



Empowering the Leaders of Tomorrow

VOTING BASICS: KEY INFO AND WHAT TO EXPECT

Election Day: How to Vote in Person

Polls are open from 6am to 9pm on Election Day. Find your polling place to you to see where you will vote:
<https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/find-polling-place>.

How to Fill Out a Ballot

Most polling places now use electronic voting machines—most commonly the ES&S AutoMARK—but you will first have to fill out your ballot.

- Be sure to read all instructions and fill out all parts of the ballot, which can sometimes be double-sided.
- Cast only *one vote for one candidate* for each 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.

https://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, turn in your ballot. If you are confused, do not hesitate to look for a poll worker to help you—that is what their role is for.

Alternative Ways to Vote

Early Voting

Starting in 2019, New York voters will have a 10-day early voting period for both Primary and General elections, making 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, see

<https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/2019earlyfaq.pdf>

Westchester has selected many Early Voting polling places, which may or may not be polling place on Election Day:

<https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/2019earlyvotingpolllocations.pdf>

Plan ahead by confirming your polling place location and timeframes.

Absentee Ballots

If you know you will be away from home on Election Day, you can also vote by absentee ballot.

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
- In a veteran's 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, at least one week one week before Election Day:

<https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/2015absentee.pdf>

Know Your Voting Rights

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 <https://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:

<https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/elections/TimeOffToVoteFAQ.pdf>

New Voting Laws

There have also been recent changes to voting laws in New York State, which will affect voting in Westchester in 2019 and beyond. These new voting laws create one Primary Election Date, pre-registration for 16 and 17 year olds, early voting periods, no fault absentee and more. For a summary of the new voting laws, visit

<https://www.westchesterlegislators.com/images/PDF/SummaryofNewVotingLawsMarch2019.pdf>.