

county board of elections, town and city halls, post offices, political parties, various state offices, and the League of Women Voters. Contact the League of Women Voters of New York State - 1-866-LWVNYS1, the New York State Board of Elections - 1-800-FOR-VOTE, or your county board of elections to have a voter registration form sent to you. You may also download a voter registration form in New York State from [www.elections.ny.gov](http://www.elections.ny.gov). Complete, sign, and submit the form, either in person or by mail.

### **If I register to vote, will I be called for jury duty?**

The rolls of prospective jurors are compiled from a number of sources, so registering to vote does not necessarily mean that you will be called. Similarly, not registering to vote does not necessarily mean that you will not be called for jury duty. If you are called and feel that you cannot serve, jurors can often be excused for a valid health reason.

### **To obtain a voter registration form or absentee ballot application form, or to find out dates for the elections, for registering, for filing absentee ballot applications and submitting ballots:**

- Call the NYS Board of Elections at 1-800-367-8683, or download the forms/calendar from the web site for the New York State Board of Elections ([www.elections.ny.gov](http://www.elections.ny.gov)).
- Call, write to, or download forms/calendar from the web site for your local county board of elections. You can get their contact information from the NYS Board of Elections.
- Call your local League of Women Voters, or the League of Women Voters of New York State at 518-465-4162 or toll free at 1-866-598-6971, or go to our web site at <http://www.lwvny.org/>.

### **To check your voter registration status:**

You should receive in the mail before the election a card that informs you of your polling place. If you do not receive such a card, call your local board of elections and ask them:

1. Am I registered to vote?
2. Is my registration status "Active"? If not, what is it?
3. Will my name appear in the polling place roll book on Election Day?

### **If you are not on the rolls at your polling place**

If you believe you are registered to vote and are not on the rolls, ask for an "affidavit" (paper) ballot, and ask the poll worker for advice about following up on your status. You are legally entitled to an affidavit (paper) ballot and must be given one.

## **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](http://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 9,400 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](http://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.

YOUR RIGHT TO

VOTE

IN NEW YORK STATE



## **College Students**



This information is provided by  
the League of Women Voters of NYS  
and the New York State Bar Association  
[www.nysba.org](http://www.nysba.org) ~ [www.lycny.org](http://www.lycny.org)



## YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE IN NEW YORK STATE

# College Students

The right to vote is fundamental in a democratic society. The following information will help make it easy for you to exercise this right. To be eligible to vote, you must:

- be a United States citizen
- be 18 years old by December 31 of the year in which you register (note: you must be 18 years old by the date of the general, primary or other election in which you want to vote)
- live at your present address at least 30 days before an election
- not be incarcerated for a felony conviction
- not be on parole for a felony unless you are on parole and received a conditional voting restoration pardon, or have been issued a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities or Certificate of Good Conduct
- not be currently adjudged mentally incompetent or incapacitated by a court
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere
- have registered to vote

If you are in college, the following information will help you decide whether to register and vote in your home district/state or at your college address. There are many good reasons for registering and voting at either residence, but keep in mind, in most cases the final choice is yours. Some states do not allow college students to vote where they attend college if they are not permanent residents in that state. Check with the town or city clerk or the county board of elections in your college community to find out if you may vote from your college address. You may only register and vote in one location – either at your home address 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 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 the county board of elections, or local League of Women Voters.

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 a more lasting impact 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.

### How do I know how, when, and where to register and vote?

You may register in person at your local board of elections or at any state agency participating in the National Voter Registration Act, on any business day throughout the year. You may register by mail. Forms are available from your county board of elections, town and city halls, post office, political parties, various state offices, and the League of Women Voters. Contact the League of Women Voters of New York State - 1-866-LWVNY1, the New York State Board of Elections - 1-800-FOR-VOTE, or your county board of elections to have a voter registration form sent to you. You may also download a voter registration form in New York State. Go to [www.elections.ny.gov](http://www.elections.ny.gov) to find an online voter registration form that you can download.

### How do I get an absentee ballot?

You need to apply for an absentee ballot if you are a registered voter but will be away from your county on Election Day. You can request an absentee ballot application from your county board of elections or download one from the New York State Board of Elections website (<http://www.elections.state.ny.us/>). Upon completion, your application must be mailed or delivered to your county board of elections. Once they have received your application, your county board of elections will mail or give the ballot to you. To vote by absentee ballot in New York State, your ballot must be post-marked on or before Election Day and must be received by the board of elections no later than seven days after Election Day.

### How do I register to vote?

You need to fill out and submit a voter registration form. You may register in person at your local board of elections or at any state agency participating in the National Voter Registration Act, on any business day throughout the year. You may also register by mail. Forms are available from your

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