

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 31st, 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 8th.) This year, *Election Day is November 8th*. The *deadline to register is October 14th*. 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 should print or type the information on the form in blue or black ink. No pencils or other color ink. Print clearly and legibly. Complete the form now and ask a volunteer to check for any mistakes. 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 sex. 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 – not your mailing address. In New York City, put down your borough where they ask for your county even if you did 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. 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 bottom box.
- Box 15** If 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 first mail you an absentee ballot application, and then mail an actual absentee ballot 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.

