

## FAQ: New York State Elections

### What is the difference between a primary and general election?

Primary elections are like play off games in sports where the winners (best candidates) go on to compete in the championship game (the general election). Candidates from the same political party compete in a primary election in order to determine who will represent the party in the general election.

General elections are open to all registered voters. Eligibility to vote in a primary is determined by each state. New York has closed primaries; meaning only voters registered in a political party are eligible to vote in that party's primary election.

### What is a closed primary?

In a closed primary, only registered members of a political party can vote in that party's primary. For example, only voters registered in the Republican Party are allowed to vote in the Republican primary election and only registered Democrats are eligible to vote in the Democratic primary.

### When are the 2021 elections?

#### **The Primary Election is June 22, 2021.**

- People can also **vote early from June 12 – June 20**
- May 28, 2021 is the last day register to vote (post mark)
- June 2, 2021 is the last day to register to vote in person

#### **The General Election is November 2, 2021**

- People can also **vote early from October 23 - 31, 2021**
- October 8, 2021 is the last day to register to vote (post mark)
- October 13, 2021 is the last day to register in person

### How does a person find out where to vote?

New York State and City residents can visit: [voterlookup.elections.ny.gov](https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov)

New York City residents can visit: [findmypollsite.vote.nyc](https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc)

### Is identification required before voting in person?

**NO**, New York State **does not require voters to present identification** before voting.

**BUT**, if a voter did not fill in the last 4 digits of their social security or driver's license number on the voter registration form, identification must be provided at the polling place when voting for the first time.

Voters can present the following forms of identification:

- A current, valid photo ID, including but not limited to a drivers' license or a DMV-issued non-driver photo ID

- A current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document with the voter's name and address

### Is voting by mail an option?

**YES** | All registered voters can request an absentee ballot and vote by mail. An excuse is required, such as being absent from the country, having a disability or a temporary illness such as the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19.

**To request an absentee ballot** visit: [elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee](https://elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee)

**New York City voters can** visit: [vote.nyc/page/absentee-voting-0](https://vote.nyc/page/absentee-voting-0)

**June 15 is the deadline** to request a ballot to vote in the primary election.

**October 26 is the deadline** to request a ballot to vote in the general election.

### Can the status of a mail-in ballot be checked?

**YES**

**To track your New York State ballot** visit: [nysballot.elections.ny.gov](https://nysballot.elections.ny.gov)

**To track your New York City ballot** visit: [nycabsentee.com/tracking](https://nycabsentee.com/tracking)

### What if a person's name is not on the voter roll at the polling site?

The polling site is based on a person's address. If they are at the correct polling site, they have the right to ask and vote by an affidavit ballot. The affidavit ballot will be counted after election officials confirm that you are registered to vote.

### What if a voter has a disability?

All polling sites in New York must be compliant with the Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA). All polling sites must have a Ballot Marking Device (BMD). A voter with sight or physical restrictions can use the BMD machines. There are certified inspectors at each location to assist a voter with using the BMDs.

Residents living outside New York City can apply through the NYS Board of Elections website (search: become a poll worker).

### What if a voter encounters a problem voting on Election Day?

The New York Attorney General runs an Election Protection Hotline: 1-800-771-7755

Sources: [New York State](#) and [New York City Board of Elections](#). The information contained herein is current as of 2/10/21. The best way to get current information is to check with the New York State Board of Elections office.