Countdown to Election Day 2017

Primary Election – Tuesday, September 12
- Last day to postmark voter registration form or to register in person to vote in primary: Friday, August 18, 2017.
- Last day to postmark application for absentee ballot for primary election: Tuesday, September 5, 2017.
- Last day to apply in person for primary absentee ballot: Monday, September 11, 2017.
- Last day to postmark absentee ballot for primary: Monday, September 11, 2017.
- Last day to deliver absentee ballot in person to County BOE: Tuesday, September 12, 2017.

General Election – Tuesday, November 7
- Last day to postmark voter registration form or register in person at BOE: Friday, October 13, 2017.
- Last day to change party enrollment for 2018 primaries: Friday, October 13, 2017.
- Last day to postmark application for absentee ballot: Tuesday, October 31, 2017.
- Last day to apply in person for absentee ballot: Monday, November 6, 2017.
- Last day to postmark ballot for general election: Monday, November 6, 2017.
- Last day to deliver absentee ballot in person to BOE: Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

Did you know you are able to register as an organ and tissue donor when you register to vote?

In 2009, New York became the first state to include an organ and tissue donor enrollment section on voter registration forms. Since inception, over 160,000 individuals have joined the New York State Donate Life Organ and Tissue Donor Registry this way.

Transplantation is a remarkable success story. One organ and tissue donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation, and improve fifty or more lives through tissue donation by restoring eyesight, helping fight infections in burn patients and preventing the loss of mobility and disability. However, the need for donated organs and tissues continues to grow. There are currently more than 123,000 people in the U.S. waiting for organ transplants, and about 10,000 of those people are waiting right here in New York State. Sadly, each year, approximately 6,000 people in the U.S. die waiting for an organ transplant that would have given them a second chance at life with their families.

By enrolling in the New York State Donate Life Organ and Tissue Donor Registry, you are giving legal consent to the donation of your organs and tissues in the event of your death. You are authorizing the State Department of Health to share this information at or near the time of your death with federally regulated organ procurement organizations, New York State licensed eye and tissue banks and entities formally approved by the Commissioner.

To learn more about organ, eye and tissue donation, visit www.donatelifenyork.com

To find a local League in your area, click on FIND A LOCAL LEAGUE.
The 2017 elections will provide you with the chance to choose the decision makers and tell them what you want. Voting is an important part of being a United States citizen. Elected officials are people who represent you in government. They make decisions about laws and regulations that have an impact on your life and the lives of others. It is important to make sure that your elected officials have your best interests in mind. This guide will provide you with information about how to register to vote, how to vote on election day, and what to expect when you go to the polls. It will also answer many questions that you may have about voting in New York State.

Who Can Vote?
To vote, you must:
- be a United States citizen;
- be 18 years old by December 31 of the year in which you register to vote (you must be 18 years old by the date of the general, primary or other election in which you want to vote);
- live at your present address at least 30 days before an election;
- not be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction and;
- not have been convicted of a felony related to her or her official duties.

Election Day
On Election Day, you will vote at your polling place, which is the location of your polling place. To find your polling place, you can use the Voter Registration Search feature on the New York State Board of Elections website (voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx). As with all computer systems, there can be problems with the data, and your name could be erroneously eliminated from the rolls. Protect your right to vote by watching your mail for a card from your local board of elections with the location of your polling place. If you do not receive such a card well before the election and do not find yourself eliminated when using the Voter Registration Search (as above), call your local board of elections to inquire about your status. Ask them: “Am I registered to vote? Will my name appear in the polling place roll book on Election Day?”

If I don’t know where to vote?
The board of elections should send you a card telling you the location of your polling place. If you do not receive it, use the online Voter Registration Search facility on the NYS Board of Elections website, “What if I don’t know where to vote?”, or call your county board of elections to verify your registration and ask about your polling place.

What can I expect when I go to the polls?

What if I can’t go to my local polling place on election day?
If you will be away on Election Day or will be unable to go to your polling place, you can vote by absentee ballot. First you must obtain an absentee ballot form from the board of elections, or download one from the New York State Board of Elections website or the League of Women Voters website. Complete the application and submit it by mail or in person; consult the COUNCITDOW TO ELECTION DAY portion of this guide for the deadline dates. Once it has received your Absentee Ballot Application, the board of elections will send or give you an Absentee ballot form. Complete the ballot and submit it by mail or in person; consult the COUNCITDOW TO ELECTION DAY portion of this guide for the deadline dates.

I am in the military and will be away. How do I vote?
Both the federal government and New York State have recently enacted laws that make it easier for military voters and their family members to vote in a timely and efficient manner. You will have a choice to receive forms and ballots by electronic means, and enough lead time to be sure that you receive forms and ballots in time to meet the election deadline. Call the NYS Board of Elections at 1-800-438-8683, consult your Voting Assistance Officer on base, or visit http://www.hvac.gov for forms and information.

How do I vote in my college?
When you are attending college outside your hometown, you may vote in person or by absentee ballot in your home community. You must be registered in your hometown district to vote there. You can only vote in one location. If you attend college in NYS, consider yourself a resident of your college community, and have lived there for at least 30 days before an election, you may register and vote in that community, but not elsewhere. If you are from NYS and attend college in another state, you do not need to be a resident of that college community to vote in your state. You can consult the elections authority of that state to determine your voting rights.

How can I get time off from work to vote?
New York State law states that if you do not have sufficient time outside your working hours to vote, you may take up to 2 hours at the beginning or the end of your shift, with pay, to allow you to vote. You must notify your employer no more than 10 and not less than 2 days before the day of the election that you will take that time.

What if I go to the polls?
A sample ballot should be posted. If you do not know how to use the voting machine, ask an election inspector for assistance. If you are not on the rolls at your polling place, but believe you are registered to vote, and have verified with the poll worker that you are at the correct polling place for your address, you are legally entitled to vote on an affidavit (paper) ballot. You should also ask the poll worker for advice about your registration status. After checking your information, your ballot will be counted. If you determine that you are in the wrong polling place, go to the correct one to vote. Be sure to bring some identification, especially if you are voting for the first time.

What is an affidavit ballot?
An affidavit ballot, sometimes called a “provisional paper” or “paper ballot,” is used when a voter’s name has been omitted from the current voter rolls. It is used when you have not used your current driver’s license or state ID as the photo ID, or if you are not registered to vote, or if you are not registered in your current county. If you do not have a current NYS driver’s license, you need to provide the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you do not have either of these, you may provide a copy of a valid photo ID, or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or some other government documentation that shows your name and address. It’s a good idea to bring your ID to the polls, especially if you registered by mail and are voting for the first time.