

# VOTER GUIDE

YOUR NONPARTISAN GUIDE TO CITY ELECTIONS SINCE 1989



**EARLY**  
FOR THE  
**VOTE**  
**CITY YOU**  
**WANT**

Early Voting: **October 26 – November 3**  
General Election: **November 5**

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**ESPAÑOL AL REVERSO >**



**You Vote Here on November 5th**  
For your early voting poll site, visit [voting.nyc](http://voting.nyc)

COUNCIL DISTRICT:  
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT:  
ELECTION DISTRICT:  
POLL SITE:

PRSR1 STD  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
NYC CFB  
PERMIT NO. 246

New York City  
Campaign Finance Board  
100 Church Street  
New York, NY 10007

# Welcome to Your 2019 NYC Voter Guide



Welcome to your 2019 NYC Voter Guide! This is your chance to make an impact on your community, neighborhood, and city. Read this Guide for information about your candidates, including candidates for New York City's next public advocate, how to vote, and more. Check [voting.nyc](http://voting.nyc) to learn more about other races that may appear on your ballot.

## Don't forget!

- ◆ You can now vote EARLY! [See page 4](#) for more information.
- ◆ You will be voting on important ballot proposals ([see page 15](#)). Make sure to check both sides of each page of your ballot to vote on these issues and any additional races on the ballot.

## Election Dates and Deadlines

- OCT 11**
- ◆ Last day to register (by mail) to vote in the general election (must be received by city BOE by October 16)
  - ◆ Last day to register (in person) to vote in the general election

- OCT 26**
- ◆ **Early voting begins**

- OCT 29**
- ◆ Last date to postmark absentee ballot application
- \*You are entitled to request an absentee ballot if you are unable to get to your poll site on Election Day (November 5th).

- NOV 03**
- ◆ Last day for early voting

- NOV 04**
- ◆ Last day to apply (in person) for an absentee ballot
  - ◆ Last day to postmark absentee ballot (must be received by city BOE by November 12)

- NOV 05**
- ◆ Last day to deliver absentee ballot (in person) to the city BOE
  - ◆ **General Election Day**

## UPDATE YOUR INFO WITH THE BOE

By law, the Campaign Finance Board is required to send a Voter Guide to every household with a registered voter in New York City.

If you received this Voter Guide in the mail but you are not the addressee, or if the addressee has moved or is deceased, notify the BOE ([see page 32](#) "Contact the BOE").



## GO GREEN. GO VOTE!

Sign up at [nyccfb.info/go-paperless](http://nyccfb.info/go-paperless) to get your Voter Guide by email instead.

## Know Where To Go



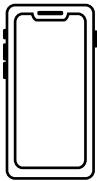
Did you receive this **Voter Guide in the mail**? Check the cover to find out where you vote on November 5th.

OR



Check **voting.nyc** to see a copy of your ballot and click “Where to Vote” to confirm your poll site location before you go.

OR

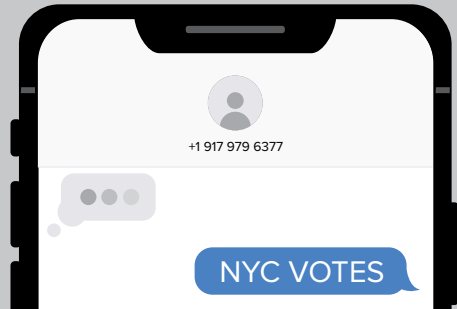


Call the Board of Elections at **866-VOTE-NYC** to find out where you can vote early.

## GET SMARTER ABOUT VOTING

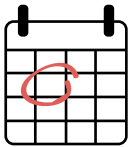
Sign up at [nycvotes.nycfb.info](http://nycvotes.nycfb.info) or text **NYCVOTES** to +1-917-979-6377 to receive email and text alerts from us, so you never miss another election!

And make sure to keep up with all the latest voting reform developments at [nycvotes.nycfb.info/nycvotesblog](http://nycvotes.nycfb.info/nycvotesblog).



## Make a Voting Plan

### Today



#### Pick a time

Choose a good time to vote and put it on your calendar. Remember, you can vote early starting on October 26th (see page 4). Tell your family and friends to join you.



#### Find your polling location

Note your poll site location (if you are voting early, your poll site may be different from where you would vote on November 5th).



#### Read up on the candidates and ballot proposals

Read up on the candidates and check out their video statements at [voting.nyc](http://voting.nyc).



#### Make an informed decision

### The Day You Go Vote



#### Double-check your poll site location

Visit [voting.nyc](http://voting.nyc) to double-check your poll site location.



#### Bring this Voter Guide with you



**VOTE**  
**Bring your family and friends with you!**



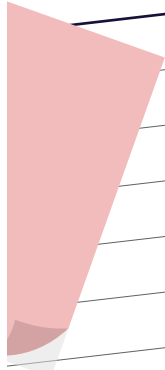
Vote

t 26



**VOTE EARLY**  
Because voting  
should fit your  
schedule

Oct 27





# Early Voting

This fall, voters in New York will be able to vote early!

Starting **Saturday, October 26th through Sunday, November 3rd**, you will be able to cast your vote at an assigned site in your borough.

**You will continue to have the option to vote at your regular poll site on Election Day (November 5th). If you cannot make it to the polls on Election Day, you can request to cast an absentee ballot.**

## Early Voting Hours

Saturday	October 26	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sunday	October 27	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Monday	October 28	9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday	October 29	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Wednesday	October 30	9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Thursday	October 31	9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Friday	November 1	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Saturday	November 2	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sunday	November 3	10:00 am to 4:00 pm

## Early Voting Locations

Your early voting poll site will be assigned by the BOE and may be different from where you would vote on Election Day. Visit **voting.nyc** to find out where your early voting poll site is located.

**Poll site locations are subject to change so be sure to check before you head out.**



# Your Rights As A Voter

## You have the right to vote in the general election if:

- ◆ You are a registered voter (not sure if you're registered? Check [voting.nyc](https://www.voting.nyc)).
- ◆ You are at least 18 years old and a US citizen.
- ◆ You are in line at your poll site by closing time. Check your poll site location and hours at [voting.nyc](https://www.voting.nyc).

\*Check [voting.nyc](https://www.voting.nyc) to find your poll site. If this is your first time voting at this poll site or you have moved or changed your party since the last time you voted, you may have to show identification to vote. Otherwise, you do not need to bring identification with you.

## In any election, you have a right to:

- ◆ Ask a poll worker or any person of your choice (except your employer or union rep) for assistance. If you need an interpreter, BOE interpreters are available to assist voters at selected sites. Call **866-VOTE-NYC** to find out which poll sites have interpreters available and for which languages.
- ◆ Bring materials with you, including this Guide (make sure to take them with you when you leave).
- ◆ Vote even if the voting machine is broken.
- ◆ Vote by affidavit ballot if your name is not on the list of voters at your poll site.

## You Have the Right to Take Time Off From Work to Vote!

If you are planning to vote on Election Day, New York State Law allows you to take up to **three paid hours off** at the beginning or end of your shift to do so, as long as you notify your employer at least **two days before Election Day**.

