

# Voter Guide

BY THE VOTEFORBERNIE.ORG GOTV TEAM

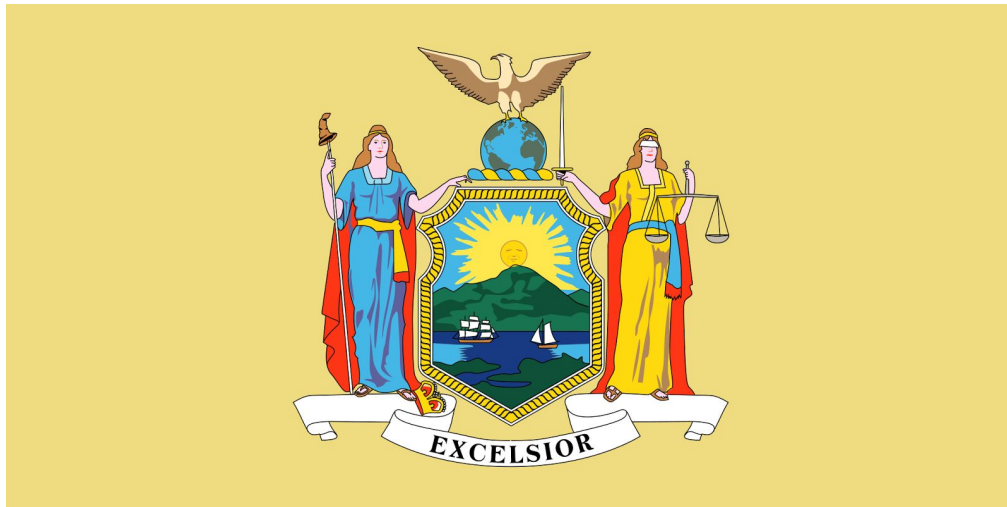
# VOTE FOR Bernie '16

Learn how to vote in your state  
at [VoteForBernie.org](http://VoteForBernie.org)

Suggestions or Corrections?  
[contact@voteforbernie.org](mailto:contact@voteforbernie.org)

Fast Pertinent Info Here: [VoteForBernie.org/ny](http://VoteForBernie.org/ny)

# NEW YORK



# VOTER FAQ

2016 Democratic Presidential Preference Primary

# Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Registration Deadline: March 25th, 2016

Affiliation Deadline: October 9, 2015

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# CONTACT INFORMATION

New York State Board of Elections: (800)-FOR-VOTE

[www.elections.ny.gov/Contact.html](http://www.elections.ny.gov/Contact.html)

**File Voting Complaint NY BOE:** Contact the Enforcement Counsel at:

Risa S. Sugarman 518-486-7858 [enforcement@elections.ny.gov](mailto:enforcement@elections.ny.gov)

New York City Board of Elections: (866)-VOTE-NYC

US Department of Justice: (800) 253-3931

**NY Attorney General Voting Hotline & email** 800-771-7755 and/or

email [civil.rights@ag.ny.gov](mailto:civil.rights@ag.ny.gov)

ACLU National Election Protection Hotline:(866) OUR-VOTE

NYCLU Voting Team (212) 607-3300

<http://www.nyclu.org/issues/voting-rights>

[www.aclu-ny.org/issues/voting-rights/know-your-voting-rights](http://www.aclu-ny.org/issues/voting-rights/know-your-voting-rights)

**Bernie Headquarters in New York:**

[Buffalo](#), [Syracuse](#), [Ithaca](#), [Albany](#), [Woodstock](#), [Poughkeepsie](#),  
[North Bronx](#), [South Bronx](#), [Harlem](#), [Midtown Deer Park](#), [Smithtown](#)

[Long Island City Queens](#) (919) 247-2868

[Flushing Queens](#) (917) 833-7364

[Astoria](#) (515) 710 8079

[Brooklyn](#) (347) 766-2376

[Staten Island](#), (646) 389-1745

[Flatbush Brooklyn](#) (347) 762-5085

[Garden City Long Island](#) (516) 232-4906

[Rochester](#) 585-482-8636

[Yonkers](#) (914) 512-8294

**NY Bernie Hotline: 347-379-4298**

**VoteForBernie.org's LIVE 'Text Support': 8023-We-Vote/(802)-393-8683**

**Or email us: [contact@voteforbernie.org](mailto:contact@voteforbernie.org)**



[@Vote\\_For\\_Bernie](https://twitter.com/Vote_For_Bernie)



[VoteForBernieSanders](https://www.facebook.com/VoteForBernieSanders)

# QUICK TIPS FOR VOTERS

- Check your voter registration status, and Party Status.
- Locate your polling place and note the hours of operation.
- Consider voting early if possible. If you plan to vote at the polls, go early in the day to avoid the last-minute rush.
- Check to see if you need identification to vote (see Voter ID section).
- Read all instructions carefully.
- Take your time.
- Ask for help if you need it.
- Delegates: *In this NY Primary, voters will cast a vote for Sanders, but they will also vote for about 5-7 of Bernie's delegates as well. These delegates will be listed as Bernie delegates in NYC and listed in the same row as Bernie outside of NYC.*

## WHO CAN VOTE

### 1. Can I vote in New York?

You can vote in the **April 19th Closed Primary** if you're registered to vote by **March 25th, 2016**. You must have **Affiliated on October 9, 2015**, in

order to vote, as only affiliated voters can cast a ballot in The New York Closed Primary.

