



## FILLING OUT A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM: A STEP BY STEP GUIDE

You can register to vote if you'll turn 18 by December 31, you're a U.S. citizen, and you're not incarcerated for a felony conviction or on parole. (You'll only be able to vote on Election Day this year if you turn 18 by that date.) This year, Election Day is November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The deadline to register is October 9<sup>th</sup>. Forms must be hand delivered to the Board of Elections or postmarked by that date. The deadline for the Primary Election has already passed. This guide applies to the most recent NYS registration form.

You should print or type the information on the form in blue or black ink. No pencils or other color ink. Print clearly and legibly. If the Board of Elections can't read your form, you may not get registered. It's important you complete the form now and ask a volunteer to check for any mistakes. (NYPIRG will hand deliver forms to the Board of Elections.) Your registration form may also have a section asking if you would like to be an organ donor. Your decision whether or not to complete the organ donor section will not affect your application to enroll to vote.

### THE QUESTIONS

- Box 1 Check off if you're a U.S. citizen. If you're not, you can't register. Non-citizens jeopardize their immigration status by filling out the form.
- Box 2 If you'll be 18 by Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, you can fill out the form. You'll only be able to vote if you're 18 by Election Day.
- Box 3 Spell out your last name then first name and middle initial. "Suffix" means if your name has something like Jr. or Sr. at the end of it.
- Box 4 Your date of birth: Month/Day/Year.
- Box 5 Your sex. The Board of Elections uses this for ID purposes at the polls.
- Box 6-7 This is for your home phone or cell phone and your email address.
- Box 8 Write down your address where you live — not your mailing address. In New York City, put down your borough where they ask for your county even if you did on the line above as well.
- Box 9 If you get your mail someplace other than the address listed in Box 8, put it here. (For example: a P.O. Box or a relative's home.)
- Box 10 If you've voted before, check the "Yes" box.
- Box 11 Write the year that you last voted.
- Box 12 If your name has changed or you have moved since the last time you voted, put down your previous name and/or your previous address, and the county/borough or state where you last voted.
- Box 13 Fill in your NY Driver's License or Non Driver's ID number, or the last four digits of your Social Security number here. If you don't have a DMV or Social Security number, check that box. Providing accurate info will help avoid ID checks and possible problems at the polls.
- Box 14 The only way you get to vote in a primary election is if you're enrolled in that party (except for the Independence party which allows non-enrolled voters to participate in their primaries). You will still get to vote for whomever you want in the General Election regardless of whether you choose a party or not. If you don't want to choose a party, make sure you check off the bottom box. Note that it is too late to register to vote in the 2015 September Primary, but you can register for the General Election and for next April's Presidential Primary.
- Box 15 If you will be away from your residence (listed in box 8) on Election Day and you need to apply for an absentee ballot, check that box. An absentee application form will be mailed to you. The Board of Elections will mail an actual absentee ballot to you after they receive your completed application. You can also download, print and mail an absentee ballot application to the Board of Elections by visiting <http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html>. To be an Election Day worker, check that box.
- Box 16 Don't forget to read the affidavit and sign your form. Put today's date underneath it.