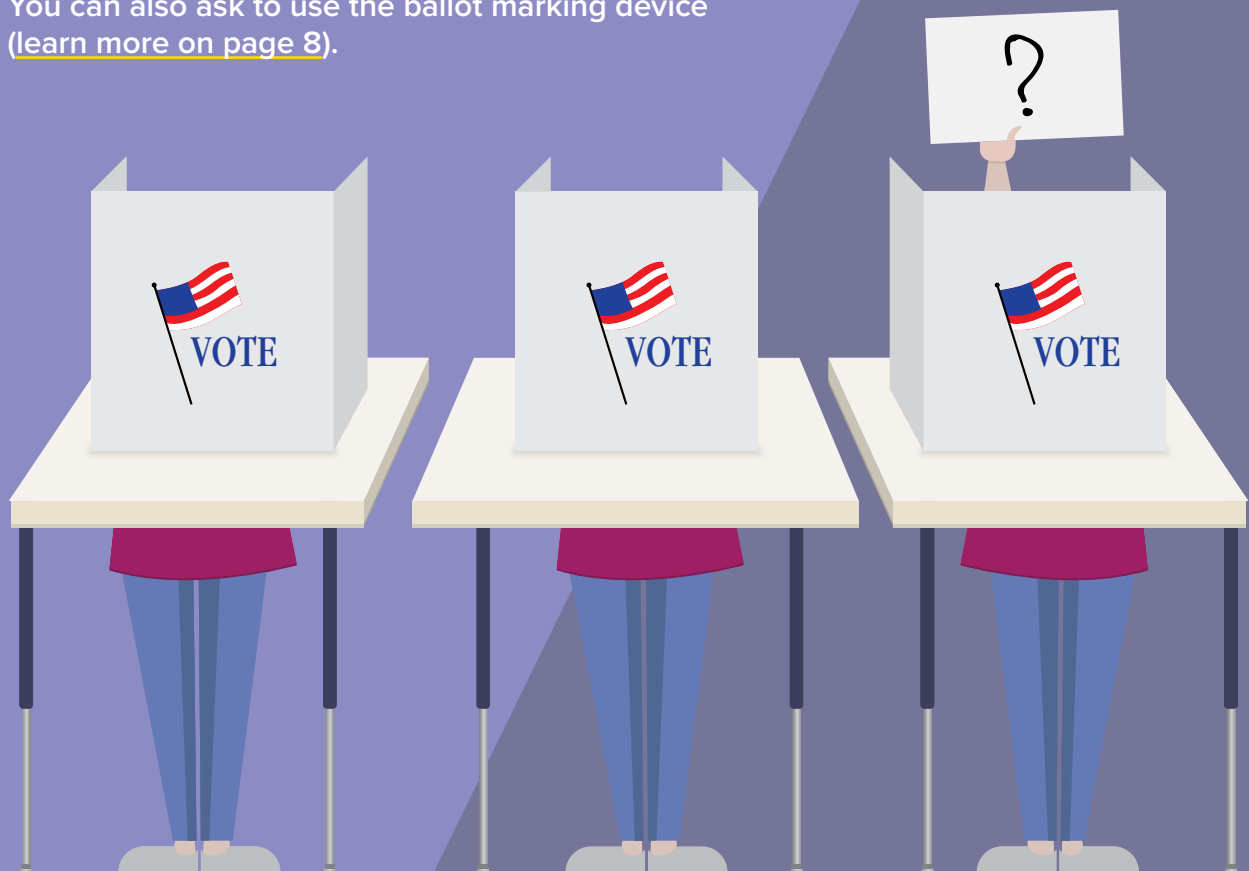
Your employer is required to post a conspicuous notice in the workplace regarding these requirements no less than **10 working days** before every election. This notice must remain posted until the polls close on Election Day.



# You Have the Right to Request Assistance while Voting

If you need help voting at the polls, you have the right to request and receive assistance from anyone of your choice except your employer or union representative.

You can also ask to use the ballot marking device ([learn more on page 8](#)).



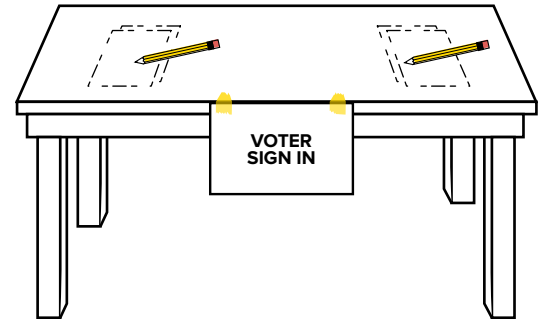
# How to Vote

## 1

### Sign In and Get Your Ballot

A poll worker will look you up in the listing of registered voters. After you sign in, you will receive your ballot along with a privacy sleeve and be directed to a privacy booth.

Bringing your Guide or your annual notice from the Board of Elections showing your Assembly District/Election District (AD/ED) numbers may speed your sign in process.



## 2

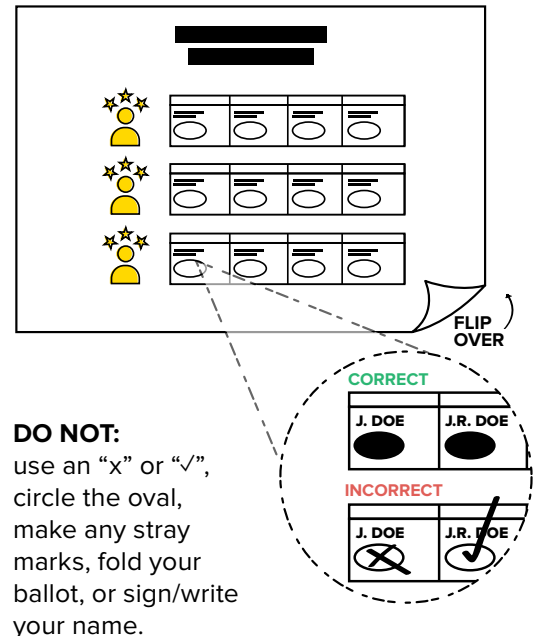
### Mark Your Ballot

Mark your ballot by completely darkening the oval next to your choice.\* To write in a candidate, fill in the appropriate oval and write in the candidate's name. Remember to check both sides of each page of your ballot to make sure you have voted on every race and ballot proposal. **If you make a mistake, ask the poll worker for a new ballot.**

#### \*Ballot Marking Device

If you'd like to use the ballot marking device (BMD) to vote instead of filling out your ballot by hand, ask a poll worker. You can use the BMD either to see the ballot on a display screen or listen to your choices through headphones. The BMD provides four ways for voters to mark the ballot:

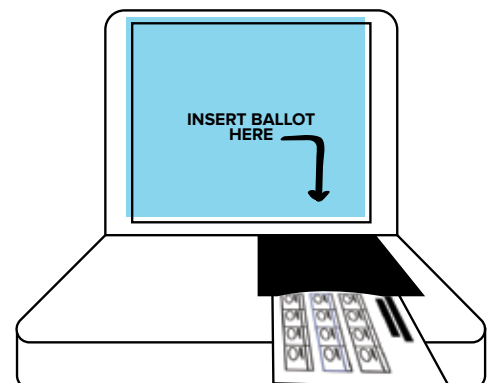
1. Touch screen
2. Key pad (Braille)
3. Sip & puff device
4. Rocker paddle



## 3

### Scan Your ballot

Once you're done filling out your choices, take your ballot to the scanner. Insert your ballot into the scanner. The scanner will notify you when your vote has been cast.





