

Election Processing in NEW YORK STATE

Thank you for participating in the civic process by coming to observe election processing in person!

In New York State, **bipartisan teams** of election workers oversee every stage of the election process – from registration to ballot storage.

Have questions?

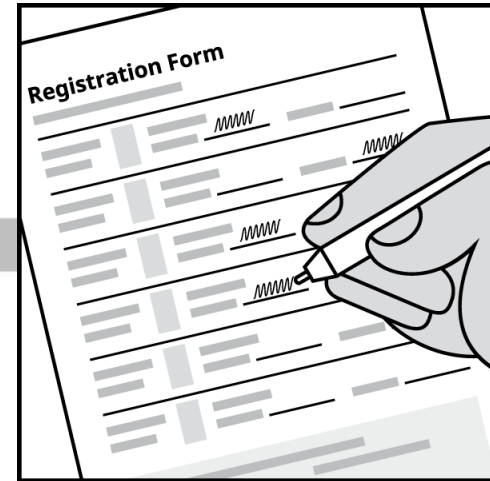
Ask the Election Officer in charge, or learn more on at your county board of elections website or at the State Board of Elections website: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/>

To be a poll watcher:

- You must have a signed certificate if appointed by a political party or organization.
- You must be a qualified voter in this county.

If you are observing processing, you may not:

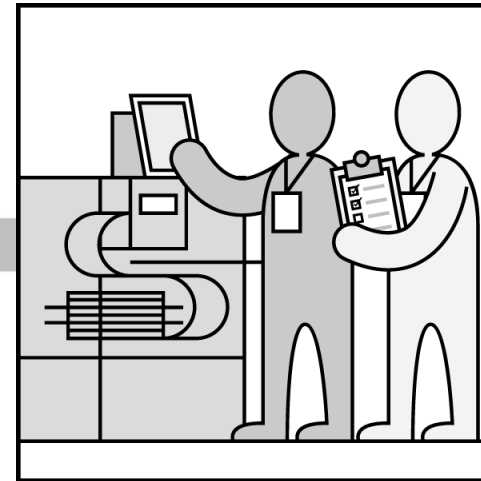
- Distribute, wear, or carry campaign material
- Tamper with election materials
- Interfere with election workers or election processes



Step 1. Voter Registration

To register to vote, you are required to provide valid identifying information (e.g., name, residence address, date of birth) proving that you are eligible to vote. We review and verify that information, then put it into our voter registration database.

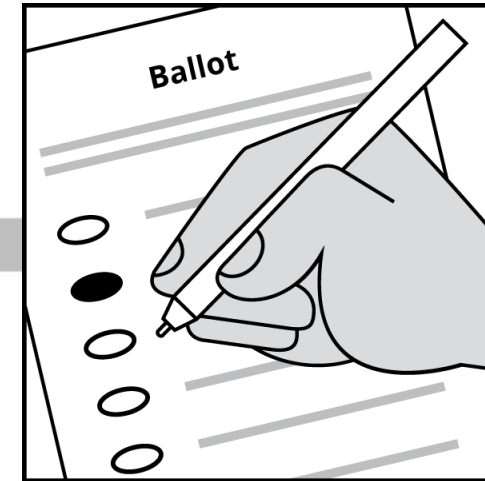
Election Law § 5-210.



Step 2. Election Equipment Testing

We use election equipment that meets state security standards and is approved by the State Board of Elections. We test our election equipment before each election to make sure machines are accurately counting ballots.

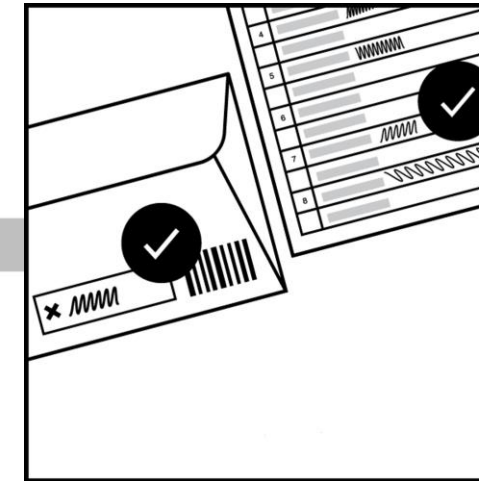
Election Law §§ 7-200, 7-202, 7-206.



Step 3. Voting

In New York, registered voters can vote early in person, on Election Day in person, or by absentee ballot. To vote by mail using an absentee ballot, voters must request a ballot and have a valid reason for not being able to vote in person. We send military and overseas voters their ballots by mail, fax, or email, but all ballots must be returned by mail or in person.

