

# **VOTE** **FOR YOUR** **FUTURE**

**REGISTER TO VOTE**

**PRIMARY ELECTION: SEPTEMBER 13, 2016**

**GENERAL ELECTION: NOVEMBER 8, 2016**



# A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR REGISTERING TO VOTE

## WHO CAN REGISTER?

In order to be eligible to register to vote you must be:

- A U.S. citizen by birth (anyone born in the United States or its territories, including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and certain Panamanians are U.S. citizens).
- A naturalized U.S. citizen (Immigrants become U.S. citizens by “naturalization.” Naturalized U.S. citizens are foreign-born individuals who are granted citizenship by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.)
- At least 18 years old and a New York resident for at least 30 days prior to an election.
- Not currently serving time in jail, on work release or parole for a felony conviction.
- You must be registered at least 25 days before an election.
- You also need to register to vote if:
  - You have changed your address since the last time you voted or registered to vote.
  - You wish to change your party affiliation.
  - You have changed your name since last voting.
- The last day for voter registration to vote in the **September 13, 2016**, primary election is **August 19, 2016**. The last day for voter registration by mail or in person to vote in the **November 8, 2016**, general election is **October 14, 2016**.

The American Heritage Dictionary defines “voting” as the formal expression of a preference for a candidate for office or for a proposed resolution of an issue. Voting is the foundation upon which our democracy rests. The vote is our voice and it should be used loudly and regularly. Use your voice. Vote!

## POLITICAL PARTIES

Enrolling in a political party is optional. However, if you wish to vote in a political party’s primary elections, you must enroll in that political party. If you switch political parties, you cannot vote in your new party’s primary until after the first general election after your switch. Thus, if you switch party affiliation before the 2016 general election, you may vote in your new party’s primary in 2017. However, if you switch after the 2016 general election, you cannot vote in your new party’s primary until 2018.

## HOW DO I REGISTER?

Registering to vote is easy to do.

The City University of New York makes voter registration forms available to all CUNY students when they register for classes. Ask about voter registration and the application forms at your campus.

You can also obtain a form, fill it out and mail it in yourself. You don't even need a stamp. It's as simple as that.

To get your voter registration form by mail or via the Internet, or for more information about voting, please call or visit the following websites:

- **THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

[cuny.edu/vote](http://cuny.edu/vote)

- **THE NEW YORK CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

(212) VOTE-NYC; [vote.nyc.ny.us](http://vote.nyc.ny.us)

- **NEW YORK CITY CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD**

(212) 409-1800; [nycvotes.org](http://nycvotes.org)

- **THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

(212) 725-3541; [lwvnyc.org](http://lwvnyc.org)

## CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION

You will receive an official postcard from the Board of Elections in the mail indicating your election district, polling place and schedule for voting. You will also be sent a Voter's Identification Card. If either card is not received within two weeks of registering, call the Board of Elections hotline at (212) VOTE-NYC.

## HOW TO OBTAIN AN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION

If you cannot get to your poll site on Election Day you may qualify to vote by absentee ballot. You can vote by absentee ballot if you are temporarily or permanently ill/disabled, or if you are out of town on Election Day for business, vacation, school or similar circumstances. For the primary election, the last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is September 6, 2016, and in person at a Board of Elections office September 12, 2016. Absentee ballots must be postmarked by September 12, 2016, or delivered by September 13, 2016, at a Board of Elections office. For the general election, the last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is November 1, 2016, and in person November 7, 2016. Absentee ballots must be postmarked by November 7, 2016, or delivered by November 8, 2016, at a Board of Elections office. To obtain an absentee-ballot application, check the box in the bottom left-hand corner of the voter registration form, call the Board of Elections at (212) VOTE-NYC or download the form at [cuny.edu/vote](http://cuny.edu/vote).

# CUNY VOTES

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