



**New Yorkers now have more options than ever to vote in November: absentee, early or on Election Day. IMPORTANT REMINDER: You must be registered to vote in New York by October 9th in order to cast a ballot during the election.**

### **GENERAL FAQ**

**I can't remember if I registered to vote, help!**

You can check your voter registration status, and confirm all your information is up to date, [here](#).

**When is Election Day? Will polls be open on Election Day?**

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3rd and polls will be open from 6 am - 9 pm.

**How can I vote in November?**

New Yorkers can vote one of three ways: absentee, early or on Election Day.

**I don't feel comfortable going to the polls because of COVID-19, what are my alternatives?**

New Yorkers can vote absentee if they have contracted COVID or are worried about potential exposure.

**Ok, so what's on the ballot?**

The presidential election for starters! We'll also have congressional, state and local contests.

**\*\*\*Can I vote in-person if I request and/or return my absentee ballot?**

Yes, you may still go to the polls and vote in person. Our election law understands plans change. If you decide to vote in-person and you have returned your absentee ballot, your in-person vote will override the absentee vote. Only one vote - your in person vote - will count.



## **ABSENTEE VOTING FAQ**

### **Who can vote absentee?**

Any registered voter who has an excuse. Reasons to vote absentee include COVID-19, illness, among others.

### **Requesting your absentee ballot**

#### **How do I vote absentee?**

**Absentee voting in New York is a two step process.** You must first request an absentee ballot and use the reason “Temporary Illness” which is extended to all New Yorkers because of the coronavirus pandemic. Eligible voters can request an absentee ballot online, via email, phone, mail or fax from your county Board of Elections. Once requested and processed, your absentee ballot will be mailed to you before the election.

The fastest way to request your absentee ballot is online:

- [In New York City](#)
- [Outside of New York City](#)

Ballots will be mailed starting September 18th and will continue to do so as applications are received.

### **Is there a deadline to apply for an absentee ballot?**

Yes, New York voters must apply for an absentee ballot by October 27th. We **STRONGLY** advise **to request your ballot online today, do NOT wait.**

### **When will I receive my absentee ballot in the mail?**

BOEs will start to mail ballots on September 18th, and will mail them out, as applications are received on a rolling basis. Voters outside of NYC will need to contact their local Board of Elections as this will vary by county.



### **Can I track the status of my absentee ballot application and absentee ballot?**

As of today, [only if you are registered to vote in New York City](#) or Onondaga County. You must first submit an absentee ballot request in order to receive a confirmation code which will serve as a way to track your application and ballot once it's mailed.

### **Returning your absentee ballot**

#### **Is there a deadline to return my absentee ballot?**

**Yes, absentee ballots must be postmarked by November 3rd** and must reach the Board of Elections no later than November 10th in order to be counted. But ballots mailed close to the deadline run the risk of not getting counted, so if you are going to mail your ballot do so ASAP.

#### **How do I return my absentee ballot?**

Voters can return their ballot via snail mail or drop off their completed ballot at their local Board of Elections or [any early voting or Election Day poll site within their county](#). For New York City voters this means you can drop your absentee ballot at any early voting or election day poll site within the 5 boroughs. If you're not comfortable heading to a poll site to drop off your absentee ballot, a trusted friend or family member can return it for you.

New York does not have standalone drop boxes, as you might have seen in other states. You must mail your ballot or return it at a designated poll site or local BOE.

#### **What do I need to do if I want to drop off my absentee ballot at a poll site?**

Complete your ballot and put it in the smaller oath envelope. Seal the envelope, and sign and date the back. You can then drop off your absentee ballot at any poll site during early voting or on election day in your county. [For New York City voters this means you can drop off your absentee ballot at any early voting or election day poll site within the five boroughs.](#)



**If I mail my absentee ballot, is return postage provided?**

**No, voters will need to provide their own postage to return their ballot.**

**How many stamps do I need to mail my ballot?**

We recommend using two Forever stamps to return your absentee ballot.

**What if there's an issue with my absentee ballot? Will I be notified?**

Yes! You'll receive notification from your local board of elections, by mail, or if you provided a phone number or email, by phone or email.

## **EARLY VOTING FAQ**

**When is early voting for the November election?**

Early voting is from Saturday, October 24th through Sunday, November 1st.

**Where/when can I vote early?**

Your early voting poll site is probably different from your election day poll site, and hours vary by location. Find it here:

- [New York City](#)
- [Outside New York City](#)

**What precautions are Boards of Elections taking to protect voters and poll workers?**

The Center for Disease Control [has released comprehensive safety guidelines for poll sites](#). Voters should maintain social distancing protocols. Polling locations will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. All poll workers and voters are required to wear masks.



## **ELECTION DAY FAQ**

### **Will polls be open on Election Day?**

Yes, from 6 am to 9 pm.

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## **AFTER THE ELECTION**

### **When will ballots be counted?**

Early voting and in-person election day ballots will be counted once polls close on Election Day. Absentee and affidavit ballots will be counted after November 10th.

### **When will election results be finalized?**

Early voting and in-person election day vote tallies will be released as unofficial results on election night as always. Due to the anticipated increase of absentee ballots, as New York saw in June, anywhere from 40%-60% of votes will be counted after election night. It may take 2-3 weeks or more for a final tally.

### **Why will final election results take so long?**

This is mostly due to the high volume of absentee ballots and the fact that counting does not start until after November 10. Due to COVID, there has been an exponential increase in absentee voting in New York and counting all these ballots will require additional time and resources. Controls are in place to be sure that the only ballots counted are cast by eligible voters and that there is only one vote per voter counted, all of which takes time to check correctly. In addition, the Boards of Elections need to keep their staff safe and healthy, and therefore must maintain social distancing protocols during the count which adds additional time to the process.