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A Notice About Your Right to Register to Vote

A new law passed in 2021, restores the right to vote for a person convicted of a felony upon release from incarceration, regardless of if they are on parole or have a term of post-release supervision. If a convicted felon is not incarcerated, they are eligible to register to vote.

Prior to enactment of this law, a convicted felon was not legally allowed to register to vote until they were discharged from parole or any post-release supervision that was included for their felony conviction.

This prohibition prevented a person that is living in the community from voting and exercising a constitutional right and a civic responsibility and created a barrier to full reintegration into society that only came to an end when that person was discharged from parole. In addition, it created a great deal of confusion with the county boards of elections throughout the state regarding who was eligible to register to vote.

Now, in New York State there is a simple, bright line rule: if you are not incarcerated, you can register to vote.

Registering to Vote

Qualifications to Register to Vote

To legally register to vote you must:

- be a United States citizen
- be 18 years old
- resident of New York State and the county, city, or village for at least 30 days before the election
- not be incarcerated for a felony conviction
- not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere

Registering to vote at the time of your release from a correctional facility

- You should be offered the opportunity to register to vote at the time of your release
- You should be offered assistance to fill out the voter registration form at that time
- You may decline to register to vote at that time
- If you decline to register to vote at that time you should be given a voter registration form to take with you

Registering to vote after your release

Where to Register to Vote

New York State offers many ways to register to vote. You can register to vote either, in person at your county board of elections or at the Department of Motor Vehicles or by mail. If you already have

a DMV-issued identification you may also register to vote online via the NYS DMV website (<https://dmv.ny.gov>).

In addition, you may apply to register to vote at any of the following New York State agency offices. Registering to vote at any of these locations is not required to receive the services these agencies provide.

- Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services
- City Universities of New York(CUNY)
- Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Department of Health - WIC Program
- Department of Labor
- Department of Social Services
- Department of State
- Division of Veterans' Services
- Military Recruiting Offices
- Office for the Aging
- Office of Mental Health
- Office for People with Developmental Disabilities
- State Universities of New York(SUNY)
- Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation(ACCES-VR)
- Workers' Compensation Board

How to Register to vote—Complete the voter registration form

To register to vote you must fill out a New York State Voter Registration Form. You should have been provided a copy of this form at the facility when your release was processed. This form is available on the NYS Board of Elections web site (www.elections.ny.gov) or any county board of elections web site, you can also find forms at any U.S. Post Office or public library. If you do not have access to the internet, printer or simply prefer, you may request that a New York State Voter Registration form be mailed to you by contacting the New York State Board of Elections or the Board of Elections in your county of residence

Once the voter registration form is completed, you need to print the form (if filled out online) and sign it. Then you must mail or deliver the form to your county board of elections. There is a listing of every county board of elections on the back of the registration form and on the NYS Board of Elections website.

Victims of Domestic Violence

If you are a victim of domestic violence there is a process whereby your voter registration records may be kept separate and apart from other registration records and not be made available to the public. For further information, you should contact your local board of elections for their confidential registration and special ballot procedures.

Notification of your voter registration

Once your fully completed voter registration form is approved by your county board of elections you will receive a notice at the address provided on your voter registration form informing you when the next election will be and where your poll site will be. New York State also offers early voting and absentee voting as alternatives to voting on election day.