

2020 Voters Directory

A NONPARTISAN GUIDE
TO INFORMED VOTING

Vote on Tuesday, November 3 or Vote Early Oct. 24 - Nov. 1



General Election



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Citizens Union Endorsed Candidates

2020 GENERAL ELECTION

President/Vice President of the United States

Joseph R. Biden / Kamala D. Harris (D, WFP)

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Senate District 22

Andrew Gounardes (D, WFP, SAM)

Assembly District 46

Mathylde Frontus (D)

Manhattan

Assembly District 76

Rebecca Seawright (Rise and Unite)

Staten Island/Brooklyn

Assembly District 64

Brandon Patterson (D, I)

**The following candidates were preferred by Citizens Union
in the Primary and are on the ballot in the general election.**

Bronx

Assembly District 81

Jeffrey Dinowitz (D)

Manhattan

Assembly District 68

Robert Rodriguez (D)

Queens

Borough President

Donovan Richards (D)

Queens

Assembly District 31

Khaleel Anderson (D)

Queens

Assembly District 34

Jessica González-Rojas (D)

Queens

Assembly District 38

Jenifer Rajkumar (D)



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CITIZENS UNION MISSION

Citizens Union (CU) is committed to reforming New York City and State government to foster accountability, accessibility, transparency, honesty, and the highest ethical standards. For the past 120 years, we at Citizens Union have devoted ourselves to holding our local governments accountable to do better in all of these areas, and we remain committed to enfranchising all New Yorkers. The many initiatives that we are currently advancing include ethics reform, court reform, increased civic engagement and youth voting, greater police accountability, and campaign finance. In all of these efforts, we have been — and will remain — nonpartisan.

Stay up to date with the latest happenings of the CU team and our work by liking our [Facebook page](#) and following us on [Twitter](#).

THE VOTERS DIRECTORY

This fall, New Yorkers will vote in the general election for New York State Legislature, Queens Borough President, as well as for federal and judicial positions.

To help our supportive Citizens Union members prepare to vote, Citizens Union has been publishing an annual Voters Directory for over a century. The current edition provides an overview of the 2020 general elections, including voting and registration information and listings of every contest for all races that will be on the ballot in New York City this fall. It also includes a roster of Citizens Union’s endorsed candidates in several key races, and information about the rigorous evaluation process and assessments of candidates.

We caution voters that there may be last minute elimination or reinstatement of candidates on the ballot, so the list contained in this directory may have changed since this document was printed.

For more information, visit the NYC Board of Elections website at vote.nyc or call (866) VOTE-NYC.



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OVERVIEW

Citizens Union has evaluated 4 races for state Senate and Assembly to determine what candidates strongly support our issues, can advance a reform agenda, and can best fulfill the obligations of the position. Interview teams made up of Local Candidates Committee members assessed the candidates based on their responses to Citizens Union's questionnaire, independent research, first-hand knowledge of the candidates, and interviews with the candidates. The result of that evaluation is detailed in this Voters Directory, which Citizens Union has been publishing as a guide to its supportive members for over a century.

Due to the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current state of emergency, the evaluation process was conducted entirely online. All interviews and meetings were held by video conference.

This year, for the first time in the organization's history, Citizens Union also evaluated the Presidential election. Read more on this below.

CANDIDATE EVALUATION PROCESS

In this unprecedented election cycle, during a city, state, and national state of emergency, Citizens Union has evaluated candidates in four races for state Senate and Assembly to determine who strongly supports our issues, can advance a reform agenda, and can best fulfill the obligations of the position.

Interview teams made up of Local Candidates Committee members assessed the candidates based on their responses to Citizens Union's questionnaire (a prerequisite for interviews), research, first-hand knowledge of the candidates, and interviews with the candidates, which are approximately 30 minutes each. The interview teams then made advisory recommendations to the full Local Candidates Committee, which deliberated and made recommendations to the Citizens Union Board, which made the final decision.

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As in the primary election, the evaluation process was conducted entirely online. Due to the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic all interviews and meetings were held by video conference.

A “Endorsed” rating reflects a candidate that Citizens Union deems not only qualified for the office, but also a viable candidate, committed to an agenda of positive reform. Please note that candidates not preferred may nevertheless be highly regarded, which is generally reflected in the commentary.

Citizens Union issues a “Endorsed” rating in general elections, and an “Preferred” rating for primary election contests. A “No Endorsement” rating may result when there is insufficient information available, it is believed that the candidates are of equal merit, or if no candidate interviewed by Citizens Union is believed to be effective or capable of representing the district.

OUR CRITERIA

The following guidelines are used by the Local Candidates Committee and Citizens Union Board of Directors in the evaluation of candidates:

- Support for Citizens Union’s reform agenda shall be the primary criteria used in deciding its support for a candidate.
- Evidence of ability to wage an effective and competitive campaign shall be considered, but not be determinative.
- Ability to advance CU’s goals, if elected, shall be considered, but not determinative. Incumbents will be held accountable for their record of reform in office and shall be judged accordingly on the basis of their demonstrated support for CU’s issues.
- State, local, or community issues specific to the race’s jurisdiction shall be considered, as will candidates’ ability to grasp these issues and propose thoughtful solutions to represent their constituents’ interests.
- Evaluation of the candidates and the decision to support a particular candidate shall be made without regard to political party and in a nonpartisan manner.



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For more than 120 years, Citizens Union has been a non-partisan force for transparency, accountability, honesty, and ethics in New York City and State government. Founded by private citizens who cared about good government and wanted to call out the corrupt political bosses of the Tammany Hall era, Citizens Union has since made expressing preferences for state and local candidates who share its values an essential part of its mission. It's a kind of non-partisan "seal of approval" highly coveted by those seeking elected office in New York.

But never before have we expressed a preference in a U.S. Presidential race. That is, until now. This year, for the first time in Citizens Union's 120 year history, we have decided to issue an endorsement for the presidential election. This decision was not taken lightly. After all, we are weighing in on a federal race when our focus has always been on local and state government. However, the stakes in this year's presidential race are too high—for New Yorkers and for all Americans—to sit on the sidelines. The issues that Citizens Union cares most about—transparency, accountability, honesty, and ethics in government—are front and center in this election. The stability of our democratic institutions is frail. Federal policy on immigration, racial justice, and the coronavirus pandemic have affected so many in New York City.

