

VOTER GUIDE

YOUR NONPARTISAN GUIDE TO CITY ELECTIONS SINCE 1989

VOTE FOR THE CITY YOU WANT



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NEW YORK CITY CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

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 2018 NYC VOTER GUIDE

Voting in elections has a real impact on your everyday life. This year, we will choose our elected leaders in Albany and Washington D.C. We will also determine whether we make changes to our city government, by voting on ballot proposals to amend our City Charter.

By voting, you can be part of creating a better future for your community. Take this Voter Guide with you to the polls when you vote this November, so that you have all the information you need to make a difference. This print Guide contains information about the ballot proposals and voting.

To learn about the candidates and read arguments for and against the proposals on the ballot, check out our online Guide at voting.nyc.

GO PAPERLESS!

Prefer to read your Voter Guide online? Sign up at nyccfb.info/gopaperless to opt out of receiving print guides and be notified when future editions of the online Voter Guide go live.



YOUR RIGHTS AS A VOTER

You have the right to vote in the November 6, 2018 general election if:

- ◆ You are a registered voter (Not sure if you're registered? Check voting.nyc).
- ◆ You are at least 18 years old and a US citizen.
- ◆ You are not currently incarcerated or on parole for a felony.
- ◆ You are in line at your poll site by 9 pm on November 6th (poll sites open at 6 am).

You may have to show identification to vote in this election if you are voting for the first time at your polling place.

Otherwise, you do not need to show identification.

In any election, you have a right to:

- ◆ Ask a poll worker or any person of your choice (except your employer or union representative) for help. If you need an interpreter, BOE interpreters are available to assist voters at selected sites. Call 866-VOTE-NYC for more information, including which polling sites have interpreters available and for which languages.
- ◆ Bring materials with you, including this Voter Guide (please take any materials away with you when you finish voting).
- ◆ Vote even if the voting machine is broken.
- ◆ Vote by affidavit ballot if your name is missing from the list of voters at your polling site.

ABOUT THE VOTER GUIDE

The Voter Guide is produced by the New York City Campaign Finance Board (CFB) to help city voters make informed choices at the polls. For every regularly scheduled city election, the CFB creates and mails a Guide to every registered city voter—in English and Spanish citywide and in Chinese, Korean, and Bengali in targeted areas—and produces an online Guide in these languages as well.

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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KNOW WHERE TO GO

YOUR POLL SITE!

PS 89 – 265 Warwick Street
Brooklyn, NY 11207
Council District 37
Recipient First Last Name
123 Arlington Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11208

OR

OR

OR

Check the cover of this Voter Guide (confirm at voting.nyc before you vote)

Check voting.nyc and click “Where To Vote?”

Call the Board of Elections at 866-VOTE-NYC

MAKE A VOTING PLAN

TODAY

NOV 06

Choose a good time to vote.
Add it to your calendar.

Note your poll site location
(on the cover of this Guide).

Read up on your ballot proposals.
For candidate profiles, go to voting.nyc.

Make an informed decision
in advance.

ELECTION DAY

Visit voting.nyc or call 866-VOTE-NYC
to confirm your poll site location.

1|2|3

Read up on
how to cast your ballot (page 4).

Bring this Voter Guide
as a reference.

VOTE!

ELECTION DATES AND DEADLINES

- OCT 12** ♦ Last day to register to vote (by mail and in person)
- ♦ Last day to change your political party for voting in next year's elections (if you are already registered to vote in New York)

- OCT 17** ♦ Last day to submit a change of address

- OCT 30** ♦ Last date to postmark absentee ballot application

- NOV 05** ♦ Last day to apply in person for an absentee ballot
- ♦ Last date to postmark absentee ballot (must be received by city BOE by November 13)

- NOV 06** ♦ Election Day



VOTE
FOR THE CITY YOU WANT.

“My neighborhood deserves great **SCHOOLS**. So I'm educating myself on who to vote for.”

READ THE VOTER GUIDE AT [VOTING.NYC](https://www.voting.nyc)

**Make your voice heard.
Vote on November 6.**

#NYCVOTES



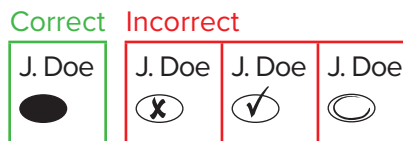
HOW TO VOTE

1 GET YOUR BALLOT

- ♦ Sign in at the correct table for your Assembly District/Election District (these numbers are printed on the cover of your Voter Guide).

