the desires and needs of the public:
  - a. In welfare, where Americans want a system that discourages teenage pregnancy, encourages work, and encourages families to stay together.
  - b. In education, where Americans want to promote improvements that move us toward a world class education system.
  - c. In crime, where Americans want a system that keeps violent felons off the street, and which promotes more creative alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent criminals.

- d. In taxation and spending, where Americans want solutions that do not require continually increasing the burden of taxation on Americans and do not require continually expanding the scope of government activity.”

### ***Conservative Party***

“The Conservative Party is dedicated to upholding the principles championed by America’s Founders in the Federalist Papers and the Constitution. These principles include an unwavering commitment to a democratic-republican form of government; to the rule of law; to a strong national defense; to the free enterprise system that has produced the unparalleled abundance that our nation enjoys; and to individual liberty.

The Conservative Party believes that to safeguard these principles, this country must maintain an economic system which is controlled by the people and not by omnipotent government. Toward this end, the Party supports efforts to rid the economic system of unnecessary government intervention.

In foreign affairs, the Conservative Party is an advocate of policies which will give the United State the military power it needs to defend its national interests in a hostile world. We further believe that this country should support its allies and truly democratic movements around the world.”

### ***Working Families Party***

“The Working Families Party is a grassroots, community and labor based political party with a goal of injecting the issues of working-class, middle-class, and poor people—like jobs, health care, education, and housing—into the public debate, and holding candidates and elected officials accountable on those issues. We fight for families, parents, children, seniors and students. Our organizing strategy is to start local, think long-term, combine campaign work with organizing and education. We build from the bottom up -- from local communities and the elections that are decided in them -- rather than the top down. We believe it is essential to a healthy society that politicians be held accountable to working people rather than loyal to corporate special interests.

We're guided by the principles of equality, responsibility, community and freedom. We stand for "the commons" -- all the creations of society and nature that we inherit jointly and hold in trust for future generations. We think there's a need for a principled defense of the public sphere. A vigorous, effective public sector is a vital part of a good society, providing many goods and services that would be far more costly - or out of reach entirely - to working people without it. More broadly, we want to reinvigorate "the commons" all those public spaces and institutions that people maintain and use collectively. In a society devoted with increasing single-mindedness to the pursuit of profit, we think there's a place for a party that stands up for the public good.”

**APPENDIX F**  
***ELECTION RELATED PUBLICATIONS***

The following publications are available from the League of Women Voters of New York State:

- ***First Vote***
- ***The Road to the Voting Booth, Parts I, II and III***
  - Part I           A Handbook for Voter Service Directors
  - Part II          A Handbook for Candidates' Meetings
  - Part III         A Handbook for Organizing Voter Registration Drives
- ***Voters Guide I and Voters Guide II*** (published annually)
  - Voter Guide I contains information about registering to vote and answers general voting questions.
  - Voter Guide II contains information on state ballot issues (if there are any that year), and statewide candidate information.
- ***Your Right to Vote in New York State***
  - College Students
  - Homeless Individuals
  - Individuals with Disabilities
  - Individuals with Criminal Convictions and Those Detained in Jail or Prison
  - Individuals with Mental Health Disabilities

***For Prices and Ordering Information, Contact:***

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

**Telephone:**           518-465-4162

**E-mail:**               lwvny@lwvny.org

**Website:**             www.lwvny.org