Given this consequential moment in the history of the city of New York, and the uncertain future that awaits it, Citizens Union feels compelled to weigh in on this important race. A Board of Directors Screening Committee has evaluated the candidates' positions and record in light of our reform agenda. This included issues like elections and voting, government checks and balances, police accountability and the 2020 Census, as well as candidates' ability to propose thoughtful solutions to represent the challenges facing the United States, and the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on New York City. The evaluation included the presidential candidates of the two major parties.



Joseph R. Biden / Kamala B. Harris ★

Endorsed Candidates

Democratic, Working Families

Age: 77

Occupation: Former Vice President

Education: University of Delaware, B.A., Syracuse University J.D.

Website: JoeBiden.com

Joe Biden served as the 47th vice president of the United States from 2009 to 2017, and before that represented the state of Delaware in the U.S. Senate for 36 years. A native of Scranton, Pennsylvania who spent most of his life in public offices, Biden is running his third bid for the presidency, but first as the Democratic nominee. As Vice President, he served as an adviser and confidant for President Barack Obama, taking on a particularly active role in foreign policy. Throughout the Obama administration, he was a key figure in negotiations with Congress, achieving bipartisan support for budget deals and legislation, and oversaw the \$800 billion stimulus program under the 2009 Recovery Act. Biden's running mate, Kamala Harris, is the junior U.S Senator from California.

Biden's presidential campaign focuses on addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic fallout. He vows to implement a public health response that ensures the wide availability of free testing, the elimination of all cost barriers to preventive care and treatment, and the development of a vaccine. His economic response would start with emergency paid leave for all those affected by the outbreak. Other major goals for Biden are reclaiming U.S. respected leadership on the world stage and creating a more inclusive democracy. His key message is a moral one: a battle for the soul of America, and for basic values such as dignity, resilience, and hope in the face of the dangers from a possible second term for Donald Trump.

Biden devotes a section of his platform to government reform, which includes comprehensive policies to reduce the influence of money in politics and campaigns, strengthen ethics regulations, reduce conflicts of interest in the Executive Branch, and set higher standards for lobbying activities.

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In addition, Biden wants to make it easier for people to be able to vote, and he has acknowledged the importance of mail-in voting and the need to fund election administration properly. He has also been vocal about the need to stop foreign interference in U.S. elections, and promised to respond to it through various methods, including sanctions, cyber responses, and exposure of corruption.

On police accountability, Biden promises to use the Justice Department to root out unlawful policing, and to create a model use-of-force standard. He proposes increased funding for community policing and reform and said he would tie federal funding to the adoption of such policies, body-worn cameras, and training.

Lastly, Biden vows to maintain separation of powers. He has stated that the impartiality of the courts is a “precious commodity that the courts cannot afford to have undermined,” and criticized what he calls “the dangerous politicization of the Department of Justice.” He proposes to take aggressive action to prevent the White House from improperly interfering in federal investigations and prosecutions, increase transparency in Department of Justice decision-making, strengthen its Inspector General, and more.

For these reasons, Citizens Union endorses Joe Biden, and believes he will restore dignity to the Oval Office, strive to unify the country, reach across the aisle to try to build consensus, respect democratic institutions and the rule of law, and tell the truth

Donald J. Trump / Michael R. Pence

Republican, Conservative

Age: 74

Occupation: Current President of the United States

Education: Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, B.S.

Website: DonaldJTrump.com

Donald Trump is running for a second term as the President of the United States. Before being elected in 2016, he was a real estate tycoon, a reality TV personality, and a businessman involved in hotels, resorts, entertainment, and other industries. Born in Queens, he was a New Yorker for most of his life, often appearing on the city’s tabloid press as a colorful billionaire. His short political career, however, has been marked by divisive rhetoric, a disregard for



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norms, and an unapologetic claim for unlimited executive power. Trump's running mate is the current vice president, Mike Pence.

As President, Trump has focused on restricting immigration, renegotiating trade agreements, and eliminating federal regulations, including much of the Obama-era environmental policies. His signature legislative achievement was a 2017 tax reform, one of the largest overhauls to the tax code in decades. In 2019, he was impeached by the House of Representatives for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

Trump did not publish a detailed platform on reform issues, or on any issue, and he is running based on the record of his first term. However, he does promise to pass Congressional term limits and "expose Washington's money trail" if reelected.

Trump's actions and statements on our democratic institutions have been destructive.

He has been outspoken in criticizing the judicial branch and expressing a lack of confidence in courts and judges. As a candidate, he suggested a federal judge could not be impartial when deciding the future of Trump University because of his "Mexican heritage." He questioned the credibility of the court system because of the repeated defeats his administration saw in courts. Similarly, in the Department of Justice, Trump has removed or pressured officials he deemed too independent or "disloyal".

Trump has also undermined accountability and ethics in government by pushing out five Inspectors General, including those involved in investigations related to him and his Secretary of State. This unprecedented attack on independent government watchdogs was later followed by an attempt to discredit and "out" the whistleblower who first reported the Ukrainian incident that resulted in Trump's impeachment.

On top of his attacks on good government, the President has also made a point in lashing out against New York City. His administration's harsh and often cruel persecution of immigrants has undermined the safety of the biggest city in the country. And in the face of the biggest economic crisis in a century, Trump refused



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to provide aid to New York and even called to curb current federal funding.

In recent months, Trump has cast doubt on the possibility of conducting an honest and fair election, particularly as mail-in voting expanded under the coronavirus pandemic. He has repeatedly called ballots “a problem” and urged to “get rid of the ballots,” even encouraging his supporters to vote twice. He refused to say he will accept the result of the election or to commit to a peaceful transfer of power.

Citizens Union believes that President Trump has eroded public confidence in our democratic institutions, failed to respect the rule of law, shown an appalling lack of leadership in times of crises, and should not be re-elected.

Howie Hawkins / Angela Nicole Walker

Green

The candidate was not evaluated by Citizens Union.

Jo Jorgensen / Jeremy Cohen

Libertarian

The candidate was not evaluated by Citizens Union.

Brock Pierce / Karla Ballard

Independence

The candidate was not evaluated by Citizens Union.

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NY SENATE DISTRICT 22

Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, Bentonhurst, Marine Park, and parts of Sheepshead Bay and Midwood

Andrew S. Gounardes ★ *Endorsed Candidate*

Democratic, Working Families Party, Serve America Movement

Age: 35

Occupation: New York State Senator

Education: Hunter College B.A., George Washington University J.D.

