2020 Voter Guide

NYC Department of Education

FOR STUDENTS | BY STUDENTS

CIVICS FOR ALL

20 20 Voter Guide

FOR STUDENTS | BY STUDENTS

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In This Guide:

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Department of Education

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Notes on This Resource

The *2020 Voter Guide: By Students for Students* was developed with our student contributors who planned, researched, and drafted this resource under the guidance of, and with feedback from, the Social Studies Department.
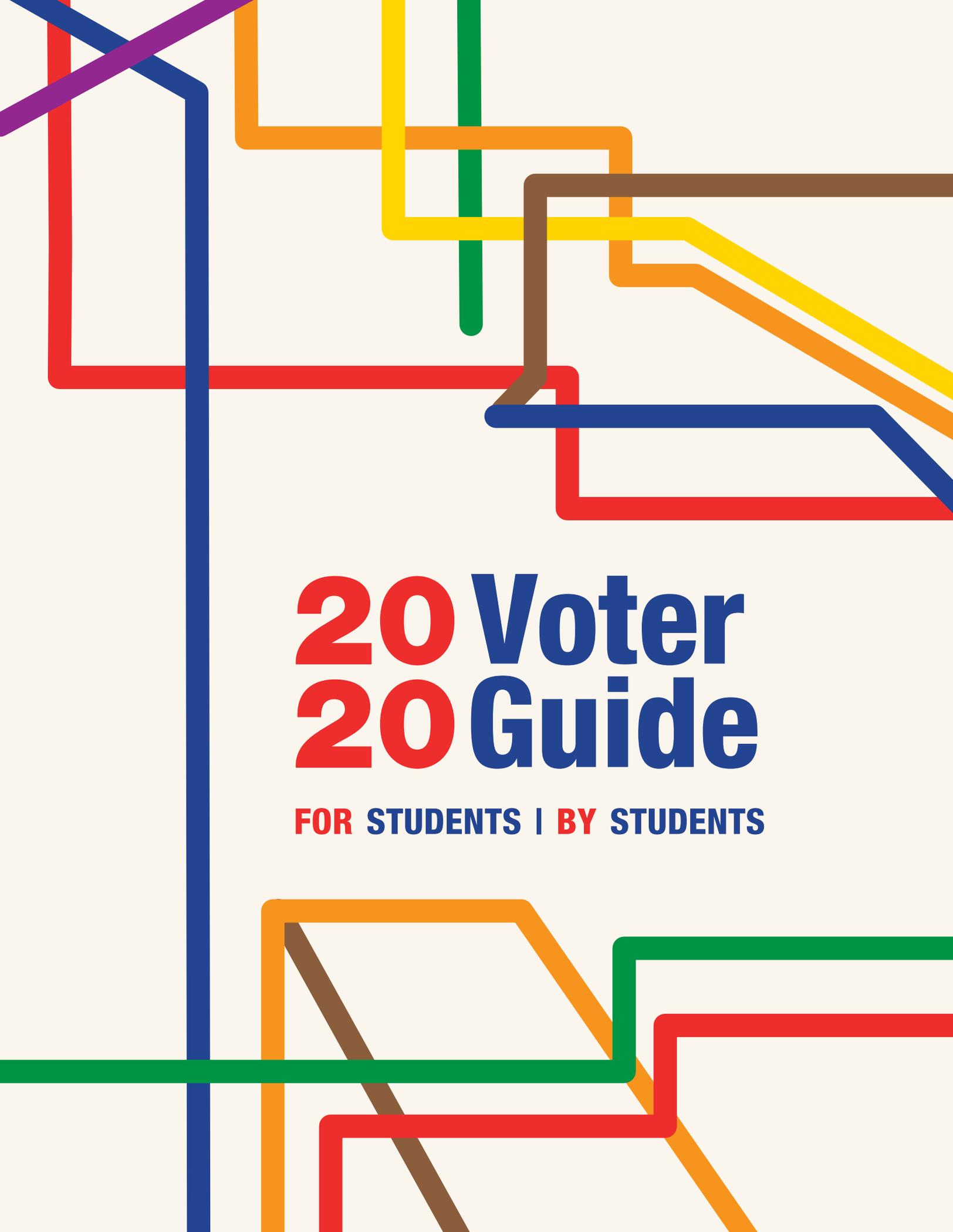
Using QR Codes

This guide uses QR codes in addition to links to make the process of accessing certain resources more convenient. Instead of having to manually type in the URL of a website, QR codes can be scanned by the built-in camera app of many smartphones or with the use of a QR code reader app to quickly access websites.