You can register if you meet all of the following qualifications:

- (1) you are a U.S. citizen;
- (2) be 18 years old by December 31 of the year in which you file this form (note: you must be 18 years old by the date of the general, primary or other election in which you want to vote);
- (3) live at your present address at least 30 days before an election;
- (4) not be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction, and;
- (5) not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court, or registered to vote elsewhere.

<http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html>

## **2. I am 17 years old. Can I vote?**

Unfortunately, you must be 18 years old to vote in any election in the State of New York.

## **3. What if I'm a student?**

Students can register to vote either at school or home, whatever address they consider their primary legal residence. For more information, **visit the Brennan Center's Student Voting Guide for New York.**

<http://www.nyclu.org/content/educate-and-volunteer>

#### **4. What if I've been convicted of a crime?**

**People with criminal convictions can vote.** Individuals who were convicted of a misdemeanor or a violation are entitled to vote, even if they are still incarcerated (incarcerated individuals must vote by absentee ballot).

People who have felony convictions but are not currently incarcerated or on parole are also entitled to vote, even if they are on probation. For more information, visit NYCLU's page on **voting after a conviction**, the League of Women Voter's **New York State Voting Guide for Individuals with Criminal Convictions or Those Detained in Jail or Prison**, or the Brennan Center's Information Page on **Voting Rights Restoration in New York**.

<http://www.nyclu.org/content/educate-and-volunteer>

#### **5. What if I'm homeless?**

You don't need a home to register, if you can show that you live and receive mail in the state.

<http://www.nyclu.org/content/educate-and-volunteer>

## **REGISTER TO VOTE**

### **1. Registration Summary:**

**You needed to register to vote: by March 25, 9 PM for the Closed Primary.**

## **2. What's the registration deadline?**

For the Closed Primary, the deadline to register was March 25, 2016. Your affiliation deadline was October 9, 2015. IF you are unaffiliated, yet registered, you still have the right to request an affidavit at the polls.

## **3. What if I've moved or changed my name?**

You should notify your local board of elections, either in person or by mail, as soon as possible.

The **voter registration form** should be used as a change of address form. Notices of change of address from registered voters received at least 20 days before a special, primary or general election(March 30th) by a **county board of elections** must be processed and entered in the records in time for that election. <http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html>

<http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingDeadlines.html>



## 4. How do I know if I'm registered?

You can check your registration status by calling your local elections office or online at

<https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx>



# ABSENTEE BALLOTS

## 1. Who can use an absentee ballot?

Any Registered Voter who meets qualifications can use an Absentee Ballot. You can see requirements here:

<http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html>

## 2. What is the deadline to request an absentee ballot?

- Applications for Absentee Ballots are available at your county board of elections.
- You may also download a PDF version of the New York State Absentee Ballot Application Form
  - [Download English Form](#) (  261KB)
  - [Download Spanish Form](#) (  145KB)
- Upon completion, applications must be mailed to your county board *no later than the seventh day before the election or delivered in person no later than the day before the election.*
- You may also request an Absentee Ballot by sending a letter to your county board of elections. The letter *must be received by your county board*

*no earlier than 30 days and no later than seven days before the election. The letter must contain the following information:*

- the address where you are registered
  - an address where the ballot is to be sent
  - the reason for the request, and
  - the signature of the voter
- An application form will be mailed with your ballot. The application form must be completed and returned with your ballot.
  - If you cannot pick up your ballot, or will not be able to receive it through the mail, you have the right to designate someone to pick it up for you. Only that person designated on your application may pick up and deliver your ballot.
  - If you are permanently ill or disabled, you have the right to receive an Absentee Ballot for each subsequent election without further application. Simply file an application with your county board of elections indicating permanent illness or physical disability. You will then automatically receive an absentee ballot for every election until your registration is canceled.

<http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html>

## **VOTING ON PRIMARY DAY**

## **1. When are the polls open?**

Polls will be open in the *5 boroughs of NYC and the counties of Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Putnam, and Erie* from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. The rest of the counties in the state of New York can vote 12 noon- 9PM. You have the right to vote if you're in line or inside your polling place when the polls close. You can check your polling location here:

<https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx>

## **2. Can I get time off from work to vote?**

Take up to two hours of paid time off in order to vote if their work schedule otherwise prevents them from voting in person while the polls are open. Voters must tell their employers that they need time off to vote at least two but no more than ten days before the election. N.Y. Elec. Law § 3-110.