2 MARK BOTH SIDES OF YOUR BALLOT

- ♦ Mark your ballot by completely darkening the oval next to your choice using the pen provided.
- ♦ For a write-in candidate, fill in the appropriate oval and write in the candidate's name.
- ♦ Do NOT fold your ballot.
- ♦ Do NOT sign or write your name.



- ♦ Do NOT use an “x” or a “√”, circle the oval, or make stray marks.

If you need assistance filling in your choices, ask a poll worker about using the Ballot Marking Device (BMD).

3 SCAN YOUR BALLOT

- ♦ Take your marked ballot to the scanner area.
- ♦ Select your language of choice by touching the corresponding button on the screen.
- ♦ Insert your marked ballot into the scanner to cast your vote. The scanner accepts ballots in any direction and reads both sides. The scanner will notify you when your vote has been cast.

YOU HAVE *THE RIGHT* TO TAKE TIME OFF FROM WORK *TO VOTE.*



IF YOU DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME OUTSIDE OF YOUR WORK DAY TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY,* NEW YORK STATE LAW ALLOWS YOU TO TAKE TIME OFF TO DO SO.

BY LAW:

- ✓ If you will need time off to vote, you must notify your employer **no more than 10 days and no less than 2 days** before Election Day.
- ✓ You may take off up to **2 hours** without loss of pay at the beginning or end of your shift.
- ✓ Your employer must post a conspicuous notice in the workplace regarding these requirements **no less than 10 working days** before every election. The notice must remain posted until the polls close on Election Day.

Employers found to be in violation of these requirements are liable for fines of \$100–\$500 and/or jail up to one year (first offense). Corporations will also face forfeiture of charter.

* The law defines sufficient time as having four consecutive nonworking hours when the polls are open (NY polls are open from 6 am to 9 pm).

Visit elections.ny.gov to learn more.



VOTE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Participating in elections has a real effect on our everyday lives and the issues we care about. The people we elect into office make decisions that affect our communities, schools, jobs, and quality of life every day.

Learn more about the candidates on the ballot this November at [voting.nyc](https://www.voting.nyc.gov).

STATE OFFICIALS

GOVERNOR As the chief executive officer of the state, the governor sets policies for New York's government by creating the budget and signing or vetoing bills from the Legislature. The governor also appoints certain non-elected public officials and can grant sentence reductions and pardons for New Yorkers convicted of crimes.

COMPTROLLER As the chief fiscal officer of the state, the comptroller monitors New York's finances and conducts audits and reports to make sure that state and city agencies are abiding by laws. The comptroller also manages the New York State and Local Retirement Systems.

ATTORNEY GENERAL As the state's chief legal officer, the attorney general safeguards the rights of New York's citizens, organizations, and natural resources and advises the state government's executive branch, while acting independently from the governor.

STATE SENATORS AND ASSEMBLY MEMBERS The State Legislature is made up of two chambers—the State Senate and the State Assembly. State senators and Assembly members can introduce and pass bills. If a bill passes in both the Senate and the Assembly, it proceeds to the governor to be either vetoed or signed into law. The Senate and Assembly can overturn the governor's veto with a 2/3 majority vote in both chambers.

FEDERAL OFFICIALS

The US Congress is made up of two chambers—the Senate and the House of Representatives.

US SENATOR Each state has two senators who work to introduce and pass bills. Senators are also responsible for approving treaties and confirming public appointments, including Cabinet members, Supreme Court justices, and other federal judges. The Senate can initiate investigations into the executive branch and is responsible for conducting impeachment trials.

US REPRESENTATIVE The number of representatives in the House is fixed by law at no more than 435, and the number of representatives for each state is proportional to its population. Members of the House can also introduce and pass bills. Legislation related to revenue must be initiated in the House. The House can conduct investigations and impeach federal officials.

WHAT CAN MY ELECTED OFFICIALS DO?

Want to know more about how your elected officials can impact your life?

Visit [nyc.gov/elected-officials](https://www.nyc.gov/elected-officials) to view our explainers illustrating how your city, state, and federal elected officials can impact the issues we all care about, like jobs and wages, housing, education, criminal justice, transit, and public health.



