



Change the future, change a life. Organ and Tissue Donor Registration on the Voter Registration Form

The League is part of an innovative partnership with the New York Alliance for Donation (NYAD). NYAD's mission is to increase organ, eye and tissue donation in New York State through collaborative advocacy, education, promotion, and research. Their goal is to ensure a transplant for every New Yorker in need. 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 via voter registration forms. This partnership seeks to increase the number of registered organ and tissue donors in New York while simultaneously increasing participation in government through voter registration drives.

The need for organ and tissue donation

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. Each year, approximately 6,000 people die waiting for an organ transplant that would have given them a second chance at life with their families.

- 10,500 New Yorkers need life-saving organ transplants.
- New York has the third highest need for donors in the US, yet the second lowest percentage of registered donors.
- More than 1,600 people in New York State have been on the waiting list for more than five years.
- About 600 New Yorkers die each year due to a shortage of donors.

The benefit of organ and tissue donation

Transplantation is a remarkable success story. Nearly 30,000 people with organ failure benefit from transplants each year. Additionally, each year hundreds of thousands of people benefit from donated tissue that is used for life-saving and reconstructive purposes.

- More than 1,500 New Yorkers receive life-saving organ transplants on an annual basis.
- At only one-year post transplant, more than half of liver recipients have returned to work.
- The benefit of transplantation goes beyond the individual. Improving employment status helps not only the individual, but the family and the community.
- After only two years, the cumulative cost of dialysis surpasses the cost of transplantation.

Facts about organ, eye and tissue donation

- One donor can save the lives of **8** people through organ donation and improve the lives of **50** more through eye and tissue donation.
- People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential donors. The medical condition of the donor at the time of death will determine what organs and tissue can be donated. Don't count yourself out.
- Saving your life is paramount. Organ and tissue donation becomes an option only after all life-saving measures have been taken and death has been declared. The decision to donate does not interfere with medical care.
- All major religions support organ and tissue donation.
- Donation does not delay or change funeral arrangements, and an open casket is possible.
- There is no cost to a donor's family or estate for organ and tissue donation.
- Organs are distributed based on medical information like blood type, body size and tissue type matching through a national computer network operated by the UNOS. It is illegal to distribute organs based on nonmedical information such as wealth, citizenship or celebrity status.
- It is illegal to buy or sell organs and tissue in the United States.
- It is possible to donate a kidney, partial liver, lung or pancreas as a living donor.

Learn more about organ, eye and tissue donation at www.donatelifenewyork.com