# Vote to Make A Difference

Voting, especially in local elections, is one of the best ways for you to make a difference on the issues you care about. The people we elect make decisions that affect our neighborhoods, schools, jobs, and quality of life every day.

## Public Advocate

The public advocate is next in line to the mayor. As the people's representative in city government, the public advocate can investigate complaints and make recommendations about city services, provide information that allows New Yorkers to protect themselves, and introduce and co-sponsor bills.

# Election at a Glance

◆ This badge will appear if a candidate is participating in the NYC Campaign Finance Program.

## Public Advocate [See Page 12](#)

The public advocate is the people's representative in city government.



**Jumaane D. Williams**  
[Democratic]

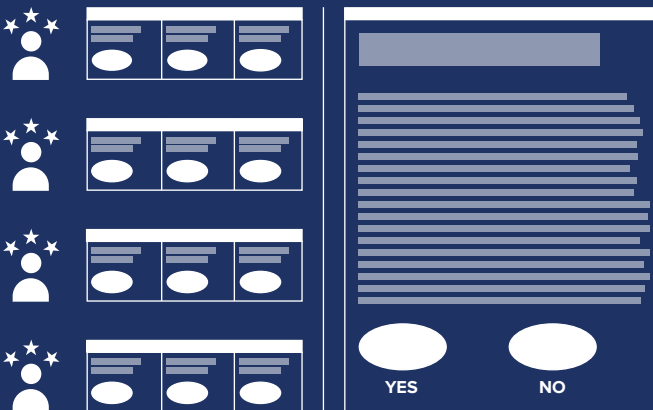


**Joseph Borelli**  
[Republican, Conservative]



**Devin Balkind**  
[Libertarian]

# Flip Your Ballot!



**Check both sides of each page of your ballot to make sure you have voted for every race and ballot proposal!**

**Proposals to amend the City Charter will be on your ballot.**

**Vote YES or NO by filling in the oval by your choice completely for each question.**

**FLIP  
OVER**

# New York City's Matching Funds Program

The New York City Campaign Finance Board (CFB) administers the city's Campaign Finance Program, which is one of the strongest in the nation.

The Program helps prevent corruption and the appearance of corruption by making financing of our elections more equitable and transparent. Qualifying candidates who decide to join the Program must collect small-dollar donations from the New Yorkers they are seeking to represent and abide by certain spending limits. In return, they can receive public matching funds that help them run competitive campaigns.

Relying on small-dollar donations means that candidates in the Program spend more time in their communities, listening to and speaking with residents in their districts.

The Program helps ensure that the diversity that makes our city strong is reflected in our government and that the concerns of voters—not of wealthy donors or special interest groups—come first.

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## Benefits Of NYC's Matching Funds Program

1

Makes it possible for New Yorkers without access to wealth to run for local office

2

Helps New Yorkers from all backgrounds participate in local elections, ensuring that our city's diversity is reflected in our government

3

Limits the influence of special interest money in our local elections so that candidates are accountable to the people they serve

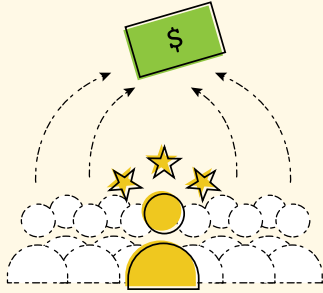
4

Amplifies the voices of everyday New Yorkers by increasing the value of their small-dollar contributions

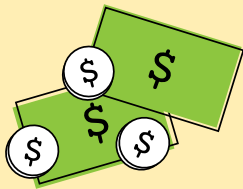
5

Keeps candidates accountable for the funds they raise and spend through disclosure and oversight, while reducing corruption and the appearance of corruption in the political process

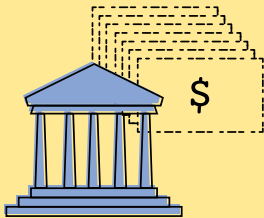
# Understanding NYC's Matching Funds Program



**Candidates talk to New Yorkers and collect small-dollar contributions**



**Candidates raise enough small-dollar contributions to qualify**



**Qualifying candidates can have every dollar matched with up to eight dollars of public funds**



**Candidates agree to limit their spending**

## Public Advocate

### Jumaane D. Williams

Democratic



#### TOP 3 ISSUES

- 1 Addressing NYC's Affordable Housing Crisis
- 2 Increasing Government Transparency and Accountability
- 3 Criminal Justice/  
Gun Violence Prevention

**Party Enrolled In:** Democratic

**Current Occupation:** NYC Public Advocate

**Previous Occupation(s):** NYC Council Member, 45th District

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Brooklyn College; Master's Degree in Urban Policy and Administration, Brooklyn College

**Organizational Affiliations:** Ernest Skinner Political Association; Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club

**Prior Public Experience:** NYC Council Member, 45th District; Board Member, Community Board 18

"Our city needs a public advocate who can effectively be an activist elected official that rises above politics and brings the voice of everyday New Yorkers into the halls of government. Throughout my career in public service, as a Council Member, and before that as a community organizer, I've served as an advocate for the public by fighting for justice and equity for all. I've been proud to pass more than 50 bills by blending outside pressure with inside operations to create meaningful change in our city. As NYC's current Public Advocate, I will continue to combine activism and legislation to help make our city a truly progressive beacon."

✉ jumaane4nyc@gmail.com

🌐 www.jumaanewilliams.com

📘 NYCPAWilliams

🐦 JumaaneWilliams

📷 jumaane.williams

### Joseph Borelli

Republican, Conservative



#### TOP 3 ISSUES

- 1 Stopping the de Blasio agenda
- 2 Stopping the de Blasio agenda
- 3 Stopping the de Blasio agenda

**Party Enrolled In:** Republican

**Current Occupation:** NYC Councilman, Chair of Fire & Emergency Management Cmte. CUNY Professor. Contributor, The Hill

**Previous Occupation(s):** Member of the New York State Assembly, Chief of Staff, New York City Council, Bartender

**Education:** Lindsay Fellow, CUNY Institute of State and Local Government, M.A. CUNY College of Staten Island, B.A. Marist College

**Organizational Affiliations:** National Caucus of Republican Mayors and City Council Members, Knights of Columbus, Holy Child Roman Catholic Church

**Prior Public Experience:** Member of the New York State Assembly, Ranking member of the committee on Cities, NYC Voter Assistance and Advisory Commission

"Imagine how much money was wasted in sending this booklet to every registered voter in a city of 8.5 million people..."

It's but one example of how little those in City Hall actually value the taxpayers like you who are left footing the bill.

Who speaks for your family?"

✉ info@josephborelli.com

🌐 JosephBorelli.com

📘 JoeBorelliNYC

🐦 JoeBorelliNYC

📷 joeborellinyc

🌐 joe-borelli-9088118

## Public Advocate

### Devin Balkind

Libertarian



### TOP 3 ISSUES

- 1 Citywide directory of social services
- 2 Digital transformation of city agencies
- 3 Tech-enabled MTA and NYCHA reform

**Party Enrolled In:** Libertarian

**Current Occupation:** Technologist and Nonprofit Executive

**Previous Occupation(s):** Entrepreneur, Digital Producer, Technology Trainer, Financial Analyst, Automobile Mechanic

**Education:** B.S, Northwestern University; Permaculture Design Certificate, Center for Bioregional Living

**Organizational Affiliations:** Brooklyn Libertarian Party, Sahana Software Foundation

**Prior Public Experience:** Civic technologist who has helped NYC Community Boards, participatory budgeting programs, local disaster relief efforts and more

"I'm a lifelong New Yorker who's spent the last decade using technology to help governments, nonprofits and startups save money and improve people's lives.