*Once you've voted for your
state and federal representatives,
flip your ballot!*

Questions on the charter revision are on the back of your ballot. Vote YES or NO by filling in the oval by your choice completely for each question.

NYC CHARTER REVISION

BALLOT PROPOSALS

Earlier this year, the mayor convened a Charter Revision Commission (CRC) to consider changes to the City Charter. The CRC has submitted ballot questions for New York City voters like you to decide. The CRC held public meetings and hearings in order to gather feedback on these measures. Transcripts of these meetings, as well as a final report, are available at nyc.gov/charter.

Now it's your turn to decide how our city's 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 plain language summary prepared by the CFB based on official abstracts provided by the CRC.
- ◆ Reasons to vote "yes" and reasons to vote "no" based on statements made by different groups and individuals at CRC public hearings, in the press, and in submissions to the CFB.

To read pro and con statements submitted by the public and the official abstracts for each proposal, visit voting.nyc.

BALLOT PROPOSAL QUESTION 1

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

This proposal would amend the City Charter to lower the amount a candidate for City elected office may accept from a contributor. It would also increase the public funding used to match a portion of the contributions received by a candidate who participates in the City's public financing program.

In addition, the proposal would make public matching funds available earlier in the election year to participating candidates who can demonstrate need for the funds. It would also ease a requirement that candidates for Mayor, Comptroller, or Public Advocate must meet to qualify for matching funds.

The amendments would apply to participating candidates who choose to have the amendments apply to their campaigns beginning with the 2021 primary election, and would then apply to all candidates beginning in 2022.

Shall this proposal be adopted?

CFB SUMMARY

This proposal would lower the amount that a candidate for city office may accept from a contributor to their campaign, increase the amount of public funds available to participating candidates, and make public funds available earlier. Candidates in the 2021 election would have the choice of whether or not to have the new limits apply to them.

REASONS TO VOTE "YES"

- ◆ There is a widespread perception that large campaign contributions have a corrupting influence on elected officials. Reducing actual and perceived corruption can reduce the waste and misuse of city resources and improve public confidence in government. This can encourage voter participation and other forms of civic engagement. The proposal reduces the maximum contribution from \$5,100 to \$2,000 for citywide races in which the candidate has elected to participate in the matching funds program. Reducing the contribution limits is the most direct way to reduce the existence and appearance of corruption.
- ◆ The proposed contribution limits are low enough to reduce the appearance of or opportunity for corruption, but still high enough to enable candidates to raise the funds they need to communicate effectively with voters and run competitive campaigns.
- ◆ Current contribution limits in New York City are higher than those for federal offices and those in many other major cities, including Los Angeles, San Antonio, and San Francisco.
- ◆ For mayoral candidates in New York City, large contributions account for a far greater proportion of private fundraising than do small contributions. Reducing the contribution limit and increasing the matching rate will diminish the power of large contributors and encourage candidates to engage a broader, more diverse set of contributors without needing to significantly increase their time spent fundraising.
- ◆ An increased public funds matching rate means that individuals making small contributions have a bigger impact on the political process.
- ◆ Making more public funds available earlier in the election year allows candidates who join the program to forgo large contributions, rely heavily on small donors and matching funds, and still run competitive campaigns. Participation rates matter because the voluntary program can achieve its goals only if a significant proportion of candidates choose to join.
- ◆ Increased access to public funds means that a larger pool of the strongest candidates, not just those who have access to their own money or to wealthy contributors, can run for office and that voters have more choices at the polls.

- ◆ Even though this will increase the cost of the Campaign Finance Program, it still represents a tiny percentage (a few hundredths of one percent) of the city's budget.

REASONS TO VOTE "NO"