To Scan QR Codes

1. Open your phone's built-in camera app
2. Hover your phone's camera over the QR code for 1-2 seconds
3. A notification or pop-up should appear with a link
4. Tap on the notification or press "OK" on the pop-up to access the website.

NOTE: If a pop-up or notification doesn't appear using your phone's built-in camera app, you may need to download a QR code reader app from your phone brand's application store.

20 Voter
20 Guide

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Q: Why Should I Vote?

> Voting is a right that so many people had to fight for—my ancestors included. It's an opportunity for me to speak and let my opinions be heard; to be satisfied with who my leaders are and for them to represent my country. Voting is important because it's a way to have my ideas put forth and made a reality. So many people don't use their power to vote and it leaves us with laws and leaders that we don't agree with.
>
> *– Jaylean*

> Voting is important because it shows that we're all in this together. It allows for an individual person's beliefs and opinions to influence their lives and the lives of others, and to better the world in the way that they want. When people don't vote, the people who do speak up and use their voice take control of everything. If everyone were to vote then we would have a clear view of what we want as a country.
>
> *– Jordan*

> I feel like voting is one of the only ways that I can advocate for my rights. I am in a minority group and often our rights are targeted to be restricted or taken away and as a normal citizen who doesn't have any intention of working in politics, the most important thing I can do is vote to get the right people in office who will advocate for my rights.
>
> *– Oisín*

> " Voting is important to me because it gives me a chance to show other people what I believe in. It also gives me a chance to reflect on what I believe in. If you don't vote, you don't get a chance to reflect like that; to think about what you really believe in, and how firmly you believe in something. "
>
> *– Matthew*

> " Though you might not agree with both candidates in the end, you have to choose. You have the power to choose who you want. For my family and many of the people I care about, their rights are at stake in this election, so I'm counting on everyone to vote even if I won't be able to yet. "   *– Naya*

> " Voting matters to me because it is something that people have fought for over the past centuries and it is one of the most influential ways that you can create change in your community, and in the world. Voting gives power to the people and lets them voice the changes that they want to see. It can change your life and many other lives for the better. And if you don't participate, then you're letting others make your decisions for you. "
>
> *– Brisa*

Q: How Do I Register to Vote?

You can register to vote in person, by mail, or online. Visit https://vote.nyc/page/register-vote for more!

Fill out a voter registration form when you . . .
✔ Need to register to vote
✔ Change your name or address
✔ Want to join or change your membership in a political party

To register to vote, you must be:

2 At least 16 years old (you'll have to wait until you turn 18 to actually vote)

1 A United States Citizen

✔ A resident of New York State, and the country, city, or village you have been living in for at least 30 days.

To register to vote, you may not:

Claim the right to vote elsewhere

Be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction.

When you register, you'll need:

3 Your first and last name

4 Birth date

8 Home address

13 One of the following:

✔ New York State Driver's License/ID #

✔ Last 4 digits of your Social Security #

✔ A document that shows your **name + address** (i.e. a valid photo ID, utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document)

Q: Where Do I Vote?

In NYC, there are designated polling places for each district in each borough. To find out which poll site location you belong to, type in your address at https://nyc.pollsitelocator.com/search to find out where you need to vote.

New York State Voter Registration Form

Register to vote

With this form, you register to vote in elections in New York State. You can also use this form to:

- change the name or address on your voter registration
- become a member of a political party
- change your party membership
- pre-register to vote if you are 16 or 17 years of age

To register you must:

- be a US citizen;
- be 18 years old (you may pre-register at 16 or 17 but cannot vote until you are 18);
- not be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction (unless parole pardoned or restored rights of citizenship);
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere;
- not found to be incompetent by a court.

Send or deliver this form

Fill out the form below and send it to **your county's address** on the back of this form, or take this form to the office of your County Board of Elections.

Mail or deliver this form at least **25 days before the election** you want to vote in. Your county will notify you that you are registered to vote.

Questions?

Call your County Board of Elections listed on the back of this form or 1-800-FOR-VOTE   (TDD/TTY Dial 711)

Find answers or tools on our website
www.elections.ny.gov

Verifying your identity

We'll try to check your identity before Election Day, through the **DMV number** (driver's license number or non-driver ID number), or the **last four digits of your social security number**, which you'll fill in below.

If you do not have a DMV or social security number, you may use a valid photo ID, a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or some other government document that shows your name and address. You may include a copy of one of those types of ID with this form—be sure to tape the sides of the form closed.

If we are unable to verify your identity before Election Day, you will be asked for ID when you vote for the first time.

