



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

You can register to vote if you'll turn 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 that date/November 6th.) U.S. citizens who turn 16 or 17 year olds by December 31 can now pre-register to vote as well. This guide applies to the most recent NYS registration form. You should 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. Your registration form may also have a section asking if you would like to be an organ donor. Your decision whether or not 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 2A) If you'll be 18 by Dec 31, you can fill out the form. You'll only be able to vote if you're 18 by Election Day.
- Box 2B) 16 and 17 year olds can now pre-register to vote. If you will turn 16 or 17 by Dec 31, you can fill out the form and hand it in to the Board of Elections. The Board will process your form and hold it as "pending" until you turn 18. You will not be able to vote in an election until you turn 18.
- 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 has recently become optional to fill out.
- Box 6-7 This is for your home phone or cell phone and your email address. The information in boxes 6 and 7 is optional, but it is helpful to include this information in the case there is an error with your form.
- Box 8 Write down your address where you live. In New York City, put down your borough where they ask for your county even if you did so on the line above as well.
- 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 have moved since the last time you voted, put down your previous name and/or your 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. NYC ID is not acceptable 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 (except for the Independence party which allows non-enrolled voters to participate in their primaries). 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 "No party" box at the bottom.
- Box 15 If you will be away from your residence (listed in box 8) on Election Day and you need to apply for an absentee ballot, check that box. An absentee application form will be mailed to you. The Board of Elections will mail an actual absentee ballot to you after they receive your completed application. You can also download, print and mail an absentee ballot application to the Board of Elections by visiting <http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html>. To be an Election Day worker, check that box.
- Box 16 Don't forget to read the affidavit and sign your form. Put today's date underneath it.

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

Contact your local NYPIRG chapter: nypirgstudents.org/contact