- ◆ Reducing the amount a contributor can give may encourage wealthy contributors to direct their money to independent expenditures instead, which have no limits.
- ◆ Reduced contribution limits will require candidates to spend more time fundraising to collect the same amount and make it more difficult for candidates to compete with wealthy, self-funded candidates.
- ◆ The proposed contribution limits are still too high, and do not do enough to limit corruption.
- ◆ Public matching at any ratio or amount does little to empower those who cannot afford to make anything more than a nominal contribution.
- ◆ This program is too expensive. Increasing the availability of public funds increases its cost. The city has more important things to spend its money on.
- ◆ To truly diminish the corrupting influence of money in politics, New York City should adopt a full public funding or voucher system to replace the matching funds program.
- ◆ By allowing candidates to choose to run for office under the current system in the 2021 elections, it delays the positive impact of the proposed contribution limits and matching rates. It also adds unnecessary complexity, making it more difficult for candidates to understand and comply with its requirements.
- ◆ There is no reason to cap matching funds payments to candidates until they reach the expenditure limit. The matching funds cap should be increased even further, to more closely approximate a full public financing system.
- ◆ Awarding unlimited early public funds payments to candidates who have not yet qualified to appear on the ballot presents an increased risk of waste and fraud, as well as the possibility that candidates who don't qualify for the ballot will be required to repay public funds.

BALLOT PROPOSAL QUESTION 2

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION

This proposal would amend the City Charter to:

Create a Civic Engagement Commission that would implement, no later than the City Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020, a Citywide participatory budgeting program established by the Mayor to promote participation by City residents in making recommendations for projects in their communities;

Require the Commission to partner with community based organizations and civic leaders, as well as other City agencies, to support and encourage civic engagement efforts;

Require the Commission to establish a program to provide language interpreters at City poll sites, to be implemented for the general election in 2020;

Permit the Mayor to assign relevant powers and duties of certain other City agencies to the Commission;

Provide that the Civic Engagement Commission would have 15 members, with 8 members appointed by the Mayor, 2 members by the City Council Speaker and 1 member by each Borough President; and

Provide for one of the Mayor's appointees to be Commission Chair and for the Chair to employ and direct Commission staff.

Shall this proposal be adopted?

CFB SUMMARY

This proposal would create a Civic Engagement Commission that would centralize civic engagement initiatives, create a citywide participatory budgeting program, assist community boards, and provide language interpreters throughout the city on Election Day.

REASONS TO VOTE "YES"

- ◆ Civic engagement should be an integral part of being a New Yorker. Lack of centralized information about government and other opportunities for engagement can present a barrier to civic participation, especially among underserved and underrepresented groups such as people of color, youth, immigrants, people living with disabilities, and lower income communities. We need engagement at the neighborhood level that includes non-governmental entities such as community- and faith-based organizations and is in multiple languages, culturally relevant, and accessible to people with disabilities (e.g. increasing availability of materials in Braille, audio, or large print as well as having ASL interpreters at poll sites).
- ◆ The Commission will provide community boards with access to planning expertise, language assistance, and technology resources that will help them better fulfill their mission.
- ◆ The presence on the proposed Civic Engagement Commission of both mayoral and non-mayoral appointees ensures that the Commission's efforts will remain free from political interference. The appointees will be subject to prohibitions related to their involvement in politics, which will ensure the Commission remains independent.
- ◆ Participatory budgeting has been successful in those City Council districts that have opted in, and it should be expanded and centralized. It is difficult and resource-intensive for City Council offices to oversee the process on their own, and it is unfair for participatory budgeting to be available only in some parts of the city and not in others.

- ◆ Participatory budgeting empowers voters, promotes education and responsibility, and makes political participation more inclusive and representative of the city's demographics. It gives a voice to groups such as young students, non-citizens, and felons, who might otherwise be excluded from government processes because they are not able to vote. It also gets youth in the habit of making their voices heard by voting.
- ◆ Nearly one-quarter of all New Yorkers have limited English proficiency. Some neighborhoods consistently do not have the minimum required number of interpreters available at poll sites. In the past, ballots have been mistranslated or not provided in certain required languages. Additionally, translators have been denied entry to polling places. The proposal expands language assistance without interfering with or replicating the BOE's existing legal mandates.

REASONS TO VOTE "NO"

- ◆ It would create a new, redundant bureaucratic office.
- ◆ The Civic Engagement Commission should be independent and nonpartisan to avoid undue political influence from elected officials.
- ◆ The government should not be deciding what civic engagement means or instructing people on how to engage in civic life.
- ◆ Giving an unelected Commission control over staff or consultants who are assisting with the land use process (which is community boards' most important, sophisticated, and sensitive work) would weaken the boards' accountability and responsiveness to their members and the communities they represent.

