What identification do I need to vote?

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

VOTE 411

Vote 411 is the electronic voter guide from the League of Women Voters of NYS. By entering their address, the public can find a full list of races and candidates for the upcoming election. Vote411 can be accessed online through the League’s website at www.lwvny.org in an easy-to-use electronic format or at vote411.org.

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

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

Countdown to Election Day 2019

Primary Day Election – June 25

• May 31 – last day to postmark voter registration form or to register in person to vote in primary
• June 18 – last day to postmark application for absentee ballot for primary election
• June 24 – last day to apply in person for primary absentee ballot
• June 24 – last day to postmark absentee ballot for primary
• June 25 – last day to deliver absentee ballot in person to county BOE

General Election – November 5

• Oct. 11 – last day to postmark voter registration form or register in person at BOE
• Oct. 11 – last day to change party enrollment for 2020 primaries
• Oct. 26 – early voting is available through Nov. 3
• Oct. 29 – last day to postmark application for absentee ballot
• Nov. 3 – early voting ends
• Nov. 4 – last day to apply in person for absentee ballot
• Nov. 4 – last day to postmark ballot for general election
• Nov. 5 – last day to deliver absentee ballot in person to BOE

Last day to change your party enrollment for the 2020 primaries is FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2019

Primary Election

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

Early Voting

October 26 to November 3

General Election

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Polls are open 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Please Join Us

Membership is open to women and men. There are 48 local Leagues across NY state. Joining at any level automatically confers membership at every level: local, state and national. Membership enables you to support the League and receive publications from all three levels, and provides the opportunity to be involved in local, state and national issues.

Visit www.lwvny.org and click on JOIN LWVNYS. To find a local League in your area, click on FIND A LOCAL LEAGUE.

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

In 2009, New York became the first state to include an organ and tissue donor enrollment section on voter registration forms. Since inception, more than a quarter-million individuals have joined the New York State Donate Life Registry this way.

Transplantation is a remarkable success story. One organ and tissue donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation, and heal seventy-five more lives through tissue donation by restoring eyesight, helping fight infections in burn patients, and preventing the loss of mobility and disability. However, the need for donated organs and tissues continues to grow. There are nearly 115,000 people in the U.S. waiting for organ transplants, and about 4,900 of those people are waiting right here in New York State. Sadly, each year, approximately 6,000 people in the U.S. die waiting for an organ transplant that would have given them a second chance at life with their families.

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

To learn more about organ, eye and tissue donation, visit donatelife.ny.gov.

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

• be a United States citizen;
• be 18 years old by the date of the general, primary or other election;
• not claim the right to vote elsewhere.

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

How do I register?

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

Registration by mail

Voter Registration Forms are available on the New York State Board of Elections website, on the League of Women Voters website, at your county board of elections office, town and city halls, your post office and library, from political parties, state and local government agencies, and the League of Women Voters. Consult the COUNTPED TO ELECTION DAY portion of this guide for the deadline dates. Completed voter registration forms should be mailed to the board of elections in your county.

Registration in person

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

Registration online

You may also register to vote or make changes to your voter registration through the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles website, dmv.ny.gov/mydmv. This MyDMV service allows you to complete an application to register to vote or to update the information you have on file with the board of elections. Updated information could include providing your county board of elections with your new name, new address, or changing a party enrollment. Applications can also be made to the county board of elections for approval and processing. To use this site, you must have a NYS driver’s license, Learner Permit or Non- Driver ID.

What if I move?

This year, a law passed creating statewide voter registration transfer which allows the Board of Elections to transfer registration and enrollment of a voter appearing on a statewide voter list to wherever they move in the state. This law enables voters who move, even if it is to a different county in NY, to vote on an affidavit ballot at the poll site of their new address even if their new county had not been notified of the change of address. Their affidavit ballot will be counted.

As this is a new law, we strongly recommend that if you move, submit your Voter Registration Form with your new information or visit MyDMV (see section above). If you have a driver’s license or motor vehicle registration and need to file a form with the Department of Motor Vehicles to change your address, you can notify the board of elections of your address change at the same time by checking “yes” for that option on DMV’s Form MV-232. You can also change your address, party affiliation or name online at dmv.ny.gov/mydmv/mydmv.

How do I make sure I am registered to vote?

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

What if I don’t know where to vote?

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

What is early voting?

A new election law was passed in January 2019 allowing for early voting. This new law allows voters to vote in person at poll sites within their counties for no more than 12 days, beginning on Saturday, October 26 and continuing through Sunday, November 3. Each county will determine where the poll sites for early voting will be, if you can go to any or are assigned one, and who can vote. You can check with your county board of elections for locations and hours.

What if I can’t go to my local polling place on election day?

As already stated, this year there will be early voting in NY. There will be poll sites open in every county of NY at which registered voters can go and vote in person from Oct. 26 through November 3, 2019. Check with your county board of elections to see location of early voting poll sites and hours they will be open. Every voter has the option to vote early.

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

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

Both the federal government and New York State have enacted laws that make it easier for military voters and their families to vote in a timely and efficient manner. You will have a choice to receive forms and ballots by electronic means, and enough lead time to be sure that you receive forms and ballots in time to meet election deadlines. Call the NYS Board of Elections at 1-800-438-8863 or visit their website at https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingMilitaryFed.html, consult your Voting Assistance Officer on base, or visit www.fvap.gov for forms and information.