Candidate Website: AndrewGounardes.com

Andrew Gounardes is currently the Senator for District 22; he chairs the Committee on Civil Service and Pensions, and has held this position since his 2018 election. As a freshman lawmaker, he sponsored bills to expand resources to 9/11 service people, promote pedestrian safety, support and reform the MTA, and increase funding to public schools and universities. Gounardes' campaign issues include passing greater workplace protections against sexual harassment in Albany, public transportation reform, increasing support for the LGBT community, funding public education and universities, and more. Gounardes further offers a substantial reform platform on a wide variety of issues, including anti-corruption, voting reform, public financing of elections, strengthening independent investigations, and reforming the special elections process. He opposes Citizen Unions' position on the new redistricting constitutional amendment, indicating that he supports the proposed changes, including ending prison gerrymandering and eliminating the supermajority vote requirement. Citizens Union was deeply impressed with Senator Gounardes, particularly with his extensive knowledge of the issues and their relation to the current legislation in development, as well as his understanding of the demands of the position in both the Senate and his district. Citizens Union particularly appreciated his forthright approach when discussing policy issues when he knew his position was not in line with the CU agenda. For these reasons, Citizens Union strongly endorses Andrew Gounardes in this race.



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Vito J. Bruno

Republican, Conservative, Independence

Age: 63

Occupation: Self Employed/ Entertainment Company Owner

Education: Pratt Institute B. Arch.

Candidate Website: BrunoForNY.com

Vito Bruno is a nightlife and music industry entrepreneur who is running as the Republican and Conservative Party candidate in South Brooklyn’s 22nd district. Bruno’s campaign goals center on three primary issues: recovering from COVID-19, the affordability crisis in South Brooklyn, and repealing bail reform laws. Bruno stresses his position as the ‘law and order’ candidate, focusing on his opposition to bail reform and support of police officers. He opposes several items on the Citizens Union questionnaire, including no-excuse absentee voting, same day voter registration, automatic re-enfranchisement of people on parole, poll sites on college campuses, resolving the affordability crisis, and reducing campaign contribution limits. During his interview, Bruno focused on his own experience as a businessman and father, and did not express a particular commitment to government reform. Citizens Union appreciates Vito Bruno’s dedication to public service, but found that many of his positions were not in line with the CU agenda.

NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 46

Coney Island and Sea Gate, as well as parts of Bath Beach, Bay Ridge, Brighton Beach, Dyker Heights and Gravesend

Mathylde Frontus ★ Endorsed Candidate

Democratic

Age: 42

Occupation: New York State Assembly Member

Education: Columbia University, M.A., Ph.D.; NYU School of Social Work, B.S.W., M.S.W.

Candidate Website: FrontusForNY.com

Mathylde Frontus is the Assembly Member for District 46. Elected in 2018, Frontus’ legislative focus has primarily centered on community inclusion, mental health support, and issues specific to her district such as caring for the Coney Island Creek. Her campaign issues include an economic mobility COVID-19 recovery plan to assist saving, investing, entrepreneurship, and home ownership,



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passing 'Jeanne's Law' to address the rise of hit and run accidents, addressing safety concerns and allocating funding for security measures in NYCHA housing, and more. Frontus has sponsored and supported a variety of bills on reform and transparency issues, including bills to further increase early voting days, to create public databases on government spending, and to require local government meetings to be live-streamed and recorded for public access. However, Frontus did oppose two items on the Citizens Union questionnaire: limiting outside compensation of legislators to 25% of their income and moving the state campaign finance matching system to an independent body. In her interview, she clarified that her position on campaign finance has to do with a lack of hard data on best practices - she agrees that the current system ought to be reformed, but she does not believe that the ideal solution is to move the commission outside of the Board of Elections' jurisdiction. In reference to the recent proposed redistricting amendment, Frontus took issue with the minority party being shut out of the process, although she did vote in favor of the amendment. Citizens Union was impressed by Frontus' candid manner when discussing the lessons she has learned in her first term in office, particularly regarding her approach to building coalitions and pushing her platform goals in the legislature. Citizens Union found her to be highly knowledgeable regarding the practical functions of the legislature, and to have a good grasp of the social issues affecting her constituents. For these reasons, as well as her reform record and agenda, Citizens Union endorses Mathylde Frontus in this race.

Mark Szuskiewicz

Republican, Conservative

Age: 39

Occupation: Self Employed, Financial Services, Entertainment, and other professions

Education: High School, Professional Degrees

Candidate Website: Mark4NY.com

Mark Szuskiewicz is a financial services representative and an executive producer of a sports talk TV show who is running for Assembly District 46. Szuskiewicz encourages voters to consider "the person, not the party" and focuses on a few specific goals related to local concerns, namely introducing life skills and financial



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literacy classes in public schools, expanding after school programs, funding affordable housing with municipal bonds, introducing a drug testing and outpatient addiction treatment program for those applying for government benefits, and limiting the size of overdraft fees charged by banks. Szuskiewicz supports most of Citizens Union's questionnaire items. He stated his opposition to same day voter registration, because as a former poll coordinator, he believes this would not leave enough time to confirm the voter's qualifications. He also opposed permanent mayoral control of city schools, although he suggested he may support it if given more information on a governance system. Additionally, he advocates for introducing a form of voter ID, which he says would facilitate voting for people with limited English proficiency. Citizens Union found Szuskiewicz to be engaging and knowledgeable about the practicalities of his own campaign goals, and appreciates his ongoing interest in government reform.



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NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 76

Upper East Side, Yorkville, Roosevelt Island

Rebecca Seawright ★ *Endorsed Candidate*

Rise and Unite

Age: 58

Occupation: New York State Assembly Member

Education: CUNY School of Law, J.D.

Candidate Website: RebeccaSeawright.com

Rebecca Seawright has represented the 76th Assembly District since her election in 2015; she is the Secretary of the Majority Conference. As a lawmaker, she has been a leading voice advocating for women's rights: sponsoring the first pass of New York's Equal Rights Amendment, as well as legislation to create a public database on female representation in public policy roles. Seawright also sponsored several bills that simplified the campaign finance system which were signed into law. In this race, her campaign focuses on ensuring the health and livelihood of her constituents, and she commits to keeping a high level of constituent service at the forefront of her work. Due to a petition filing error, Seawright was removed from the Democratic and Working Families lines, leading her to run as an independent in this election under the Rise and Unite party line. During her interview, she described how this experience has inspired her to become more involved in the election process, and indicated that she will be pursuing appointment to the Election Committee should she be re-elected. The Assembly Member supports all of the items on Citizens Union's questionnaire, and stressed she would like to focus on budget reform, allowing the Legislature to play an equal role with the Governor in shaping the state budget. Citizens Union found her to be a strong and admirable candidate, and noted that her experience of being removed from the ballot seems to have inspired her to be a better representative overall. Given the high level of constituent services she provides her district, as well as her strong legislative reform record, Citizens Union endorses Rebecca Seawright in this race.