BALLOT PROPOSAL QUESTION 3

COMMUNITY BOARDS

This proposal would amend the City Charter to:

Impose term limits of a maximum of four consecutive full two-year terms for community board members with certain exceptions for the initial transition to the new term limits system;

Require Borough Presidents to seek out persons of diverse backgrounds in making appointments to community boards. The proposal would also add new application and reporting requirements related to these appointments; and

If Question 2, "Civic Engagement Commission," is approved, require the proposed Civic Engagement Commission to provide resources, assistance, and training related to land use and other matters to community boards.

Shall this proposal be adopted?

CFB SUMMARY

This proposal would change how community boards throughout the city are run, by imposing term limits on appointees, changing the application and appointment process for community board members, and require the Civic Engagement Commission (if Question 2 is approved) to provide resources to community boards.

REASONS TO VOTE "YES"

- ◆ Community boards should evolve over time to keep up with our city's evolving values. Term limits would increase diversity on community boards, create an opportunity for borough presidents to recruit and enlist those who have not traditionally engaged in the work of community boards, and allow community boards to act as training grounds for nurturing new civic leaders. Inclusive decision-making may also strengthen public confidence in community boards, and attract more interest among potential applicants.
 - ◆ The proposed term limits will be staggered, rather than taking effect all at once, to avoid a mass exodus of institutional knowledge. Any loss in institutional memory can also be made up for by providing additional professional resources, including knowledgeable paid staff and technical assistance services.
 - ◆ Community board members, especially those in leadership positions, are re-appointed repeatedly, making it difficult for others who may be interested and may have new ideas to have a chance to serve. Term limits would address this issue.
 - ◆ Requiring borough presidents to report annually on the demographic makeup of each community board alongside the demographics of each district will increase diversity and representation. Annual reporting will ensure that borough presidents are equipped with helpful and relevant information in making appointments, and make the recruitment and selection process more transparent.
 - ◆ In order to operate more effectively and expand community outreach, community boards need urban planning services, training, and technical support. Community board members often do not have the expertise to fully understand the consequences of land use issues, such as rezoning. They would benefit from the assistance of urban planners, and to avoid conflicts of interest, those planners should be provided by the city.
 - ◆ The Civic Engagement Commission, if created, would be well-positioned to provide community board members with access to the kind of independent expertise necessary to understand and evaluate the impact of land use proposals in their community.
- As a multi-member body containing appointees of the mayor, City Council, and borough presidents and lacking a formal role in the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), the Civic Engagement Commission would have no institutional stake in the merits of any particular land use proposal. The Commission would be required to identify qualified firms, professional staff members, or consultants who also do not have a stake in the land use matter for which they would be assisting a community board. It would also be required to make sure that resources are administered in a neutral and impartial manner to all community boards upon request and that community boards can provide feedback regarding these resources.
- ◆ Because the Charter currently does not address the procedure for community board application or selection, the process is not standardized and information about it is not easily accessible. This leads to the perception that the process is not fair or merit-based, which detracts from public confidence in community boards and discourages new applicants. A uniform merit-based application and evaluation system would increase turnover and diversity, remove political influence from the process, and standardize the appointment process.
 - ◆ Requiring borough presidents to make applications available on their websites is a simple, low-cost, and effective way to increase access to community board participation.
 - ◆ Inadequate access to resources has undermined the ability of community boards to fulfill their Charter mandate.
 - ◆ Making language assistance available to community boards would help them better serve all New Yorkers in their community districts, including those with limited English proficiency.
 - ◆ All municipal information should be available online. Community board meetings should be live-streamed. Although nearly all community boards have websites, the websites vary in content, how frequently they are updated, and their accessibility (for example, many of these websites aren't mobile or tablet-friendly). Equipping all community boards with the resources to maintain and update their websites, along with other technological tools and resources, would allow interested district residents to stay informed and get involved.

BALLOT PROPOSAL QUESTION 3

COMMUNITY BOARDS (CONTINUED)

REASONS TO VOTE “NO”

