

FAQ: New York State Voter Registration

Who is eligible to register to vote?

- United States Citizens
- Adults 18 years old by election day
- Residents of NY for at least 30 days before election
- Not claim the right to vote elsewhere
- Not be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction (unless received a pardon by the Governor)

NOTE: A person sixteen and seventeen may preregister to vote. They will automatically be registered upon reaching the age of eligibility.

Can a person with a criminal record register to vote?

YES | In New York State, someone **CAN VOTE** if they are:

- Convicted of a misdemeanor or violation
- Incarcerated for a misdemeanor (able to vote by absentee ballot)
- Convicted of a felony by a state or federal court and on probation
- On parole AND pardoned by the Governor

NO | In New York State, someone **CANNOT VOTE** if they are:

- Convicted of a felony by a state or federal court and currently incarcerated
- Convicted of a felony by a state or federal court, on parole and not pardoned by the Governor

Can a student in New York State register to vote in New York?

YES | Students from out of state can register to vote in New York.

New York State students that have a residence in another state must fill out a registration form indicating New York State residency. The New York State registration will cancel out the registration in the other state.

Can a person without a home register to vote?

YES | A homeless person has the right to vote.

On the voter registration form, use the location/address that is considered home, such as the address or cross street where they sleep. For the mailing address, use the address of a shelter or P.O. box.

Can a person use a PO mailbox as their permanent address on the voter registration form?

NO | A voter registration form will not be processed if a P.O. box is the permanent address.

A physical address is needed to determine the political district a person votes in. There is a section on

the form to put in a mailing address. The mailing address can be a P.O. box.

What are the voter registration deadlines for 2021?

PRIMARY ELECTION DATE - June 22, 2021

- **February 14, 2021** is the last day to change party affiliation and be able to vote in the primary
- **May 28, 2021** is the last day to postmark an application
- **June 2, 2021** is the last day to submit an application in person

GENERAL ELECTION – November 2, 2021

- **October 8, 2021** is the last day to postmark an application
- **October 13, 2021** is the last day to submit an application in person

Does a person have to register every year?

NO | Once a person registers, they are permanently registered unless:

- Their **name changed** since the last election
- They have **not voted for 5 years**
- They want to **change party affiliation**

NOTE: February 14, 2021 is the deadline to change a party affiliation and be able to vote in the June 22, 2021 primary.

Does a person have to re-register if they move?

NO | The registration of voters who move within New York State and fill out a change of address with the United States Postal Service will automatically be updated.

YES | If a person moves out of state they will need to register to vote in that state.

Are registered voters more likely to be called for jury duty?

Possibly, but people are called who are not registered. Jurors are drawn from lists of state taxpayers and licensed drivers as well as from voter registration rolls.

How can a person find out if they are registered to vote?

- Call the Board of Elections 1-866-868-3692
- Check On-Line: voterlookup.elections.ny.gov

How does a person register to vote?

On-line via the New York Department of Motor Vehicles at dmv.ny.gov
Requires drivers license or government issued identification

By mail

Download a form at the New York State or New York State or City Board of Elections
Requires printer, envelope and stamps

Pick up a form at the Library, Post Office or Department of Motor Vehicles
Requires envelope and stamps

By mail via Third Party Website at register2vote.org

Requires

1. Signing the registration form sent to your address.
2. Mailing the form back to the Board of Elections in the stamped envelope.

Someone registered to vote, but never received anything. What do they do?

If they registered correctly, check with the New York Board of Elections by calling, visiting in person, or going online and using the voter lookup tool: voterlookup.elections.ny.gov

What happens if a person doesn't pick a political party?

- They will not be allowed to vote in the primary.
- New York State has closed primaries.
- Only party members are allowed to vote in the primary that selects the party's candidates for the general election.

NOTE: February 14, 2021 is the deadline to change a party affiliation and be able to vote in the June 22, 2021 primary.

Where can someone get nonpartisan information about the election and candidates?

- Ballotpedia: Information about Elections, Elected Officials and Candidates: ballotpedia.org
- League of Women Voters Candidate Guide: vote411.org
- New York City Campaign Finance Board Candidate Guide: nyccfb.info

Source: [New York State Board of Elections](https://www.elections.ny.gov). The information contained herein is current as of 3/5/21.
The best way to get current information is to check with the New York State Board of Elections office.