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Patrick Bobilin

Blue Wave

Age: 37

Occupation: Executive in Digital Marketing

Education: Hampshire College B.A., The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, M.F.A., Bard College M.A.

Candidate Website: PatrickForNewYork.com

Patrick Bobilin is an executive at a digital marketing company and a former public school teacher who is running as an independent under the Blue Wave line. A former Vice President of the East River Democratic Club who ran for City Council in 2017, Bobilin has been organizing nightly vigils for George Floyd and other victims of police violence outside of Gracie Mansion in recent months. He is running on a progressive platform that includes passing the NY Health Act, extending the right to vote to permanent resident Green Card holders, implementing universal rent control, and creating a program for free childcare and housing vouchers for CUNY and SUNY students. He supports all items on Citizens Union's reform agenda, and mentioned a particular interest in reforming the budget process and exploring a "Democracy Voucher" type of campaign finance system. Citizens Union found him to be an empathetic organizer with a strong understanding of the issues, and appreciates his dedication to the political process.

Louis Puliafito

Republican, Libertarian

The candidate did not respond to Citizens Union's questionnaire.



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NY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 64 (partially in Brooklyn)
East Shore, Staten Island and Bay Ridge, Brooklyn

Brandon Patterson ★ *Endorsed Candidate*

Democratic, Independence

Age: 31

Occupation: Deputy Chief of Staff, New York State Senate

Education: SUNY Albany, B.A., Baruch College, M.P.A.

Candidate Website: PattersonForNY.com

Brandon Patterson is Deputy Chief of Staff for State Senator Diane Savino, whose district overlaps with this one. A lifelong Staten Islander, he has spent the majority of his working life on the staff of local Democratic politicians, in both the City Council and State Senate. He is running for the 64th Assembly District as a “pragmatic Democrat”, highlighting practical issues faced by his prospective constituents. His goals include increasing affordability through lower taxes, helping small businesses by reducing red tape, investing in the district’s public transportation, providing lifetime healthcare for first responders and front line workers, expanding the Excelsior Scholarship, preventing cuts to the CUNY budget, and pursuing adaptive reuse. In his interview, he stressed his focus on serving the needs of his constituents as directly and effectively as possible. Though Patterson opposes several items on the Citizens Union questionnaire, including same day voter registration, mandated poll sites on college campuses, special election reform, lowering contribution limits for lobbyists, moving campaign matching program to an independent body, and restructuring the state Board of Elections, he clarified his positions during his interview, indicating support for the overall goal of these reforms, but not the precise plan laid out in the CU agenda. For instance, while he does not support same day voter registration, he believes that both voting registration and party registration deadlines should move significantly closer to Election Day. Additionally, while he does not believe that contribution limits should be set differently for lobbyists than other donors, he does believe that campaign contribution limits overall should be lowered. He also agreed



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the Board of Elections' structure needs to be re-evaluated, and as a former BOE worker, admitted that hiring largely depends on patronage. During his interview, Patterson also named ethics as his number one reform issue, including reforming JCOPE. Citizens Union found Patterson to be knowledgeable, found his positions and arguments to be coherent and cogently presented, and believe that he has a genuine interest in representing and providing supportive services for his constituency. For these reasons, as well as his experience and knowledge representing the area through his work for local representatives, Citizens Union endorses Brandon Patterson in this race.

Michael Tannousis

Republican, Conservative

The candidate did not respond to Citizens Union's questionnaire.

Questionnaire

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Below each question, please find a tabulation of answers from 15 Senate and Assembly candidates who responded to the questionnaire (note: not all respondents were interviewed by CU).

ETHICS

- 1 Replace the Joint Commission on Public Ethics and the Legislative Ethics Commission with an effective and independent enforcement body (S594A/A1282A).
Support - 15 Oppose - 0
- 2 Limit outside compensation earned by state legislators and statewide officials to 25% of their salaries and eliminate stipends
Support - 12 Oppose - 3

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

- 3 Do you support or oppose the following changes to the state's current registration and voting system?
 - a. No-excuse absentee voting (second passage of constitutional amendment)
Support - 14 Oppose - 1
 - b. Election Day voter registration (second passage of constitutional amendment)
Support - 12 Oppose - 3
 - c. Re-enfranchisement of people on parole automatically through legislation, without requiring a Certificate of Good Conduct or Relief
Support - 13 Oppose - 2
 - d. Automatic voter registration, unless the potential voter opts out
Support - 12 Oppose - 2
Conditionally Support - 1
 - e. Mandating poll sites on college campuses
Support - 44 Oppose - 1 Conditionally Support - 1
- 4 Reform the special election process, utilizing a nonpartisan special election for state legislative seats and eliminate delays in filling vacancies.
Support - 14 Oppose - 1



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- 5 Reduce the vote threshold to become a registered party back to 50,000 votes and keep the gubernatorial election as the qualifying election, and reduce the petition requirement for independent candidates back to 15,000 signatures.

Support - 15 Oppose - 0

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

- 6 Amend the state’s public campaign financing system, approved in the 2021 budget, by

a. Drastically reduce campaign contribution limits

Support - 14 Oppose - 1

b. Set even lower contribution limits for registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state

Support - 14 Oppose - 1

c. Move the campaign finance matching program to be administered by an independent, nonpartisan body outside of the NY Board of Election

Support - 12 Oppose - 3

d. Simplify the matching system by making both in- and out-of-district donations eligible and by eliminating the three different tiers for matching

Support - 13 Oppose - 2

BUDGET PROCESS

- 7 Require full disclosure of grants and contracts issued by the state, including the budget lines from which the spending is made and reporting on the results of each grant or contract over a certain amount.

Support - 15 Oppose - 0

- 8 Provide for effective online disclosure and itemization of spending from elected officials’ lump sum appropriations, including reporting on potential conflicts of interest and how the funds are spent.