Información en español: si le interesa obtener este formulario en español, llame al 1-800-367-8683

中文資料:若您有興趣索取中文資料表格, 請電: 1-800-367-8683

한국어: 한국어 양식을 원하시면 1-800-367-8683 으로 전화 하십시오.

যদি আপনি এই ফর্মটি বাংলাতে পেতে চান তাহলে 1-800-367-8683 নম্বরে ফোন করুন

⚠ It is a crime to procure a false registration or to furnish false information to the Board of Elections.   Please print in blue or black ink.

⚠ **Qualifications**	1	**Are you a citizen of the U.S.?** ☐ Yes ☐ No	For board use only
		If you answer *No*, you cannot register to vote.	
	2	**A)** Will you be 18 years of age or older on or before election day? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
		B) Are you at least 16 years of age and understand that you must be 18 years of age on or before election day to vote, and that until you will be eighteen years of age at the time of such election your registration will be marked "pending" and you will be unable to cast a ballot in any election. ☐ Yes ☐ No	
		If you answer **No** to both of the prior questions, you cannot register to vote.	

Your name	3	Last name	Suffix
		First name	Middle Initial

More information Items 5, 6 & 7 are optional	4	Birth date M M / D D / Y Y Y Y	5	Gender
	6	Phone _ _	7	Email

The address where you live	8	Address (not P.O. box)
		Apt. Number Zip code
		City/Town/Village
		New York State County Select your New York State County

The address where you receive mail Skip if same as above	9	Address or P.O. box
		P.O. Box Zip code
		City/Town/Village

Voting history	10	Have you voted before? ☐ Yes ☐ No	11	What year?

Voting information that has changed Skip if this has not changed or you have not voted before	12	Your name was
		Your address was
		Your previous state or New York State County was

Identification You must make 1 selection For questions, please refer to *Verifying your identity* above.	13	☐ New York State DMV number
		☐ Last four digits of your Social Security number x x x – x x –
		☐ I do not have a New York State driver's license or a Social Security number.

Political party You must make 1 selection Political party enrollment is optional but that, in order to vote in a primary election of a political party, a voter must enroll in that political party, unless state party rules allow otherwise.	**I wish to enroll in a political party** ☐ Democratic party ☐ Republican party ☐ Conservative party ☐ Working Families party ☐ Green party ☐ Libertarian party ☐ Independence party ☐ SAM party ☐ Other _____ **I do not want to enroll in any political party and wish to be an independent voter** ☐ No party

14 **16**

⚠ **Affidavit: I swear or affirm that**

- I am a citizen of the United States.
- I will have lived in the county, city or village for at least 30 days before the election.
- I meet all requirements to register to vote in New York State.
- This is my signature or mark in the box below.
- The above information is true, I understand that if it is not true, I can be convicted and fined up to $5,000 and/or jailed for up to four years.

Sign

Date

Optional questions	15	☐ I need to apply for an Absentee ballot.
		☐ I would like to be an Election Day worker.

Q: Can I Vote Early?

Yes! In New York State, you can vote up to nine days before any general, primary, or run-off election.[1] The 2020 election dates and early voting periods are. . .

	Election Date	Early Voting Period Begins...
Presidential Primary	**April 28, 2020**	**April 18, 2020**
Primary Election	**June 23, 2020**	**June 13, 2020**
General Election	November 3, 2020	October 23, 2020

Your polling location for early voting is different from your regular polling location! Visit http://voting.nyc for early voting locations.

Can I Still Vote if I'm Away From Home?

Yes! If you're out of the country, away from home, or unable to make it to the polls you can request an **absentee ballot**.

1 You're eligible for an absentee ballot if. . .

✓ You will be away from your country or city on the day of an election.

✓ You cannot make it to the polls due to a temporary or permanent disability or illness.

✓ You are a caregiver for someone who has a physical disability or illness and you won't be able to make it to the polls.

✓ You are detained in jail awaiting Grand Jury action.

✓ You are in prison for any offense other than a felony.

When you fill out an application, you'll need:

2 To know the election you're requesting an absentee ballot for.

✓ If you know you're going to be away for a while, you can request ballots for both the primary and general elections!

3 Your first and last name

4 Date of birth

4 County where you live. NYC has five counties: New York, Kings (Brooklyn), Bronx, Queens, and Richmond (Staten Island)

5 Your home address

6 How & where you'd like the absentee ballot delivered to you

1 Senate Bill S1102, Sess. of 2019-2020 (NYS. 2019), https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/s1102. § 8-600 (1-12).

New York State Absentee Ballot Application

Please print clearly. See detailed instructions.