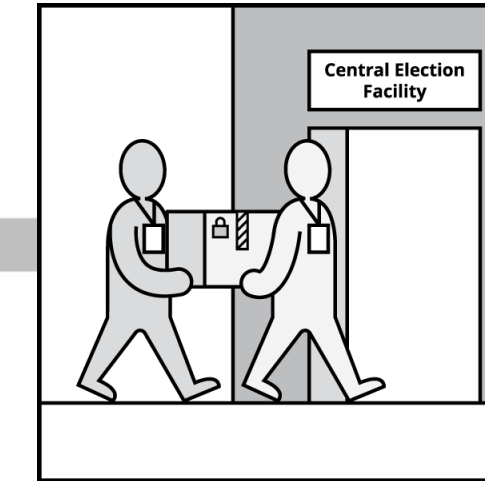
Election Law §§ 8-400, 10-106, 10-107, 10-112, 10-114.



Step 4. Verify Voter Eligibility

We verify that every in-person voter is eligible to vote before giving them a ballot. We only send absentee ballots to registered voters who have requested a ballot. We verify voter eligibility again when we collect absentee ballots.

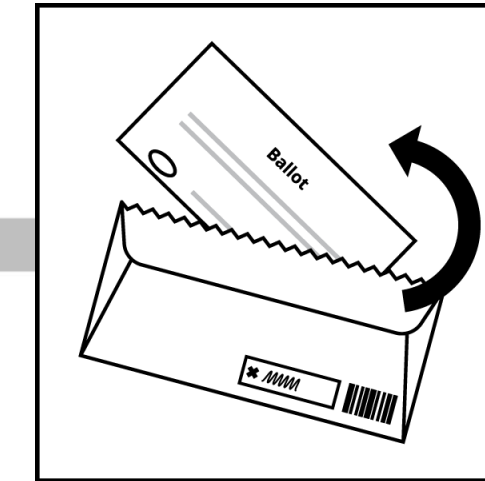
Election Law §§ 8-302, 8-400, 9-209.



Step 5. Ballot Collection

We collect all absentee ballots at a central location for ballot tabulation. Ballots cast in person are tabulated at the polling place where they were cast.

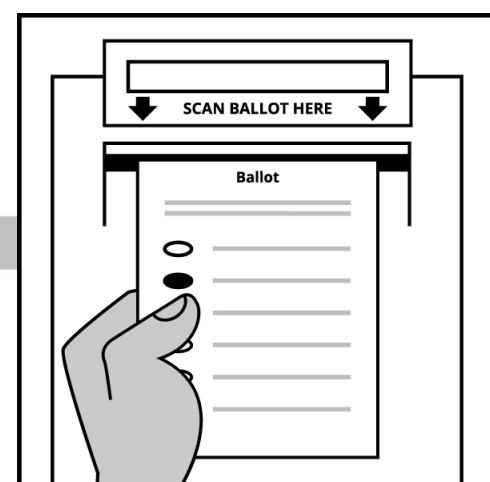
Election Law §§ 9-102, 9-209.



Step 6. Process and Prepare Ballots

We process absentee and overseas ballots to prepare them for scanning and tabulation. If a ballot is damaged or has machine-unreadable marks, we review it manually or have a bipartisan team copy the marks to a new ballot for scanning. We count all eligible ballots as voters intend.

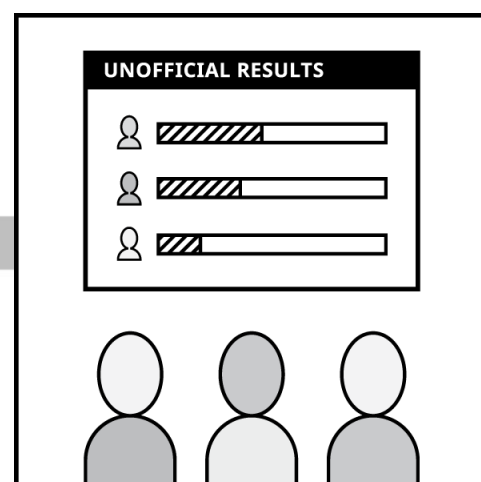
Election Law §§ 9-102, 9-110, 9-209, 6210.13.



Step 7. Ballot Tabulation

We scan and count all the valid votes to determine the results of each contest in the election. In-person ballots are tabulated at the poll sites where the vote was cast.