As Public Advocate, I'll turn the office into a non-partisan, public-interest technology organization that builds software and offers services that make government faster, better and cheaper.

In my first year, I promise to deliver 5 solutions that will 1) strengthen our social safety net; 2) kickstart digital transformation of city agencies; 3) improve civic engagement processes; 4) facilitate metro-regional coordination; and 5) produce websites that help New Yorkers better understand how their government works and spends money.

Let's update our city's government this November!"

✉ [devin@votedevin.com](mailto:devin@votedevin.com)

🌐 [www.votedevin.com](http://www.votedevin.com)

📘 [votedevin](#)

🐦 [devinbalkind](#)

📷 [votedevin](#)

🌐 [devinbalkind](#)



# COMMIT TO VOTING THIS YEAR

Our votes have a real impact on the issues that matter to us.

Join your fellow New Yorkers in taking the Pledge to Vote.

[nycvotes.nycfb.info/pledge2019](http://nycvotes.nycfb.info/pledge2019)

YES

MAYBE

NO



# WHAT CAN YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS DO?



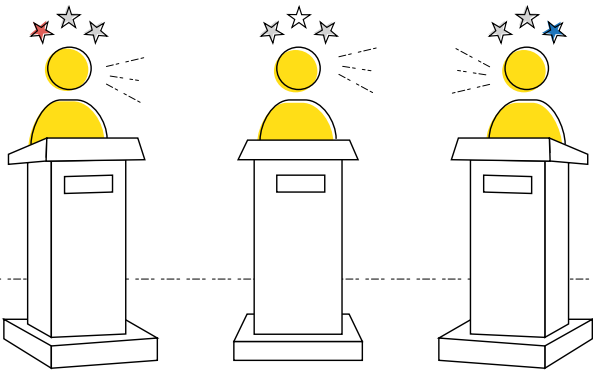
Your elected officials can make a real difference on the issues you care about, like jobs and wages, education, housing, criminal justice, and more.

Visit [nycfb.info/nyc-votes/elected-officials](http://nycfb.info/nyc-votes/elected-officials) to learn more about the impact of your vote.

# Debate Program

The CFB partners with media, educational, and civic organizations to sponsor the Debate Program, which provides New Yorkers with the opportunity to compare citywide candidates side-by-side as they discuss the important issues facing the city.

All candidates for citywide office who are participating in the Campaign Finance Program, are on the ballot, and meet pre-determined nonpartisan standards, including financial thresholds, are required to participate in the Debate Program. Candidates who are not participating in the matching funds program may also be invited to join the debate, provided they meet the same nonpartisan criteria.



## 1st Debate for Public Advocate

Thursday, October 10, 7:00 pm

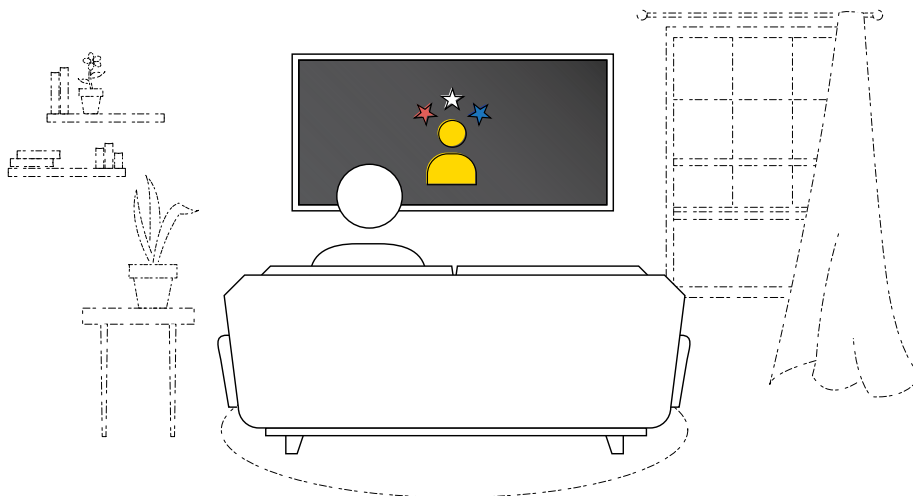
## 2nd Debate for Public Advocate

Tuesday, October 29, 7:00 pm

Both debates will stream live and free-of-charge on the NY1 website and on the NY1 Facebook page. The debates also will be simulcast on NYC Life, the flagship station owned by the City of New York.

# Video Voter Guide

Candidates running for city office are encouraged to film a video statement to be included in the online Guide. You can watch each candidate's video statement online by going to [voting.nyc](http://voting.nyc) and clicking on "Read the Voter Guide."



# NYC Charter Revision Ballot Proposals

The 2019 Charter Revision Commission (CRC), authorized by New York State law, has prepared a draft of proposed revisions to the New York City Charter. The CRC held public meetings and hearing throughout the five boroughs in order to provide more information on the issues and gather feedback on these measures from New Yorkers. Transcripts of these meetings, as well as the final report, are available at [charter2019.nyc](http://charter2019.nyc).

Now it's your turn to decide how our government should run. Read up on the questions so you can make an informed choice this November.

For each ballot proposal, the Guide includes:

- ◆ The official text of the question as it will appear on your ballot.
- ◆ A summary prepared by the CFB based on official abstracts provided by the CRC.
- ◆ Explanations on how each proposal will affect New Yorkers whether it is passed or not.

To read pro and con statements submitted by the public and the official abstracts for each proposal, visit [voting.nyc](http://voting.nyc).

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## Proposals at a Glance

### Question 1: Elections

- ◆ Ranked Choice Voting
- ◆ Timing of Special Elections
- ◆ Timing of Redistricting

### Question 2: Civilian Complaint Review Board

- ◆ Structure of the CCRB
- ◆ Protected CCRB Budget
- ◆ Deviation from Disciplinary Recommendations
- ◆ False Official Statements in CCRB Matters
- ◆ Delegation of Subpoena Power

### Question 3: Ethics and Government

- ◆ Post-Employment Appearance Ban for Elected Officials and Senior Appointed Officials
- ◆ Conflicts of Interest Board Structure

### Question 3: Ethics and Government (Continued)

- ◆ Political Activity by Members of COIB
- ◆ Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Citywide Director and Office
- ◆ Appointment of the Corporation Counsel

### Question 4: City Budget

- ◆ Revenue Stabilization Fund ("Rainy Day" Fund)
- ◆ Protected Budgets for the Public Advocate and Borough Presidents
- ◆ Revenue Estimate
- ◆ Budget Modification Timing

### Question 5: Land Use

- ◆ ULURP Pre-Certification Notice Period
- ◆ Additional ULURP Review Time for Community Boards