This application must either be personally delivered to your county board of elections not later than the day before the election, or postmarked by a governmental postal service not later than 7th day before election day. The ballot itself must either be personally delivered to the board of elections no later than the close of polls on election day, or postmarked by a governmental postal service not later than the day before the election and received no later than the 7th day after the election.

1. **I am requesting, in good faith, an absentee ballot due to (check one reason):**
- ☐ absence from county or New York City on election day
- ☐ temporary illness or physical disability
- ☐ permanent illness or physical disability
- ☐ duties related to primary care of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled
- ☐ resident or patient of a Veterans Health Administration Hospital
- ☐ detention in jail/prison, awaiting trial, awaiting action by a grand jury, or in prison for a conviction of a crime or offense which was not a felony

2. absentee ballot(s) requested for the following election(s) :
- ☐ Primary Election only   ☐ General Election only   ☐ Special Election only
- ☐ Any election held between these dates: absence begins: _____/_____/_____ absence ends: _____/_____/_____
  (MM/DD/YYYY)   (MM/DD/YYYY)

3.
last name or surname	first name	middle initial	suffix

4.
date of birth MM/DD/YYYY _____/_____/_____	county where you live	phone number (optional)	email (optional)

5.
address where you live (residence) street	apt	city	state **NY**	zip code

6. Delivery of Primary Election Ballot (check one)   ☐ Deliver to me in person at the board of elections
- ☐ I authorize (give name):_____ to pick up my ballot at the board of elections.
- ☐ Mail ballot to me at: (mailing address)

street no. street name	apt.	city	state	zip code

7. Delivery of General (or Special) Election Ballot (check one)   ☐ Deliver to me in person at the board of elections
- ☐ I authorize (give name):_____ to pick up my ballot at the board of elections.
- ☐ Mail ballot to me at: (mailing address)

street no. street name	apt.	city	state	zip code

Applicant Must Sign Below

8. I certify that I am a qualified and a registered (and for primary, enrolled) voter; and that the information in this application is true and correct and that this application will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit, if it contains a material false statement, shall subject me to the same penalties as if I had been duly sworn.

Sign Here: X_____ Date _____/_____/_____
                                                                         (MM/DD/YYYY)

If applicant is unable to sign because of illness, physical disability or inability to read, the following statement must be executed: By my mark, duly witnessed hereunder, I hereby state that I am unable to sign my application for an absentee ballot without assistance because I am unable to write by reason of my illness or physical disability or because I am unable to read. I have made, or have the assistance in making, my mark in lieu of my signature. (No power of attorney or preprinted name stamps allowed. See detailed instructions.)

Date ____/____/____ Name of Voter:_____ Mark:_____
     (MM/DD/YYYY)

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the above named voter affixed his or her mark to this application in my presence and I know him or her to be the person who affixed his or her mark to said application and understand that this statement will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit and if it contains a material false statement, shall subject me to the same penalties as if I had been duly sworn.

_____   _____
(address of witness to mark)   (signature of witness to mark)

Board Use Only
2015 Absentee Ballot Application

Q: How Do I Fill Out a Ballot When I Vote?

Use the graphic below as a guide to filling out your ballot! Start by looking at the row and figuring out how many candidates you can vote for. When judges are running—for example—you often vote for multiple candidates in one office. Find the candidate(s) and political party you feel best represents your interests, values, and goals and fully bubble in that candidate's oval in that row. Repeat this process for each row and you're set!

Generic New York City Election Ballot

	Democratic	Republican	Conservative	Working Families	Independence	Green
President and Vice President Vote Once **Presidente y Vice Presidente** Vote per uno	⬭ CANDIDATE A. And – y CANDIDATE B. _Democratic_	⬭ CANDIDATE C. And – y CANDIDATE D. _Republican_	⬭ CANDIDATE C. And – y CANDIDATE D. _Conservative_	⬭ CANDIDATE A. And – y CANDIDATE B. _Working Families_		⬭ CANDIDATE G. And – y CANDIDATE H. _Green_

	Libertarian	Liberal	Sapient	Women's Equality
	⬭ CANDIDATE I. And – y CANDIDATE J. _Libertarian_			

