



VOTING BASICS: KEY INFO & WHAT TO EXPECT

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Election Day: How to Vote in Person

1. Find your polling place to see where you will vote.
2. Check the times that polls are open.
3. Arrive as early as possible.

How to Fill Out a Ballot

Most polling places now use electronic voting machines—but you will first have to fill out your ballot.

- Read all instructions and fill out all parts of the ballot, which can sometimes be on either side of the paper.
- Cast only *one (1) vote for each candidate* for an open seat—even if the same candidate is listed under multiple parties, you can only vote for that candidate under one party. You should only make one selection in each column. See below for an example.

citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/votecorrectly_English.pdf

United States Senator	
Vote for one	
Party A A ❖	Party A John Smith ○
Party B B ⚙	Party B Jane Doe ○
Party C C ⚙	Party C John Smith ● ✓

- Following your specific polling place's instructions to turn in your ballot. If you are confused, do not hesitate to look for a poll worker to help you.

Alternative Ways to Vote

Early Voting

Starting in 2019, New York voters will have an early voting period for both Primary and General elections. This will make voting more convenient for everyone, especially those whose personal, professional or family situations make it difficult to get to their polling place on Election Day. For more information > votearlynny.org

Westchester County has selected many Early Voting polling places that may or may not be open on Election Day:

citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/2019earlyvotingpolllocations.pdf



Absentee Ballots

If you cannot vote in person due to physical disability or health reasons, you can also vote by absentee ballot. You cannot cast a ballot on a voting machine if you have already been issued an absentee ballot for that election.

Qualifications to Vote by Absentee Ballot

- Unavoidably absent from Westchester County on Election Day (e.g. away for college, out of town or on a trip)
- Unable to appear at a polling place due to illness or disability
- A resident or patient of a Veterans Health Administration Hospital
- Detained in jail awaiting grand jury action, or prison after conviction of a non-felony offense.

Voters who are qualified to vote by absentee ballot must first apply for the absentee ballot for the given election year.

Know Your Voting Rights

In-Person Voting Rights

- If you make a mistake on your ballot, request a new one
- If the machines are not working at your polling place, ask for a paper ballot
- If polls close while you are still in line, remain in line, you should not be denied access to vote
- If your name is not on the list of registered voters, you are entitled to a provisional ballot.

Accessibility

Multiple federal and New York State laws prohibit voting discrimination based on race, national origin, and disability status. There are also laws requiring that bilingual assistance and materials be provided to voters who are limited English proficient—Westchester County has this requirement. To see more voting rights, visit ag.ny.gov/civil-rights/voting-rights.

Time off to Vote

If you are required to work on Election Day, New York legally allows you to take up to three hours of paid time off to vote, as long as you give your employer two business days of notice. You do not have to get proof of voting in order to take time off to vote. Learn more on the NYS Board of Elections website: elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/elections/TimeOffToVoteFAQ.pdf

New Voting Laws

There have also been recent changes to voting laws in New York State. These new voting laws create one Primary Election Date, pre-registration for 16 and 17 year olds, early voting periods.