



FILLING OUT A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM: A STEP BY STEP GUIDE

You can register to vote if you'll turn 16 or 17 (to pre-register) or 18 by December 31, you're a U.S. citizen, and you're not incarcerated for a felony conviction. (Note, you'll only be able to vote on Election Day this year if you turn 18 by November 7.) This year, Election Day is November 7. The deadline to register is October 28. Forms must be hand delivered to the Board of Elections or postmarked by that date. This guide applies to the most recent NYS registration form.

You must print or type the information on the form in blue or black ink. No pencils or other color ink. Print clearly and legibly. If the Board of Elections can't read your form, you may not get registered. Complete the form now and ask a volunteer to check for any mistakes. NYPIRG will hand deliver forms to the Board of Elections. Your registration form may also have a section asking if you would like to be an organ donor. Your decision whether to complete the organ donor section will not affect your application to enroll to vote.

THE QUESTIONS

- BOX 1** Check off if you're a U.S. citizen. If you're not, you can't register. Non-citizens jeopardize their immigration status by filling out the form.
- BOX 2** If you'll be 18 by Dec 31st, you can fill out the form. If you are 16 or 17, you may fill out the form to pre-register. You'll only be able to vote if you're 18 by Election Day.
- BOX 3** Spell out your last name then first name and middle initial. "Suffix" means if your name has something like Jr. or Sr. at the end of it.
- BOX 4** Your date of birth: Month/Day/Year.
- BOX 5** Your gender. This question is optional to fill out
- BOX 6-7** This is for your home phone or cell phone and your email address.
- BOX 8** Write down your address where you live — even if it's not your mailing address, including unit number if applicable, city/town/village, ZIP Code, and county (it doesn't ask for country).
- BOX 9** If you get your mail someplace other than the address listed in Box 8, put it here. (For example: a P.O. Box or a relative's home.)
- BOX 10** If you've voted before, check the "Yes" box.
- BOX 11** Write the year that you last voted (to the best of your recollection.)
- BOX 12** If your name has changed or you've moved since you last voted, put down your previous name and/or previous address, and the county/borough or state where you last voted.
- BOX 13** Fill in your NY Driver's License or Non Driver's ID number, or the last four digits of your Social Security number here. If you don't have a DMV or Social Security number, check that box. Providing accurate info will help avoid ID checks and possible problems at the polls.
- BOX 14** The only way you get to vote in a primary election is if you're enrolled in that party. You will still get to vote for whomever you want in the General Election regardless of whether you choose a party or not. If you don't want to choose a party, make sure you check off the bottom "No Party" box.
- BOX 15** This optional box is for voters who'd like to apply for an Absentee Ballot or to be a Poll Worker. These applications are also available online:
elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html
- BOX 16** **Don't forget to read the affidavit, sign your name and put today's date underneath it.**

Remember to ask a NYPIRG volunteer to do a quick check of your form for any mistakes.

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