# Ballot Question #1: Elections

## What you will see on the Ballot

### *BALLOT QUESTION # 1 - ELECTIONS*

*This proposal would amend the City Charter to:*

*Give voters the choice of ranking up to five candidates in primary and special elections for Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President, and City Council beginning in January 2021. If voters still want to choose just one candidate, they can. A candidate who receives a majority of first-choice votes would win. If there is no majority winner, the last place candidate would be eliminated and any voter who had that candidate as their top choice would have their vote transferred to their next choice. This process would repeat until only two candidates remain, and the candidate with the most votes then would be the winner. This proposal would eliminate the separate run-off primary elections for Mayor, Public Advocate, and Comptroller;*

*Extend the time period between the occurrence of a vacancy in an elected City office and when a special election must be held to fill that vacancy. Special elections would generally be held 80 days after the vacancy occurs, instead of 45 days (for Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough Presidents, and Council Members) or 60 days (for Mayor); and*

*Adjust the timeline of the process for drawing City Council district boundaries so that it is completed before City Council candidates start gathering petition signatures to appear on the ballot for the next primary elections. This process occurs every ten years.*

*Shall this proposal be adopted?*



# Summary and Explanation of Ballot Question #1

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## Ranked Choice Voting

### CFB Summary:

In most New York City elections, the candidate who gets the most votes wins. This is true even in elections with many candidates, where the winning candidate may receive a small percentage of the total. This means that most voters voted for someone other than the winner. In primary elections for mayor, public advocate, or comptroller (and in special elections for mayor), if no candidate receives at least 40% of the vote, an additional election, called a runoff, is held between the top two candidates. Runoff elections are rare but costly to administer, and voter turnout is usually very low.

### If Ballot Question #1 Passes:

Voters would rank up to five candidates for each office in order of preference. To determine the winner, votes are counted in rounds. If one candidate receives a majority (more than 50%) of the first-choice votes, that person is the winner. If no candidate receives a majority of first-choice votes, the candidate with the fewest number of first-choice votes will be eliminated, the voters who ranked that candidate first will have their votes transferred to their second-choice candidate, and the votes will be counted again. This process will continue until only two candidates remain, and the candidate with the most votes wins the election. While the person who received the most first choice votes may not win, most voters will have cast a vote for the winner. Ranked choice voting will be used for all primary and special elections for mayor, public advocate, comptroller, borough president, and City Council member, beginning in 2021. Separate runoff elections will be eliminated.

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## Timing of Special Elections

### CFB Summary:

If the mayor, public advocate, comptroller, a borough president, or a City Council member leaves office before the end of their term, a nonpartisan special election is held to fill the seat until the next regularly scheduled election. Currently, most special elections must be held approximately 45 days after the vacancy occurs; for mayoral vacancies, a special election is held approximately 60 days later. State law requires the Board of Elections to send ballots to military voters 45 days before an election, which means military ballots for a special election must be mailed before the ballot is set. Also, potential candidates have very little time to petition to get on the ballot or run a campaign.

### If Ballot Question #1 Passes:

After a vacancy occurs, there would generally be about 80 days before a special election is held. Accurate ballots could be sent to military voters on time, and potential candidates would have more time to get on the ballot and reach voters about their campaigns.

# Summary and Explanation of Ballot Question #1 (Continued)

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## Timing of Redistricting

### CFB Summary:

In 2020, there will be a federal census to count the people in the United States. After every census, City Council district boundaries are redrawn to account for changes in population, maintain equity between districts, and ensure fairness for minority communities. A Districting Commission appointed by the Mayor and the City Council holds public hearings, and submits a proposed district map to the City Council. If the Council objects, the Commission prepares a revised plan and asks for additional comments from the public and from the City Council. Currently, the next redistricting process must be completed in March 2023, eight months before the November general election. Under the old election calendar, with primary elections held in September, this gave Council candidates enough time to gather petition signatures to participate in primary elections. This deadline no longer works, however, because as of earlier this year, local and state primary elections are now held in June rather than in September.

### If Ballot Question #1 Passes:

The deadlines for drawing new City Council district lines will be moved three months earlier to December 2022, eleven months before the general election, to allow candidates and voters adequate time to prepare for the June primary election.

# Ballot Question #2: Civilian Complaint Review Board

## What you will see on the Ballot

### *BALLOT QUESTION # 2 - CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD (CCRB)*

*This proposal would amend the City Charter to:*

*Increase the size of the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) from 13 to 15 members by adding one member appointed by the Public Advocate and adding one member jointly appointed by the Mayor and Speaker of the Council who would serve as chair, and to provide that the Council directly appoint its CCRB members rather than designate them for the Mayor's consideration and appointment;*

*Require that the CCRB's annual personnel budget be high enough to fund a CCRB employee headcount equal to 0.65% of the Police Department's uniformed officer headcount, unless the Mayor makes a written determination that fiscal necessity requires a lower budget amount;*

*Require that the Police Commissioner provide the CCRB with a written explanation when the Police Commissioner intends to depart or has departed from discipline recommended by the CCRB or by the Police Department Deputy (or Assistant Deputy) Commissioner for Trials;*

*Allow the CCRB to investigate the truthfulness of any material statement that is made within the course of the CCRB's investigation or resolution of a complaint by a police officer who is the subject of that complaint, and recommend discipline against the police officer where appropriate; and*

*Allow the CCRB members, by a majority vote, to delegate the board's power to issue and seek enforcement of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of records for its investigations to the CCRB Executive Director.*

*Shall this proposal be adopted?*

# Summary and Explanation of Ballot Question #2

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## Structure of the CCRB

### CFB Summary:

The Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) and its staff are responsible for fairly and independently investigating public complaints against New York City police officers (e.g., excessive use of force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, or the use of offensive language). When the CCRB finds misconduct, it can recommend to the police commissioner that an officer be disciplined. The police commissioner, who is appointed by the mayor, can then accept or reject the CCRB's recommendation. The mayor controls the appointment of all 13 members of the CCRB, including the chairperson, although the City Council designates five (one from each borough) and the police commissioner nominates three. When there is a vacancy, the Charter does not address how quickly the vacancy must be filled.

### If Ballot Question #2 Passes:

The CCRB will have 15 board members. Five will be directly appointed by the City Council, eight will be appointed by the mayor (including three who are nominated by the police commissioner). One new member would be directly appointed by the public advocate, and the other new member would be appointed jointly by the mayor and the speaker of the City Council and serve as chairperson. If the position of chair becomes vacant, an interim chair will be appointed by the mayor from the current members. In addition, any vacancy on the CCRB must be filled within 60 days.

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## Protected CCRB Budget

### CFB Summary:

The mayor and the City Council set and approve the CCRB's budget, which can vary from year to year.

### If Ballot Question #2 Passes:

To protect the CCRB budget from year-to-year changes, the CCRB's personnel budget will be enough to fund a staff that is at least equal to 0.65% of the number of uniformed NYPD officers. The budget can be made smaller only if the mayor makes a written showing that the cuts are necessary as part of an overall plan to reduce the city budget.

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## Deviation from Disciplinary Recommendations

### CFB Summary:

After finding police misconduct, the CCRB can recommend to the police commissioner that an officer be disciplined. Disciplinary recommendations can include specific guidance, formalized training, loss of vacation days, or a formal trial overseen by an NYPD official, which could lead to suspension or termination. The Commissioner can accept or reject the CCRB's recommendations, or those from the NYPD trial. If the CCRB recommends an officer be disciplined, the police commissioner must tell the CCRB what action will be taken, but does not have to provide a thorough explanation in all cases.