Support - 15 Oppose - 0

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ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

- 9 Restructure the state Board of Elections to abolish the strict two-party division of governance and operation and put in place professional, nonpartisan administration.
Support - 14 Oppose - 0 No Answer - 1
- 10 Empower the attorney general to investigate and prosecute election law malfeasance and cases of public corruption.
Support - 46 Oppose - 0
- 11 Local Board of Elections are largely funded by their county. Given the many changes to election administration introduced in New York recently, the state should provide additional funding to county BOEs.
Support - 14 Oppose - 0 No Answer - 1

HOME RULE

- 12 Make mayoral control of city schools permanent, with a governance system that provides for accountability, transparency, parent engagement, and democratic participation.
Support - 12 Oppose - 1
Conditionally Support - 1 Conditionally Oppose - 1

COURT REFORM

- 13 Simplify and consolidate New York State's court system by passing the Chief Judge's proposed constitutional amendment to modernize the courts.
Support - 13 Oppose - 0
Conditionally Support - 1 Conditionally Oppose - 1

REDISTRICTING

- 14 Maintain the current redistricting process, supported by voters through a 2014 constitutional amendment, and particularly the elements that provide minority parties a voice in the process, allow the Independent Redistricting Commission to play a central role, and take redistricting power away from the hands of incumbent lawmakers.
Support - 12 Oppose - 3

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GOVERNMENT UNDER THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

- 15 Provide public access to observe and participate in government proceedings, in meetings that would be public under the New York Open Meetings Law, via live and recorded video available on government websites.
Support - 15 Oppose - 0
- 16 The Legislature stopped holding regular meetings soon after the COVID-19 outbreak, and later reconvened in July and August for short sessions that dealt with urgent matters. Should the Legislature return to its regular, pre-COVID calendar next session?
Yes - 11 No - 4

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KEY

- S Support
- CS Conditionally Support
- O Oppose
- CO Conditionally Oppose
- NA No answer
- N No
- Y Yes

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	Biaggi	Rivera	Charles	Powell	Gounardes	Szuskiewicz	Frontus	Bruno	Hutchins	Zumbuskas	Krueger	Seawright	Schley	Bobilin	Patterson
	SD 34	SD 33	AD 78	AD 79	SD 22	AD 46	AD 46	SD 22	AD 54	SD 28	SD 28	AD 76	AD 70	AD 76	AD 64
Q1	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q2	S	S	S	O	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S
Q3a	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q3b	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
Q3c	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	O	S	S	S	S	S
Q3d	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	CS	S	S	S	S	O
Q4	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
Q5	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q6a	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q6b	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
Q6c	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	O
Q6d	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S	O
Q7	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q8	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q9	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	O
Q10	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q11	NA	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q12	S	S	S	S	CS	CO	S	S	S	S	S	S	O	S	S
Q13	CO	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	CS	S	S	S	S	S
Q14	S	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	O	S	S	S	S
Q15	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Q16	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N

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Of the 91 seats in the NYS Legislature (the state Senate and Assembly combined) representing New York City residents:

- 38 candidates are uncontested in the general election. That means that 41% of all NYC seats in the state legislature will be held by candidates who do not face any competition in the general election.
- 5 of these 38 are first time candidates running for open seats, after they defeated the incumbent in the primary or because the incumbent did not run for reelection.
- The only City Council race on the ballot this November, Brooklyn's District 37, is an open seat with a single uncontested candidate: Darma Diaz. She also ran uncontested in the primary.

The following candidates are running uncontested for NYC seats in the state Senate and Assembly:

BROOKLYN

Senate District 17

Simcha Felder (D, R, C)

Senate District 19

Roxanne J. Persaud (D)

Senate District 21

Kevin S. Parker (D)

Senate District 25

Jabari Brisport (D, WFP)

Assembly District 42

Rodneyse Bichotte (D)

Assembly District 45

Steven Cymbrowitz (D, WFP, I)

Assembly District 48

Simcha Eichenstein (D, C)

Assembly District 49

Peter J. Abbate, Jr. (D, I)

Assembly District 50

Emily E. Gallagher (D)

Assembly District 51

Marcela Mitaynes (D, WFP)

Assembly District 52

Jo Anne Simon (D, WFP)

Assembly District 53

Maritza Davila (D)

Assembly District 56

Stefani L. Zinerman (D)

Assembly District 58

N. Nick Perry (D)

Assembly District 59

Jaime R. Williams (D)

Assembly District 60

Charles Barron (D)



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MANHATTAN

Senate District 27

Brad M. Hoylman (D, WFP)

Assembly District 65

Yuh Line Niou (D, WFP)

Assembly District 67

Linda B. Rosenthal (D, WFP)

Assembly District 69

Daniel O'Donnell (D)

Assembly District 71

Alfred E. Taylor (D, WFP)

Assembly District 72

Carmen De La Rosa (D)

Assembly District 74

Harvey Epstein (D, WFP)

Assembly District 75

Richard N. Gottfried (D, WFP)

QUEENS

Senate District 10

James Sanders Jr. (D)

Senate District 12

Michael N. Gianaris (D, WFP)

Senate District 14

Leroy G. Comrie Jr. (D)

Senate District 16

Toby Ann Stavisky (D)

Assembly District 24

David I. Weprin (D)

Assembly District 25

Nily Rozic (D)

Assembly District 27

Daniel Rosenthal (D)

Assembly District 29

Alicia Hyndman (D)

Assembly District 30

Brian Barnwell (D)

Assembly District 32

Vivian E. Cook (D)

Assembly District 33

Clyde Vanel (D)

Assembly District 36

Zohran Kwame Mamdani (D)

Assembly District 37

Catherine Nolan (D)

Assembly District 39

Catalina Cruz (D)

STATEN ISLAND

Senate District 24

Andrew Lanza (R)

Assembly District 62

Michael Reilly (R, C)

General Election Snapshot

This section lists general election races that will take place in New York City, and does not include candidates who are unopposed. We caution voters that there may be last minute elimination or reinstatement of candidates on the ballot. You can find your up-to-date sample ballot [here](#).

† Incumbent

^ Denotes that the candidate submitted the Citizens Union questionnaire.

Blue denotes the candidate is endorsed by Citizens Union in the general election.

Italic denotes the candidate was preferred by Citizens Union in the primary election.