	Democratic	Republican	Conservative	Working Families	Independence	Green
U.S. Senator Vote for one **Senador de E.U.** Vote per uno	⬭ CANDIDATE M. _Democratic_	⬭ CANDIDATE N. _Republican_		⬭ CANDIDATE O. _Working Families_		
U.S. Representative Vote for one **Representante de E.U.** Vote per uno	⬭ CANDIDATE P. _Democratic_	⬭ CANDIDATE Q. _Republican_				CANDIDATE R. _Green_
Governor and Lieutenant Governor Vote Once **Gobernador y Vice Gobernador** Vote per uno	⬭ CANDIDATE S. And – y CANDIDATE T. _Democratic_	⬭ CANDIDATE U. And – y CANDIDATE V. _Republican_	⬭ CANDIDATE U. And – y CANDIDATE V. _Conservative_	⬭ CANDIDATE S. And – y CANDIDATE T. _Working Families_	⬭ CANDIDATE W. And – y CANDIDATE X. _Independence_	⬭ CANDIDATE 1. And – y CANDIDATE 2. _Green_
			⬭ CANDIDATE U. And – y CANDIDATE V. _Libertarian_			⬭ CANDIDATE S. And – y CANDIDATE T. _Women's Equality_
Judge of the Civil Court Vote for three **Juez de la Corte Civil** Vote per tres	⬭ CANDIDATE 3. _Democratic_	⬭ CANDIDATE 4. _Republican_	⬭ CANDIDATE 4. _Conservative_	⬭ CANDIDATE 3. _Working Families_	⬭ CANDIDATE 4. _Independence_	⬭ CANDIDATE 3. _Green_
Attorney General Vote for one **Fiscal General** Vote per uno	⬭ CANDIDATE 7. _Democratic_					
State Assemblyman Vote for one **Asambleista Estatal** Vote per uno	⬭ CANDIDATE 9. _Democratic_	⬭ CANDIDATE 10. _Republican_				
State Senator Vote for one **Senador Estatal** Vote per uno	⬭ CANDIDATE 11. _Democratic_	⬭ CANDIDATE 12. _Republican_				⬭ CANDIDATE 13. _Green_

The first column of each row will contain the title of the office you're voting for.

The first column also tells you how many candidates to vote for.

The top row will list each political party. The candidates listed in each column under that row are running for office in that party.

Each row includes the candidate's name and the party they're running for.

You might notice that multiple candidates are listed under multiple political parties. This is called electoral fusion. Choose the candidate you want under the political party that best represents your interests and values. It doesn't have to be the party you're registered to.

Q: What Is a Primary Election?

There are many candidates running for U.S. President and other local, state, and federal offices. Primaries are one way that people help pick which Democratic or Republican political party candidates they want to run for office against the other political party's candidates in a general election. There are other ways of narrowing fields of candidates, like caucuses, but New York State holds primaries. New York State has **closed primaries** so you can only vote in a party's primary if you are a registered member of that party. *For 2020, we have two important primary dates to remember:*

	Primary Election Date	Early Voting Period Begins
Presidential Primary	**Tuesday, April 28, 2020**	**Saturday, April 18, 2020**
Absentee Ballot Deadlines[2]	Application April 21 (by mail) / April 27 (in person)	Ballot (must be received by) April 28 (in person) / May 5 (by mail)
NYS Primary Election	**Tuesday, June 23, 2020**	**Saturday, June 13, 2020**
Absentee Ballot Deadlines[3]	Application June 16 (by mail) / June 22 (in person)	Ballot (must be received by) June 23 (in person) / June 30 (by mail)

On April 28, 2020, in New York State, if you are a registered voter in the Democratic Party, you'll have the opportunity to vote for a Democratic presidential candidate in the **presidential primary**. As of the printing of this guide there have not been any requests filed to appear on the Republican Party primary election ballot against the current President of the United States. Republican candidates have until February 25, 2020 to file with the New York State Board of Elections; otherwise there will not be a Republican presidential primary in New York State.[4] After each state conducts their presidential primaries, they each send a certain number of delegates to each political party's national nominating convention where the candidate with the most state delegates becomes the candidate for their political party.

The **NYS primary election** on June 23, 2020 is an opportunity for you to vote for any other candidates running for local, state, and federal offices, other than U.S. President, in your political party.

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2   "Calendar for the April 28, 2020, Presidential Primary Election for Selecting Delegates to a National Convention," *New York State Board of Elections*, September 16, 2019, https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/law/2020PresidentialPrimaryCalendar.pdf.

3   "2020 Political Calendar," New York State Board of Elections, December 11, 2019, https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/law/2020PoliticalCalendar.pdf.

4   "The Presidential Primary Election In New York State: Summary of the Ballot Access Requirements," *New York State Board of Elections,* accessed January 13, 2020, https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/Elections/2020/Primary/2020PresPrimaryBallotAccessSummary.pdf

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    ny.gov/NYSBOE/Elections/2020/Primary/2020PresPrimaryBallotAccessSummary.pdf.

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