## **3. Where do I vote?**

On Primary Day, you have to vote at the polling place to which you're assigned.

If you don't have your card, you can call your local board of elections or look up your polling place online at

<https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx>

#### **4. What if my polling place is not accessible?**

If you find this out before Primary Election Day, call your local board of elections right away and ask for reassignment to an accessible polling place. You may have to request reassignment. Or, if you prefer, you can vote by absentee ballot. Otherwise, bring one or more people to assist you. You have the right to have anyone you choose assist you as long as the person is not your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your labor union.

#### **5. Can I take election materials with me into my polling place?**

Bring written or printed materials into voting booths, but not to display campaign clothing, stickers, or buttons at the polling place. N.Y. Elec. Law § 17-130(4).

#### **6. Can I get a ballot in my native language?**

The New York State Board of Elections is committed to providing exemplary assistance to all voters, including those with access needs. Any voter who requests assistance is entitled to receive it, regardless of the reason.

To facilitate voter accessibility, our poll workers are trained to:

- Treat voters with dignity
- Effectively communicate with voters

- Interact with voters
- Use positive language
- Practice natural communication
- Act appropriately around service animals
- Offer assistance for all access needs

In addition to poll worker training, we also strive to serve all voters by creating accessible polling places.

## **7.What if I need help in the voting booth?**

If you need instructions on how to use the voting equipment, ask a poll worker for help. Poll workers are required to help you at any time you ask—even after you've entered the voting booth.

# VOTER ID

## 1. Do I have to show ID?

Bring your state issued Driver's License or State ID. New York requires first time voters to have ID, but it's a good idea for everyone to bring ID.

## 2. What are the accepted forms of ID?

If you are a first time voter and need to bring ID, Current and Valid ID other than a Driver's License or State ID, would be a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and current address.

## 3. What if I don't have any ID?

In NY, you have the right to vote without ID unless you are a first time voter. <http://www.nyclu.org/content/register-vote#vote> However, if you run into a problem, You can cast a provisional ballot. If you have time and have ID at home or work, it's usually better to get your ID and return to the polls to cast a regular ballot.

Provisional ballots are counted regardless of whether they will change the outcome of the election. If you cast a provisional ballot at the wrong

polling place, only the contests that appear on the ballot where you live will be counted.

# PROBLEMS AT THE POLLS

## 1. What if I'm not on the voter list?

First, ask a poll worker to check the list again and to confirm that you're at the right polling place for your address. If you're at the right polling place but your name isn't on the voter list, ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot, even if your name isn't on the voter list, as long as you're willing to swear or affirm that you believe you registered to vote. For other help, look here:

<http://www.nyclu.org/content/register-vote#vote>

## 2. What if I go to the wrong polling place?

Go to the right polling place. You can ask a poll worker to help you find the polling place where you're registered. You can also call your local elections office or look up your polling place online at

<https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx>

If you can't figure out where you're registered, go the polling place that you think is most likely to be the right one for your address and ask for a

provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot even if you're not sure that you're at the right polling place.

### **3. What if someone challenges my right to vote?**

You can establish your identity by presenting your voter registration card, or any form of ID required of first-time voters. If you have ID, you'll be able to cast a regular ballot. Otherwise, you might have to vote by provisional ballot. Check here, for more help :

<http://www.nyclu.org/content/register-vote#vote>

### **4. What if someone tries to intimidate or harass me?**

Tell a poll worker right away. If the poll worker is the problem, tell a poll watcher, call your local board of elections, or call the National Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE, The New York State Board of Elections Hotline at 800-FOR-VOTE, or New York City Board of Elections Hotline at 866-VOTE-NYC.

### **5. What if I make a mistake on my ballot or the voting machine malfunctions?**

Tell a poll worker before you cast your ballot. Once you cast your ballot, it's too late to change it.

If your voting machine malfunctions, notify a poll worker immediately and request a different machine.



<http://www.nyclu.org/content/register-vote#vote>

## **6.How do I make a complaint?**

First, ask for an election supervisor at your polling place. He or she can handle most routine complaints that arise on Election Day. Candidates, political parties, and nonprofit groups may also have poll watchers at your polling place that might be able to assist you. If any of those people ask you whom you voted for, or if they can't resolve your complaint, call your local elections office or New York State Board Of Elections Hotline at 800-FOR-VOTE, New York City Board of Elections Voter Hotline at 866-VOTE-NYC, or the National Voter Protection Hotline (ACLU) at 866-OUR-VOTE.

If you find any issues with this document, or have questions that aren't answered, send an email to [contact@voteforbernie.org](mailto:contact@voteforbernie.org).