Party Key:

C	Conservative	R	Republican
D	Democrat	RD	Red Dragon
G	Green	RU	Rise and Unite
I	Independence	SAM	Serve America Movement
JP	Justice Peace Honesty	SC	Schley for 70 Assy
L	Liberal	SP	COVID19 Stories Party
LN	Liberterian	SOC	Save Our City
NM	New Moderate	W	Blue Wave
PL	Proven Leader	WFP	Working Families

Federal Elections

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Term of Office: 4 years (2 term-limit) Salary: \$400,000

[Joseph R. Biden / Kamala D. Harris \(D, WFP\)](#)

[Donald J. Trump / Michael R. Pence \(R, C\) †](#)

[Howie Hawkins / Angela Nicole Walker \(G\)](#)

[Jo Jorgensen / Jeremy Cohen \(L\)](#)

[Brock Pierce / Karla Ballard \(I\)](#)

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$174,000

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BRONX

District 14

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D)†
John Cummings (R, C)
Michelle Caruso-Cabrera (SAM)†

District 15

Ritchie Torres (D)
Patrick Delices (R, C)

BROOKLYN

District 7

Nydia M. Velazquez (D, WFP) †
Brian W. Kelly (R, C)
Gilbert Midonnet (L)

District 8

Hakeem Jeffries (D, WFP) †
Garfield Wallace (R, C)

MANHATTAN

District 10

Jerrold L. Nadler (D, WFP) †
Cathy A. Bernstein (R, C)
Michael Madrid (L)

District 12

Carolyn B. Maloney (D) †
Carlos Santiago-Cano (R, C)
Steven Kolln (L)

QUEENS

District 3

Tom Suozzi (D, WFP, I) †
George Devolder-Santos (R, C)
Howard Rabin (L)

STATEN ISLAND

District 11

Max Rose (D, I) †
Nicole Malliotakis (R, C)

District 16

CJamaal Bowman (D, WFP)
Patrick McManus (C)

District 9

Yvette D. Clarke (D, WFP) †
Constantin Jean-Pierre (R, C)
Gary Popkin (L)
Joel Anabilah-Azumah (SAM)

District 13

Adriano Espaillat (D, WFP) †
Lovelynn Gwinn (R)
Christopher Morris-Perry (C)

District 6

Grace Meng (D, WFP) †
Thomas Zmich (R, L, C, SOC)

State and City Elections

Bronx

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NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000

District 29

Jose M. Serrano (D) †
Jose A. Colon (R)

District 32

Luis Sepulveda (D) †
Jonathon Weiner (C)

District 33

J. Gustavo Rivera (D, WFP) †
Dustin Martinez (R)
Steven Stern (C)

District 34

Alessandra Biaggi (D, WFP) † ^
James Gisondi (R)
Antonio Vitiello (C)

District 36

Jamaal Bailey (D) †
Robert Diamond (C)

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000

District 77

Latoya Joyner (D) †
Tanya Carmichael (R)
Benjamin Eggleston (C)

District 78

Jose Rivera (D) † ^
Michael Dister (R)

District 79

Chantel Jackson (D)
Donald Skinner (R)
Dion Powell (C) ^

District 80

Nathalia Fernandez (D) †
Gene DeFrancis (R)
Elizabeth Perri (C)

District 81

Jeffrey Dinowitz (D) †
Nicole Torres (R)
Alan Reed (C)

District 82

Michael Benedetto (D) †
John DeStefano (R)
William Britt Jr. (C)

District 83

Carl Heastie (D) †
Brenton Ritchie (R)
Regina Cartagena (C)

District 84

Amanda Septimo (D, WFP)
Rosaline Nieves (R)
Carmen Arroyo (PL) †
Linda Ortiz (C)

District 85

Kenneth Burgos (D)
Janelle King (R)
Gabriel Eronosele (C)

District 86

Victor Pichardo (D) †
Lorraine Zeigler (R)

District 87

Karines Reyes (D, WFP) †
Michelle Castillo (R)
Juan DeJesus (C)
Carl Lundgren (G)



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SUPREME COURT JUDGESHIPS

Term of Office: 14 years Salary: \$192,300

District 12 - vote for 3

Kim Adair Wilson (D)
Orlando Molina (R)
Andrew J. Cohen (D)
Bianka Perez (D)

Brooklyn

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000

District 18

Julia Salazar (D, WFP) †
Daniel Christmann (NM)

District 20

Zellnor Myrie (D, WFP) †
Tucker Coburn (LN)

District 22

[Andrew Gounardes \(D, WFP, SAM\) † ^](#)
Vito Bruno (R, C, I) ^

District 23

Diane Savino (D, I) †
Justin DeFillippo (C)
John Jairo Rodriguez (SAM)

District 26

Brian Kavanagh (D) †
Lester Chang (R, C)

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000

District 41

Helene Weinstein † (D, WFP)
Ramona Johnson (R, C)

District 43

Diana Richardson (D) †
Menachem Raitport (R)

District 44

Robert C. Carroll (D, WFP) †
Salvatore Barrera (R, C)

District 46

[Mathylde Frontus \(D\) † ^](#)
Mark Szuszkiewicz (R, C) ^

District 47

William Colton (D, WFP) †
Barbara Marino (R, C)

District 54

Erik Dilan (D) †
Khorshed Chowdhury (R)
Scott Hutchins (G) ^

District 55

Latrice Walker (D) †
Berneda Jackson (R)

District 57

Phara Souffrant Forrest (D)
Walter Mosley † (WFP)



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How to Vote

SUPREME COURT JUDGESHIPS

Term of Office: 14 years Salary: \$192,300

District 2 - vote for 6

- Karen B. Rothenberg (D)
- Beth Parlato (R, C)
- Carolyn E. Wade (D, R, C)
- Delores J. Thomas (D, R, C)
- Lizette Colon (D)
- Theresa M. Ciccotto (D, R, C)
- William F. Mastro (D, R, C)

Manhattan

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000

District 28

- Liz Krueger (D, WFP) † ^
- Mike Zumbuskas (R, I) ^

District 29

- Jose M. Serrano (D) †
- Jose A. Colon (R)

District 30

- Brian Benjamin (D) †
- Oz Sultan (R)

District 31

- Robert Jackson (D, WFP) †
- Melinda Crump (R)

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000

District 66

- Deborah Glick (D) †
- Tamara Lashchuk (R)