### If Ballot Question #2 Passes:

The police commissioner will be required to notify the CCRB of any action taken in response to a CCRB disciplinary recommendation, including any disciplinary measures or penalty imposed. When a recommendation from the CCRB or NYPD trial is not followed, the Commissioner must provide a detailed written explanation of the reasons. If the level of discipline is reduced, the explanation must be provided within 45 days and include a description of how the decision was made and the factors considered.

# Summary and Explanation of Ballot Question #2 (Continued)

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## False Official Statements in CCRB Matters

### CFB Summary:

If, during a CCRB investigation, there is reason to believe that a police officer has made a false statement, the CCRB does not have the power to investigate or recommend disciplinary action for the falsehood and may only refer the allegation to the Police Department for further investigation.

### If Ballot Question #2 Passes:

The CCRB will be able to investigate when, during a CCRB investigation of a police officer, the officer makes a material official statement related to the investigation that may be false and recommend discipline.

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## Delegation of Subpoena Power

### CFB Summary:

When the CCRB is investigating misconduct, it needs to review the evidence in the case, including witness testimony and records, such as documents, photographs, and video recordings. The Board can, at its meetings about once a month, vote to issue a legally enforceable written request (a subpoena) for the evidence.

### If Ballot Question #2 Passes:

The CCRB will be able to authorize its Executive Director to issue subpoenas, so that the staff can request evidence in a timely manner, and to enforce these subpoenas in court.

# Ballot Question #3: Ethics and Government

## What you will see on the Ballot

### *BALLOT QUESTION #3 - ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT*

*This proposal would amend the City Charter to:*

*Prohibit City elected officials and senior appointed officials from appearing before the agency (or, in certain cases, the branch of government) they served in for two years after they leave City service, instead of the current one year. This change would be applicable to persons who leave elected office or City employment after January 1, 2022;*

*Change the membership of the Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB) by replacing two of the members currently appointed by the Mayor with one member appointed by the Comptroller and one member appointed by the Public Advocate;*

*Prohibit members of the COIB from participating in campaigns for local elected office, and reduce the maximum amount of money that members can contribute in each election cycle to the amounts that candidates can receive from those doing business with the City (\$400 or less, depending on the office);*

*Require that the citywide director of the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) program report directly to the Mayor and require further that such director be supported by a mayoral office of M/WBEs; and*

*Require that the City's Corporation Counsel, currently appointed by the Mayor, also be approved by the City Council.*

*Shall this proposal be adopted?*

## Summary and Explanation of Ballot Question #3

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### Post-Employment Appearance Ban for Elected Officials and Senior Appointed Officials

#### CFB Summary:

Former City employees and elected officials who leave their jobs to work in the private sector are generally not allowed to communicate on behalf of their new employers with their former city agency, or in some cases the branch of city government, that employed them. This ban lasts for one year following the end of their city employment.

#### If Ballot Question #3 Passes:

This post-employment appearance ban would be increased to two years for elected officials and high-ranking appointed officials, including deputy mayors, the head of any agency, the paid members of any city board or commission, and the executive director or highest-ranking employee of a board or commission. This new two-year ban will not apply to most current elected officials whose terms end before the January 1, 2022 effective date.

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### Conflicts of Interest Board Structure

#### CFB Summary:

The New York City Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB) interprets and enforces the ethics laws and rules city employees must follow, including rules relating to outside employment, volunteering, gifts, political activities, misuse of position, and post-employment restrictions. The COIB has five board members, all of whom are appointed by the mayor and approved by the City Council. Currently, a COIB decision can be made with the approval of only two of the five members.

#### If Ballot Question #3 Passes:

The mayor would only appoint three of the COIB's five members. One would be appointed by the public advocate and one by the comptroller. The City Council would still be required to approve all appointments. In addition, decisions by the COIB will have to be approved by at least three of the five board members, instead of just two.

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### Political Activity by Members of COIB

#### CFB Summary:

Members of the COIB are not allowed to hold or run for public office, work as public employees, hold political party office, or appear as a lobbyist before the City. However, they may make contributions to candidates and volunteer or work for political campaigns.

#### If Ballot Question #3 Passes:

The restrictions on political activity by members of the COIB will be expanded; members will no longer be allowed to work or volunteer for any political campaign for the city offices of mayor, public advocate, comptroller, borough president, or City Council member. In addition, board members who want to contribute to campaigns for those offices will be limited to the reduced amount that persons doing business with the city are permitted to contribute (\$400 for mayor, public advocate, and comptroller; \$320 for borough president; and \$250 for City Council).

## Summary and Explanation of Ballot Question #3 (Continued)

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### Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Citywide Director and Office

#### CFB Summary:

New York City's Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) program promotes city contracting opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses. The citywide M/WBE director may report either to the mayor or to a commissioner who reports to the mayor. In recent years, the position has reported directly to the mayor and has been supported by the Mayor's Office of M/WBEs, but future administrations could discontinue this practice.

#### If Ballot Question #3 Passes:

The Charter will require that the M/WBE Director report to the mayor and be supported by a mayoral Office of M/WBE's.

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### Appointment of the Corporation Counsel

#### CFB Summary:

The New York City Law Department—a city agency consisting of over 900 lawyers who support and defend the City, its laws, officials, and agencies—is led by an attorney called the Corporation Counsel. The mayor appoints and can remove the Corporation Counsel. At times, city entities such as the mayor and the City Council, have legal conflicts and the Corporation Counsel must determine how the Law Department can best represent the interests of the city as a whole.

#### If Ballot Question #3 Passes:

The Corporation Counsel would continue to be appointed by the mayor, but this appointment must be approved by the City Council. The mayor would be required to present a new Corporation Counsel candidate to the Council within 60 days of a vacancy or of the Council's disapproval of the mayor's initial nominee.



# Ballot Question #4: City Budget

## What you will see on the Ballot

### *BALLOT QUESTION #4 - CITY BUDGET*

*This proposal would amend the City Charter to:*

*Allow the City to use a revenue stabilization fund, or “rainy day fund,” to save money for use in future years, such as to address unexpected financial hardships. Changes to State law will also be needed for this rainy day fund to be usable;*

*Set minimum budgets for the Public Advocate and Borough Presidents. The budget for each office would be at least as high as its Fiscal Year 2020 budget adjusted annually by the lesser of the inflation rate or the percentage change in the City’s total expense budget (excluding certain components), unless the Mayor determines that a lower budget is fiscally necessary;*

*Require the Mayor to submit a non-property tax revenue estimate to the City Council by April 26 (instead of June 5). The Mayor may submit an updated estimate after that date, but must explain why the updated estimate was fiscally necessary if the update is submitted after May 25; and*

*Require that, when the Mayor makes changes to the City’s financial plan that would require a budget modification to implement, the proposed budget modification shall be submitted to the Council within 30 days.*

*Shall this proposal be adopted?*

# Summary and Explanation of Ballot Question #4

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## Revenue Stabilization Fund (“Rainy Day” Fund)

### CFB Summary:

A “rainy day” fund is a pool of money set aside in one year’s budget to be used in the event of an economic downturn or crisis in a future year. Currently both city and state law require New York City to balance its budget each year, meaning that each year’s spending cannot be more than its income and the city can’t use a rainy day fund to balance the budget when revenue decreases. Although the City has some money set aside in reserves, at times it also pays some current expenses by making reduced deposits into the Retiree Health Benefits Trust (money put aside to pay for municipal employees’ retirement health benefits).