- ◆ Term limits would diminish the effectiveness of community boards by reducing their institutional memory.
- ◆ Community boards are already understaffed, and some have too much turnover. It is difficult to get people to agree to serve on community boards and to attend meetings, and term limits will prevent interested and qualified New Yorkers from serving.
- ◆ It takes time to learn the functions of a community board, such as writing resolutions and understanding city government, as well as to establish relationships with fellow board members and other stakeholders. Specifically, only when community board members have mastered the complexity of land use can they sufficiently analyze applications, negotiate effectively, and positively plan for their communities. As a result, community board members could be at a disadvantage in negotiations with developers and lobbyists if they do not have comparable levels of experience.
- ◆ A better way to improve diversity would be to increase outreach and have a more vigilant appointment and reappointment process.
- ◆ City Council members and borough presidents are responsible for appointing and reappointing members, and they should be entrusted with creating more diverse community boards.
- ◆ Members who have served for the maximum number of consecutive terms should not be re-appointed after a term out of office. Community board members are unelected, politically unaccountable, and face less scrutiny than elected officials. They should not be allowed to accrue additional power and influence for more than ten years. They can continue their civic engagement as nonvoting public members of the board or move on to other forms of civic engagement in the community.
- ◆ Community boards do not lack access to planning expertise. Some boards already have independent planners hired by neighborhood groups, or provided by the borough president or Department of City Planning.
- ◆ A uniform online application process eliminates the individualized approach that would make sure that the community board is representative of and responsive to its community. Some borough presidents have difficulty finding sufficient applicants for community boards, while others are inundated with applications. They should be able to maintain flexibility throughout the application process.
- ◆ Many residents do not have internet access and would not be able to use an online application.
- ◆ Community board members should be elected with proportional representation, rather than appointed.

DISCLAIMER: Some of the ballot proposals described, particularly those in the campaign finance category, directly affect the CFB's work. The CFB testified before the Charter Revision Commission and provided information to the Commission during its deliberations. The reasons to vote “yes” or “no” are based on perspectives raised by organizations and individuals in their testimony before the Commission, including the CFB, and by the Commission itself in its Preliminary Staff Report and Final Report. The information provided may not represent all possible arguments for or against each proposal.

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.

When campaign financing in our elections is more equitable and transparent, both candidates and constituents win. 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 also helps New Yorkers from all backgrounds run for office without having to seek out large contributions.

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.

UNDERSTANDING NYC'S MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM

CANDIDATES
TALK TO NEW
YORKERS
AND COLLECT
SMALL-DOLLAR
CONTRIBUTIONS



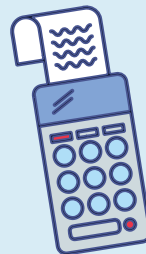
CANDIDATES
RAISE ENOUGH
SMALL-DOLLAR
CONTRIBUTIONS
TO QUALIFY



QUALIFYING
CANDIDATES CAN
HAVE EVERY DOLLAR
MATCHED WITH
SIX DOLLARS
OF PUBLIC FUNDS



CANDIDATES
AGREE TO LIMIT
THEIR SPENDING



VISIT [NYCCFB.INFO/PROGRAM](https://nyccfb.info/program) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW IT WORKS.

BENEFITS OF NYC'S **MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM**

MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR NEW YORKERS WITHOUT ACCESS
TO WEALTH TO RUN FOR LOCAL OFFICE

HELPS NEW YORKERS FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS
PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL ELECTIONS, ENSURING THAT OUR CITY'S
DIVERSITY IS REFLECTED IN OUR GOVERNMENT

LIMITS THE INFLUENCE OF SPECIAL INTEREST MONEY
IN OUR LOCAL ELECTIONS SO THAT CANDIDATES
ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE THEY SERVE

AMPLIFIES THE VOICES OF EVERYDAY NEW YORKERS
BY INCREASING THE VALUE OF THEIR
SMALL-DOLLAR CONTRIBUTIONS

DISCLOSURE AND OVERSIGHT KEEP CANDIDATES ACCOUNTABLE FOR
THE FUNDS THEY RAISE AND SPEND, WHILE REDUCING CORRUPTION
AND THE APPEARANCE OF CORRUPTION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT VOTING



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 did not vote in the last two federal elections, or you moved without updating your address with the BOE, your registration may be considered “inactive” and your name may not appear in the voter roll at your poll site. You can still vote by affidavit ballot.

WHERE DO I GO TO VOTE?

If you received this Guide in the mail, your poll site location is printed on the cover. You can also check online at [voting.nyc](https://www.voting.nyc) or call 866-VOTE-NYC.

Remember to confirm your poll site on Election Day.

DO I NEED TO SHOW IDENTIFICATION TO VOTE?

In most cases, you do not need identification to vote. However, if you are newly registered or recently moved and 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?