District 68

- Robert Rodriguez (D) †
- Daby Carreras (R)

District 70

- Inez Dickens (D) †
- Craig Schley (SC) ^

District 73

- Dan Quart (D, WFP) †
- Judith Graham (R)

District 76

- Louis Puliafito (R, L)
- Rebecca Seawright (RU) † ^
- Patrick Bobilin (W) ^

Queens

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QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Term of Office: 4 years (2-term limit) Salary: \$179,200

Donovan J. Richards Jr (D)
Joann Ariola (R, C, SOC)
Dao Yin (RD)

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000

District 11

John Liu (D, WFP) †
Elisa Nahoum (SOC, R, C)

District 15

Joseph Addabbo (D) †
Thomas Sullivan (SOC, R, C)

District 13

Jessica Ramos † (D, WFP)
Jesus Gonzalez (SOC, R, C)

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000

District 23

Stacey G. Pheffer Amato (D) †
Peter Hatzipetros (SOC, R, C)

District 34

Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas (D, WFP)
William Marquez (R, C)

District 26

Edward Braunstein (D) †
John-Alexander Sakelos (SOC, R, C)

District 35

Jeffrion Aubry (D) †
Han Khon To (R, C, SOC)

District 28

Andrew Hevesi (D) †
Danniel Maio (S)

District 38

Jenifer Rajkumar (D)
Giovanni Perna (R, C, SOC)

District 31

Khaleel Anderson (D, WFP)
Joseph Cullina (R)

District 40

Ron Kim (D) †
Steven Lee (JP)



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SUPREME COURT JUDGESHIPS

Term of Office: 14 years Salary: \$192,300

District 11 - vote for 9

- Tracy A. Catapano Fox (D, R, C)
- Joshua E. Goldfein (WFP)
- Mojgan Cohanin Lancman (D)
- Bob Cohen (WFP)
- Lance P. Evans (D)
- Joseph F. Kasper (R, C)
- Judith Goldiner (WFP)
- Karina E. Alomar (D)
- John C. Spataro (R, C)
- Kenneth Schaeffer (WFP)
- Michelle A. Johnson (D)
- Afua Atta Mensah (WFP)
- Darrell L. Gavrin (D)
- Justin Sweet (WFP)
- Evelyn L. Braun (D, R, C)
- Kevin J. Kerrigan (D, R, C)
- Leonard Livote (D, R, C)

Staten Island

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000

District 23

- Diane Savino (D, I) †
- Justin DeFillippo (C)
- John Jairo Rodriguez (SAM)

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Term of Office: 2 years (no term limit) Salary: \$110,000

District 63

- Michael Cusick (D, I) †
- Anthony DeGuerre (R, C, SAM)

District 64

- Brandon Patterson (D, I) ^
- Michael Tannousis (R, C)

CIVIL COURT JUDGE

Term of Office: 10 years (no term limit) Salary: \$193,500

- Allyn J. Crawford (D)
- Ronald Castorina Jr (R, C, L, I, SAM)



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This Voters Directory would not be possible without the hard work of members of the Citizens Union Board, Local Candidates Committee (LCC), staff and interns. 30 volunteer LCC members, 6 interns, and staff members formed nonpartisan interview teams and evaluated 7 candidates in 4 races for state Senate and Assembly. We thank them for contributing their time, energy, and expertise to interviewing and evaluating candidates, especially during this challenging moment. We thank you for your support, and hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Voters Directory.

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The 2020 general election will be unlike any other. In the following FAQ, you will find information about applying for an absentee ballot, returning that ballot, fixing problems with your ballot, voting early and on Election Day, and more.

Don't forget these key deadlines for the November election.

- The deadline to request an absentee ballot is Tuesday, October 27
- The deadline to mail or drop off your absentee ballot is Tuesday, November 3 (Election Day)
- Early voting runs from Saturday, October 24–Sunday, November 1, and poll hours will vary by location
- Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, and the polls are open from 6 am–9 pm

REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

How do I apply for an absentee ballot (vote-by-mail)?

If you want to vote by mail, you must first request an absentee ballot. The easiest and quickest way to request an absentee ballot is online at [NYCAbsentee.com](https://www.nyc.gov/absentee), or by calling 1-866-VOTE-NYC (1-866-868-3692). You can also download and complete the [application form](#) (available in other languages [here](#)), and submit it by email to Apply4Absentee@boe.nyc, by fax to 212-487-5349, or by mail to your local borough office. Applying online is the fastest way to get your absentee ballot.

If you are registered to vote outside of New York City, you can apply to register online at [AbsenteeBallot.elections.ny.gov](https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov)

What reason should I select on my absentee ballot application form?

You can choose “Temporary illness or disability,” as this includes the risk of contracting the coronavirus.



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If I voted by mail during the June primaries, do I still need to request a ballot?

Yes, unless you are already on the permanent absentee voter list due to a long-term disability or illness.

What is the deadline to apply for an absentee ballot?

Your completed absentee ballot application must be submitted by October 27, 2020, whether it is postmarked by that date, entered online, emailed, or faxed.

However, given the current circumstances of the US Postal Service and voters' recent experience during the Primary Election, it is highly recommended that you apply as soon as possible, or at least 15 days before the election. If you apply later, your absentee ballot may not arrive in time for the election.

When will my absentee ballot be mailed to me?

The Board of Elections started mailing ballots to voters who request them on a rolling basis on September 18, 2020.

Can I track my absentee ballot?

Yes! Once you submit your application, you will receive a six-digit code that can be used to check the status of your absentee ballot application and to track your ballot. Use [this website](#) to track your ballot.

What should I do if my absentee ballot did not arrive on time?

If you do not receive your absentee ballot on time, you can vote in person during the Early Voting period or on Election Day. You can vote in person even if you applied to vote absentee.

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RETURNING YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT

I received an absentee ballot that says “Official Absentee Military Ballot” but I am not in the military.

This is the correct ballot even if you are not serving in the military. It’s valid and your vote will count. Usually, this is titled an “Official Absentee/Military Ballot,” but due to a printing error, the backslash was left out.

I received an absentee envelope with the wrong name/address.

Check to make sure your name or address is on your ballot envelope —the inner “oath” envelope where voters need to date and sign for their vote to count. If it is not, DO NOT return your ballot. The Board of Elections will automatically send you a new ballot package.

