COLLECTION II — CIVIC PARTICIPATION & VOTING

How to Register to Vote in New York

Step-by-step guide to voter registration, deadlines, and keeping your registration current.

By Daniel P. Devine · Civest Sphere · November 2026

Who can register

You can register to vote in New York if you:

- are a U.S. citizen;
- will be 18 by the end of the year you register (16- and 17-year-olds can pre-register and are added to the rolls automatically at 18);
- have lived in your county, or in New York City, for at least 30 days before the election;
- are not currently in prison for a felony conviction (your right to vote is restored when you're released);
- don't claim the right to vote anywhere else.

How to register

- **Online:** through the NY State Board of Elections voter registration portal or the DMV's electronic voter registration application.
- **By mail:** fill out a paper registration form and mail it to your county Board of Elections.
- **In person:** at your county Board of Elections, the DMV, or many state agency offices.

Deadlines

Your registration must be received **at least 10 days before an election** to vote in that election. A mailed form must also be postmarked at least 15 days before the election. If you've moved or changed your name, your county Board of Elections must receive the update **at least 15 days before the election**.

New York doesn't have Election Day registration. Don't wait for the last week.

Party enrollment matters in New York

New York has **closed primaries**: only voters enrolled in a party can vote in that party's primary. You choose a party, or no party, on your registration form. Changing your party takes effect only if it's received by an annual deadline well before the primary, so check your county Board of Elections for the current date if you plan to switch.

Check your registration

Look yourself up on the State Board of Elections voter lookup before every election. Confirm your address, party and polling place.

After you register

- **Early voting** runs for nine days, starting the tenth day before Election Day. Sites and hours vary by county.
- **Voting by mail** is available to any registered voter through New York's early mail voting option, as well as traditional absentee ballots.
- **ID:** New York doesn't require ID for most voters. First-time voters who registered by mail without verified ID may be asked for it.

Rules change. Always confirm deadlines with your county Board of Elections or elections.ny.gov.

> **OFFICIAL SOURCES**
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> - NY State Board of Elections — Voter Registration (https://elections.ny.gov/voter-registration-process)
> - NY State Board of Elections — FAQs (https://elections.ny.gov/frequently-asked-questions)

Last reviewed November 2026. This guide is general information, not legal advice. Laws, deadlines and procedures change, so confirm details with the official source before you act.

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