When you move, New York State law requires you to change your address with the BOE within 25 days. You do this 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 should 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 IN THE VOTER BOOK?

Make sure you are signing in at the correct table for your assembly and election district. If you received this Voter Guide in the mail, you can find your district numbers on the cover. You can also find them on the mailer that the BOE sends to all registered voters before each election. Poll workers can look up your name and address and determine which district you live in as well.

You can also check to make sure that you are registered by going to [voting.nyc](https://www.voting.nyc).

If you're unable to find your assembly and election district numbers but 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're not listed in the voter book 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 for you to appear in the voter book). 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 envelope serves as a registration form for future elections if you were not eligible to vote and you filled it out correctly.

WHAT IF A POLL WATCHER CHALLENGES MY RIGHT TO VOTE?

If a poll watcher challenges your right to vote, e.g., states 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?

You can vote by absentee ballot if you are unable to get to your polling place due to absence from New York City on Election Day; temporary or permanent illness or physical disability; hospitalization; duties related to primary care of one or more individuals who are 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. 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" on page 4).

In person: Absentee voting in person begins as soon as the ballots are available (at least 32 days before an election) and ends on Election Day. It is conducted at your BOE borough office Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., during special hours on the weekend prior to Election Day (check vote.nyc.ny.us for more information), and until 9:00 p.m. on Election Day.

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 p.m. on Election Day.

CAN I VOTE IF I WAS CONVICTED OF A FELONY?

If you have been convicted of a felony, you can register and vote after you complete your sentence and/or parole.

CAN I VOTE IF I WAS CONVICTED OF A MISDEMEANOR?

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

CAN I VOTE IF I AM CURRENTLY HOMELESS?

Yes, homeless people can register and vote in New York City.

NEVER MISS ANOTHER ELECTION

Stay in the loop on all things city elections!

- Send me election reminders, including candidate info
- Send me regular updates about NYC Votes programs
- I want to volunteer

SIGNUP

Text **NYCVOTES** to
+ 1 917 979 6377 to join.

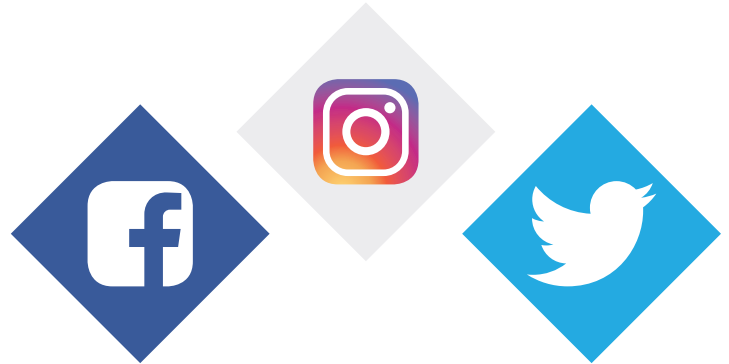
Sign up at nycvotes.nycfb.info to receive emails or texts from us with reminders about upcoming election dates and deadlines, information about your local races, and notifications about NYC Votes programs and volunteer opportunities.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

NYC is the greatest city in the country, but our 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.



“I VOTED” STICKER

DESIGNED BY MARIE DAGATA & SCOTT HEINZ

Your “I Voted” sticker is a great way to show that you care about the future of your city.

Share your #IVoted sticker selfies on Election Day and tag us @nycvotes!

CONTACT THE NYC

BOARD OF ELECTIONS (BOE)

You can register to vote, change your registration, vote absentee, apply to be a poll worker, and more with the New York City Board of Elections.

Reach the BOE:

- 1 Visit vote.nyc.ny.us
- 2 Call the voter hotline at 866-VOTE-NYC (TTY 212-487-5496 for the hearing impaired)
- 3 Visit your BOE office (BOE locations are open Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and during the weekend prior to and on Election Day — check vote.nyc.ny.us for hours)

GENERAL OFFICE

32-42 Broadway
7th Floor
New York, NY 10004
(212) 487-5400

MANHATTAN

200 Varick Street
10th Floor
New York, NY 10014
(212) 886-2100

BRONX

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

QUEENS

118-35 Queens Blvd.
11th Floor
Forest Hills, NY 11375
(718) 730-6730

BROOKLYN

345 Adams Street
4th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(718) 797-8800

STATEN ISLAND

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