### If Ballot Question #4 Passes:

The Charter would allow the city to set up a rainy day fund as long as it is used in compliance with state law. The State Legislature would need to amend the State Financial Emergency Act to allow rainy day fund withdrawals by New York City.

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## Protected Budgets for the Public Advocate and Borough Presidents

### CFB Summary:

The budgets of the public advocate and the borough presidents are determined by the mayor and the City Council through the standard budget negotiation process, and these budgets may go up or down from year to year.

### If Ballot Question #4 Passes:

The budgets for the public advocate and borough presidents will, at minimum, increase along with the city’s expense budget or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. The mayor could reduce these budgets beyond this minimum only if he or she provides a written explanation showing that the cuts were necessary and part of an overall plan to reduce the city budget.

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## Revenue Estimate

### CFB Summary:

Before the start of the fiscal year on July 1, the City Council is legally required to make sure the city’s budget is balanced, meaning that the city’s planned spending will not exceed the funds it expects to take in for the year. Each year, the mayor is required to prepare an estimate of the city’s sources of funding other than property taxes, such as income taxes, sales taxes, and state and federal aid, and deliver it to the Council by June 5. When the budget is adopted, the Council uses this estimate to set the property tax rate and balance the budget. In practice, the mayor delivers the estimate much closer to the time the budget is adopted, giving the City Council little time to consider the impact of the city’s funding needs on the city’s property tax rate.

### If Ballot Question #4 Passes:

The mayor will be required to submit the non-property tax revenue estimate to the Council no later than April 26, at the same time as the executive budget, so the Council has time to do their work to ensure a balanced budget. The mayor will be allowed to revise the revenue estimate until May 25 (11 days before the deadline for adopting a balanced budget). After May 25, the mayor will only be able to revise the estimate by providing a written explanation showing why it is fiscally necessary to change it.

# Summary and Explanation of Ballot Question #4 (Continued)

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## Budget Modification Timing

### **CFB Summary:**

In addition to preparing the city budget, the mayor is required to prepare and publish a financial plan with details about spending and revenue. The mayor is required to review and publish updates to the financial plan at least four times a year. If the city's revenue or expenses have gone up or down, or the mayor wants to spend money on new programs, the mayor can modify the city's adopted budget. To do so, the mayor must either seek the Council's approval or give the Council an opportunity to disapprove—but the Charter does not specify when the mayor has to notify the Council, which means it can happen long after the changes have already gone into effect.

### **If Ballot Question #4 Passes:**

The Mayor will be required to notify the City Council about any necessary budget change within 30 days of the publication of the updated financial plan.

# Ballot Question #5: Land Use

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## What you will see on the Ballot

### *BALLOT QUESTION #5 - LAND USE*

*This proposal would amend the City Charter to:*

*For projects subject to the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), require the Department of City Planning (DCP) to transmit a detailed project summary to the affected Borough President, Borough Board, and Community Board at least 30 days before the application is certified for public review, and to post that summary on its website; and*

*Provide Community Boards with additional time to review ULURP applications certified for public review by DCP between June 1 and July 15, from the current 60-day review period to 90 days for applications certified in June, and to 75 days for applications certified between July 1 and July 15.*

*Shall this proposal be adopted?*

# Summary and Explanation of Ballot Question #5

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## ULURP Pre-Certification Notice Period

### CFB Summary:

There are rules that govern what sorts of buildings may be built on every block of city land, how high those buildings may go, and how they may be used. The city has a procedure for reviewing and approving “land use applications,” which are required when builders or developers seek exceptions to these rules, such as seeking to change the zoning of a specific area from residential to commercial, getting approval to build structures that don’t strictly conform to current zoning regulations. They are also required when the city sells, buys, or leases property. This review procedure is known as ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure), and it is meant to allow community boards, borough presidents, the City Planning Commission, the City Council, and the public a chance to review and weigh in on these requests. Currently, this public approval process does not begin until the Department of City Planning (DCP) has reviewed, possibly changed, and finally certified that the land use application is complete. During the period the application is being reviewed by the DCP, the developer is not required to notify or seek any input from the borough president, community board, or the public in the neighborhood that will be affected.

### If Ballot Question #5 Passes:

DCP will be required to send a detailed project summary of each land use application, including the proposed location and purpose of the proposed development or action, to the relevant borough president, borough board, and community board at least 30 days before DCP certifies that the application is complete, and must publish the summary on its website no more than five days later. The land use applications that are certified by DCP must be consistent with these detailed summaries.

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## Additional ULURP Review Time for Community Boards

### CFB Summary:

When a community board receives a land use application that has been certified to be complete by DCP, it has 60 days to notify the community, hold a public hearing, draft and vote on its recommendations about the project, and submit them to the relevant borough president and the City Planning Commission. Some community boards do not meet in July and August because a significant number of their members are on vacation, so they cannot hold hearings, draft recommendations, or gather a majority of their members to vote during those months.

### If Ballot Question #5 Passes:

Community boards will have 90 days to review the certified land use applications that are sent to them in June, and 75 days to review applications that are sent to them between July 1 and July 15.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## I don't know if I'm registered to vote — how can I find out?

Go to [voting.nyc](https://www.voting.nyc) to check your registration status online, or call **866-VOTE-NYC** (TTY 212-487-5496 for the hearing impaired) for assistance.

## Could my registration have expired?

Your registration has no expiration date. However, if you moved without updating your address with the BOE, or have not voted in two consecutive federal elections, your name may not appear in the voter roll at your poll site. If this is the case, you still have the right to vote by affidavit ballot.

## Where do I go to vote?

Check your poll site location online at [voting.nyc](https://www.voting.nyc) or call **866-VOTE-NYC**. Remember to confirm your poll site before you go.

## Do I need to show identification to vote?

In most cases, you do not need identification to vote. However, if you did not provide a Social Security number or driver's license number with your voter registration and you are voting for the first time at your poll site, you may need to show identification to vote in this election.

## What if I moved within New York City since the last time I voted?

Once a year, the BOE will update your registration information (if you move within the state). However, if you have moved recently, you should check your registration information at [voting.nyc](https://www.voting.nyc) to make sure that it is up-to-date. If it is not, you can update your registration by submitting a new voter registration form and filling in the information on the form, including the box labeled "Voting information that has changed." Fill in your new and old address, check the box for the party you wish to be enrolled in (do this even if you were enrolled in a party at your old address), and provide any other requested information. If you moved but you didn't change your address with the BOE before the deadline, you must go to your new polling place and vote by affidavit ballot. Call **866-VOTE-NYC** to find out whether your change of address has been processed.

## What if my name is not on the registered list of voters?

Check your registration and poll site information on [voting.nyc](https://www.voting.nyc).

If your name is not on the list of registered voters but you believe that you are still eligible to vote, ask a poll worker for an affidavit ballot and follow the instructions.

## What is an affidavit ballot?

An affidavit ballot is a paper ballot you can request if you are not on the list of registered voters but believe you are eligible to vote and are at the correct polling site (for example, if you moved without updating your address or your address change wasn't processed in time). Follow the instructions to fill out this ballot and the envelope, and give it to a poll worker when you are done. After the election, the Board of Elections will check its records—if you were eligible to vote, were at the correct poll site, and filled out the ballot and envelope correctly, your vote will be counted. If not, you will receive a notice that your vote did not count.