There was an error with the vendor who prints absentee ballots for Brooklyn and Queens, and voters are receiving absentee envelopes with the wrong name or address on the inner envelope (also called “security” or “oath” envelope). The BOE is resending ballots with corrected envelopes to the 100,000 Brooklyn voters who may have been affected.

Note: Even voters whose initial ballot envelope was fine will likely receive a new ballot, because the BOE and the vendor are not able to isolate the problem to specific individuals. We will update when more information arrives.

What should I do with my absentee ballot?

Make sure to follow the instructions on the ballot, put it in the appropriate envelope, sign the back of that inner (“security” or “oath”) envelope, and seal the envelope. Do not make any extraneous marks on the ballot or it might not be counted. Put that envelope in the return envelope and seal the return envelope. Don’t forget to sign the inner envelope – a missing signature is one of the most common causes of ballots being disqualified.

Do I need to put stamps on my absentee ballot envelope?

Yes! Unlike the June primary, you must put stamps on your absentee ballot envelope.

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How do I return my ballot?

You may return your ballot by mail or by dropping it off at designated locations. If you mail it, the envelope must be postmarked by Tuesday, November 3 (Election Day), and received by the Board of Elections by November 10. Ballots that lack a postmark but are received by the Board of Election the day after Election Day will also be counted. However, we recommend mailing your ballot as soon as you have completed it. Thousands of Primary Election ballots were not counted because they arrived too late at the Board of Elections.

You can also return your ballot by dropping it off at a number of locations, without waiting in line. During the Early Voting period (October 24 – November 1), you can drop off your absentee ballot at any [early voting polling site](#). On Election Day, you can drop off your absentee ballot in any polling site. You won't have to wait in line to vote to drop off your ballot in the drop-off box. Additionally, you can also drop off your absentee ballot at [your local Board of Elections](#) until 9 pm on Election Day. You will not be able to drop off your ballot after Election Day.

Can someone else drop off my ballot?

Yes. If you can not or do not want to mail your ballot, you should know that anyone (including a neighbor, friend, or family member) can drop off your absentee ballot for you at any poll site during the Early Voting period or on Election Day

If I damage my ballot or the ballot envelope, can I get a new one?

You can contact the Board of Elections at 1-866-VOTE-NYC or AbsenteeHelp@boe.nyc, explain the situation, and request a new ballot. Or, you can vote in person.

Can I vote in-person if I requested an absentee ballot?

Yes! You can still vote early in person (October 24th-November 1st) or on Election Day if you request an absentee ballot. Your early voting site may be different from your normal poll site, so make sure to [check your early voting polling site](#) before you go.



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Can I vote in-person if I returned my absentee ballot?

Yes! Under New York law, your in-person vote will count and your absentee ballot will be invalidated. When absentee votes are counted, the Board of Elections and representatives of both major parties compare the list of in-person voters and absentee voters, and disregard all absentee envelopes of in-person voters.

I'm worried about my absentee ballot not being postmarked or arriving late, and it not being counted.

In the June Primary, thousands of ballots were not counted because their envelope was not postmarked. In July, the New York law was changed so that even if a ballot is not postmarked, it will be counted if received in the Board of Elections by the day after the election (November 4). If you are concerned that your ballot is being mailed too late to be appropriately postmarked, please take it to the post office and ask for a postmark, instead of dropping it in a street mailbox. You can also drop it off at a polling place on Election Day or during the Early Voting period.

I'm worried about my absentee ballot being invalidated for small technical errors.

This election, voters will get additional protections from their ballots being invalidated for small errors, after a [settlement was reached](#) in a lawsuit filed by the League of Women Voters. Voters' absentee ballots will no longer be disqualified if they complete their ballot in non black or blue ink, mark outside the designated areas, or seal the inner ballot envelope (also called an affirmation envelope) with tape or other sealing agent.

VOTING EARLY

When and where can I vote early?

Early Voting for the General Election runs from October 24, 2020 – November 1, 2020. All registered voters can participate in early voting, which starts 10 days before Election Day. Benefits include shorter wait times and less crowding at the polls. In the primaries

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this June, just 5% of voters chose to vote early! You can find [your early voting site and opening hours here](#).

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020. All poll sites are open from 6 am – 9 pm. If you are in line to vote by 9pm you are entitled to vote, even if crowding requires you to wait past the set poll close time.

To find out what races you will be voting for, visit [WhosOnTheBallot.org](#).

COUNTING THE VOTES

When will election results be published?

This year, New Yorkers will likely not know the results of the election on election night. Under New York law, absentee ballots – which are expected to be the largest share of ballots cast in this election – will only begin to be counted one week after Election Day. Counting those ballots takes longer than regular ballots due to extra security measures meant to ensure the integrity of the election.

If there was a problem with my absentee ballot and it was not accepted by the Board of Elections, can I fix the problem?

Yes. A new law allows you to cure the following defects: (1) the ballot is unsigned; (2) the signature doesn't match your registration signature; (3) there is no affirmation envelope within the return envelope; (4) there was no witness signature for voters who had assistance completing their ballot, or there was only witness signature and no voter signature; or (5) the affirmation envelope was signed by someone else other than the voter.

The Board of Elections are required to promptly contact you by phone or email, or, if that's not possible, by mail, with a notice of the defect and the procedure to fix the problem. You will also see a relevant notice in the [absentee tracking portal](#). If your ballot was invalidated due to being unsealed the Board will contact you to give



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you other options to vote or, if time permits, will send you another absentee ballot.

How will the Board of Election ensure voters do not vote twice, by mail and in person?

Before absentee ballots are counted, a bi-partisan team of Board of Elections staff and representatives of candidates reviews all absentee envelopes to determine whether they meet New York law requirements. One of the first things they check is whether the person voted in person. If so, the absentee ballot is put aside and not counted.

REGISTER TO VOTE

How can I register to vote?

To vote in the November election, you must be a registered voter. *The voter registration deadline for this election has passed.*

If you have a New York State driver’s license or another valid state photo ID, you can [register to vote online](#).

If you don’t have a state photo ID, you can register to vote by printing a paper application ([English](#); [Spanish](#)) and mailing it to your [county board of elections](#). *If you live in New York City*, you can also use a new online service that makes it easy to register to vote. Visit nycvotes.turbovote.org and fill out a registration form online, which will then be mailed to you for a wet signature and include a pre-paid return envelope.

Am I already registered to vote?

Check [here](#) to see if you are registered to vote in NYC.

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