Election Law § 9-102.

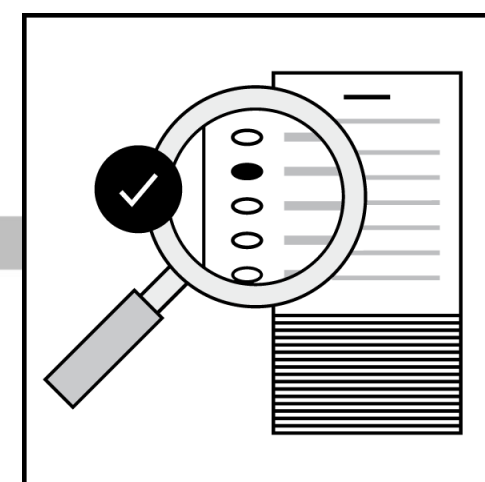


Step 8. Unofficial Results

We begin publishing unofficial results after the polls close on Election Day. Unofficial results are published publicly as the results become known. Results are unofficial until all ballot return deadlines have passed and we have counted every valid ballot we received. It can take several weeks after Election Day to finish counting every ballot.

Election Law § 9-126.

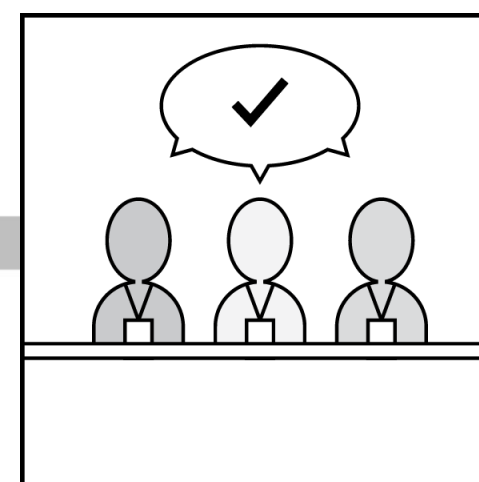
Find unofficial results on your county board of elections website



Step 9. Audit

Audits are a normal check and balance that is part of every election. We use audits to confirm that election equipment accurately interpreted and tallied voters' ballots, that the outcome of the election reflects how voters voted, and that election workers followed procedures.

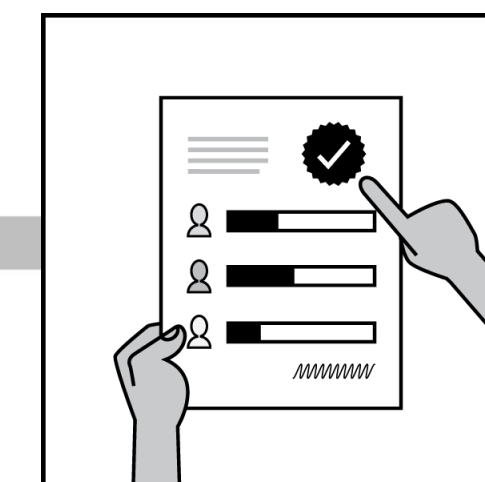
Election Law §§ 9-211, 6210.18.



Step 10. Canvass of Results

After all valid ballots have been counted, the local Board of Elections reviews the election, resolves discrepancies, and verifies the outcome of the election.

Election Law §§ 9-204-210.

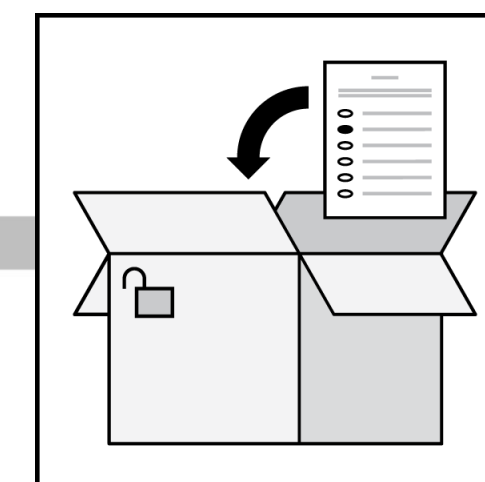


Step 11. Certification of Official Results

The local Board of Elections sends the results to the State Board of Elections, which conducts another review of reported vote counts and certifies official election results.

Election Law § 9-216.

Official election results are published on ELECTIONS.NY.GOV



Step 12. Ballot Storage

We securely store all paper ballots and other records as part of the official record for 2 years following the election. We aren't allowed to open the boxes during this time.

Election Law § 3-222.