Your affidavit ballot envelope serves as a registration form for future elections.

## What if a poll watcher challenges my right to vote?

If a poll watcher challenges your right to vote (for example, that you are not the person you claim to be or that you don't live in the district), you can ask a poll worker to administer an oath to you to affirm your qualifications to vote. You will swear under penalty of perjury that you are eligible and qualified to vote, after which you will be permitted to vote on a regular (not affidavit) ballot.

## What if I can't get to my polling place on Election Day?

Starting in October, you can vote starting 10 days before the election. [See page 4](#) for more information on early voting.

You also have the option to vote by absentee ballot if you are unable to get to your polling place due to your absence from New York City on Election Day; temporary or permanent illness or physical disability; hospitalization; duties related to primary care of anyone who is ill or disabled; or detention in a veterans administration hospital or prison, awaiting trial or action by a grand jury, or serving a sentence for a crime that was not a felony.

**By mail:** Call **866-VOTE-NYC** to request an absentee ballot application or download it from the BOE’s website, [vote.nyc.ny.us](http://vote.nyc.ny.us). Fill out the application and mail it to your BOE borough office by the deadline. The BOE will send you an absentee ballot. Fill it out and mail it by the deadline to your BOE borough office (see “Election Dates and Deadlines”).

**In person:** Absentee voting in person begins as soon as the ballots are available and ends on the day before Election Day. It is conducted at your BOE borough office Monday–Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Additional hours for absentee voting may be designated in the weeks before an election.

Please note: If the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot by mail has passed and you cannot appear at your poll site on Election Day because of an accident or sudden illness, you can send a representative to your BOE borough office with a written letter of authorization to obtain an absentee ballot on your behalf. A completed application and your completed ballot must be returned to your BOE borough office by 9:00 pm on Election Day.

### **Can I vote in person before Election Day?**

Starting in October, you will be able to vote early. You’ll have 9 extra days of voting (this includes the two weekends before Election Day) to get to a designated early voting polling location and cast your vote.

### **What if I need time off from work in order to vote on Election Day?**

If you are planning to vote on Election Day, your employer is required by state law to give you time off to vote. You can get up to three paid hours at the beginning or end of your shift to cast your vote on Election Day, as long as you notify your employer at least 2 business days in advance. Your employer must also post a conspicuous notice in the workplace regarding these requirements no less than 10 business days before every election. The notice must remain posted until the polls close on Election Day.

### **I have a disability and I need help voting. What resources are there for me?**

You have the right to request and receive assistance from anyone of your choice (except your employer or union representative) while you are at the polls. You can also ask any of the poll workers at your poll site for help, or ask to use the ballot marking device (BMD). You can use the BMD either to see the ballot on a display screen or listen to your choices through headphones.

You also have the right to vote absentee if you’re unable to get to the polls. See “What if I can’t get to my polling place on Election Day?” for more information about getting an absentee ballot.

### **I have a friend or family member who needs help voting. Can I help them?**

Yes. A voter has the right to request and receive assistance from anyone of their choice (except their employer or union representative) while they are at the polls.

### **Can I vote if I was convicted of a misdemeanor?**

You can register and vote, even from jail, if you have been convicted of a misdemeanor. The same rules apply whether you were convicted in New York court, another state’s court, or a federal court. You do not need to provide any documentation.

### **Can I vote if I was convicted of a felony?**

You may register and vote if you were convicted of a felony and for that felony:

- ◆ You were sentenced to probation;
- ◆ You were not sentenced to incarceration or your prison sentence was suspended;
- ◆ You have served your maximum prison sentence, or your maximum prison sentence has expired, in which case you can register/re-register and vote
- ◆ You were on parole and then discharged, in which case you can register/re-register and vote; or
- ◆ You have received a pardon, such as a pardon covered by NYS Executive Order No. 181, or have been issued a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities or a Certificate of Good Conduct ([doccs.ny.gov/certrelief.html](http://doccs.ny.gov/certrelief.html)) while on parole.

You may **not** register or vote if you have been convicted of a felony and for that felony:

- ◆ You are currently incarcerated; or
- ◆ You are under parole supervision, unless:
  - You’ve received a pardon, such as a pardon covered by NY State Executive Order No. 181, “Restoring The Right To Vote For New Yorkers On Parole” (parolees should check the Dept. of Corrections and Community Supervision website at [doccs.ny.gov/ParoleeLookup/Lookup.aspx](http://doccs.ny.gov/ParoleeLookup/Lookup.aspx) or with their parole officer to learn if they’ve received a “voting pardon” under this order), or
  - You have been issued a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities or a Certificate of Good Conduct while on parole.

### **I am currently homeless, can I vote?**

Yes, you can register and vote in New York City. You must, however, provide a mailing address, so that the BOE can send you election notices.

join the conversation.

New York City is strongest when all our citizens can make their voices heard.

Follow us @nycvotes to stay up-to-date on your city elections and share election news with your friends and family.



## Contact the Board of Elections (BOE)

You can update your voter registration, apply for an absentee ballot, apply to be a poll worker or language interpreter, and more with the New York City Board of Elections.

Regular hours of operation: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; during the weekend prior to and on Election Day (check [vote.nyc.ny.us](http://vote.nyc.ny.us) for hours)

**866-VOTE-NYC** (TTY 212-487-5496 for the hearing impaired)

### General Office

32-42 Broadway  
7th Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
Tel: (212) 487-5400  
Email: [ElectionInfo@boe.nyc.ny.us](mailto:ElectionInfo@boe.nyc.ny.us)

### Bronx

1780 Grand Concourse  
5th Floor  
Bronx, NY 10457  
Tel: (718) 299-9017  
Fax: (718) 299-2140

### Brooklyn

345 Adams Street  
4th Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
Tel: (718) 797-8800  
Fax: (718) 246-5958

### Manhattan

200 Varick Street  
10th Floor  
New York, NY 10014  
Tel: (212) 886-2100  
Fax: (646) 638-2047

### Queens

118-35 Queens Boulevard  
11th Floor  
Forest Hills, NY 11375  
Tel: (718) 730-6730  
Fax: (718) 459-3384

### Staten Island

1 Edgewater Plaza  
4th Floor  
Staten Island, NY 10305  
Tel: (718) 876-0079  
Fax: (718) 876-0912

## About the Voter Guide

The Voter Guide is produced by the New York City Campaign Finance Board (CFB) to help voters like you make informed choices at the polls. For city elections for mayor, public advocate, comptroller, borough president, or member of the City Council, and city or state ballot proposals, the CFB creates and mails a guide to every registered voter in New York City (in English and Spanish throughout the city and in Chinese, Korean, and Bengali in targeted areas). We produce an online Guide for every election in the same languages.

The profiles and photos in this Guide were submitted to the CFB by the candidates, all of whom have affirmed that the information provided is true to the best of their knowledge. The views expressed in the candidate statements do not represent those of the CFB. This Guide lists all the candidates who were expected to be on the ballot at the time of publication. For an up-to-date list, visit the online Guide at [voting.nyc](http://voting.nyc).

This Voter Guide was prepared by the Communications Unit of the Campaign Finance Board—Crystal Choy, Gina Chung, Winnie Ng, Jennifer Sepso, and Elizabeth A. Upp—with the assistance of the Legal and Candidate Guidance and Policy Units.



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