

Voting

Voting is quick, easy, and important! In New York, polls are open from **6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.** Before voting, you should know the location of your polling site, the number of your Assembly District (A.D.) and the number of your Election District (E.D.). This information can be found on both the Board of Election's registration confirmation card, sent to you after you register, and the Board's information card, sent to you prior to the primary elections. Please call the Board of Elections hotline at 1-866-VOTE-NYC (1-866-868-3692), or your local Borough Board of Elections if you cannot locate the information.

If you do not know how to vote, you can ask for help. The City's Board of Elections provides help in **English, Spanish**, and, depending on the location of your polling site, **Chinese** and **Korean**. You can also bring information in your native language into the voting booth. If you have a disability, a Ballot Making Device (BMD) will be available at each poll site starting in Fall 2008.

Dates to Remember

2008 Primary Election

- August 15** Last day to register (new voters only)
- September 2** Last day to apply for an absentee ballot by mail
- September 8** Last day to mail an absentee ballot (needs to be postmarked)
- September 9** Primary Election Day (House of Representatives, NYS Senate, NYS Assembly)

Presidential & Vice-Presidential Debates

- September 26** First Presidential Debate
University of Mississippi, MS
- October 2** Vice-Presidential Debate
Washington University, MO
- October 7** Second Presidential Debate
Belmont University, TN
- October 15** Third Presidential Debate
Hofstra University, NY

2008 General Election

- October 10** Last day to register (new voters only)
- October 28** Last day to apply for an absentee ballot by mail
- November 3** Last day to mail an absentee ballot (needs to be postmarked)
- November 4** General Election Day

VAC Guide to 2008 Elections



NYC Voter Assistance Commission

100 Gold Street, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10038
Tel: (212) 788-8384
Fax: (212) 788-2527
website: www.nyc.gov/voter

Registering to Vote

To register to vote in the City of New York, you must:

- Be a citizen of the United States (Includes those persons born in Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands).
- Be 18 years of age on the date of the next election.
- Be a New York City resident for at least 30 days.*
- Not be in jail, in prison, or on parole for a felony conviction.
- Not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court.
- Not claim the right to vote elsewhere (outside the City of New York).

* Residence is not unintentionally lost if you are serving in the Armed Forces, or enrolled as a student at an institution of higher learning outside New York City.

Party Enrollment

Enrolling in a political party means that you wish to become a member of the party. Enrolling allows you to vote in that party's primary elections, usually held weeks or months before each November's general election. In New York, you can enroll in any one of the following five parties:

- **Democratic Party (D)**
- **Republican Party (R)**
- **Independence Party (I)**
- **Conservative Party (C)**
- **Working Families Party (WFP)**

Identification Requirements

Your identity must be verified prior to Election Day, so that you won't have to provide identification when you vote. As requested in Box #9 on the New York State voter registration form, your identity can be verified through your driver's license number, non-driver ID number, or the last four digits of your social security number.

If your identity is not verified before Election Day, you will be asked to provide an ID when you go to vote. Acceptable IDs include: a valid photo ID, a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or some other government document that shows your name and address.

If you still do not have identification when you go to vote, you will be asked to vote by affidavit ballot (paper ballot), instead of on the machine. Your identity will then be checked and your vote will be counted if you are found to be properly registered.

Registration Confirmation Card

Within 20 days after submitting your voter registration form, you will receive a **registration confirmation card** from the Board of Elections. If not, please call 1-866-VOTE-NYC (1-866-868-3692) or your local Borough office to verify that your application was received and processed.

Absentee Ballot

Voting by **absentee ballot** is important for many New Yorkers. If you know that you will not be able to go to your regular polling place on Election Day, you can **apply to the Board of Elections** to vote by absentee ballot. If you qualify, you will be sent an absentee ballot in the weeks before the election which you must then submit to your borough's board of elections during the designated time period. Please visit the Board of elections website (www.vote.nyc.ny.us) for a full absentee ballot description.

Main Office, Board of Elections

32 Broadway, 7th Fl.

New York, NY 10004

(212) 886-VOTE-NYC (868-3692)

Manhattan

200 Varick St.
10th Floor
New York, NY 10014
(212) 886-2100

Queens

126-06 Queens Blvd.
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
(718) 730-6730

Bronx

1780 Grand Concourse
5th Floor
Bronx, NY 10457
(718) 299-9017

Staten Island

1 Edgewater Plaza
4th Floor
Staten Island, NY 10305
(718) 876-0079

Brooklyn

345 Adams St.
4th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(212) 886-2100