Welcome

Today’s trainers: Laura Quigg & Greyson Brooks

Never give up, never give in, never give out. Keep the faith and keep your eyes on the prize. Each and every vote matters. Do your part and vote like you’ve never voted before. Believe in the power of love and together we will build the Beloved Community here in America.

11/5/18, 12:25 PM
The League of Women Voters in New York City Is...

- Neighbors helping neighbors find their voices to shape our future
- 100 years old, beginning with the Women’s Suffrage Movement
- Encouraging informed & active participation in government
- Non-partisan - focus on Issues, not parties or political candidates
  - LWV neither supports nor opposes political candidates or parties
- Using education and advocacy to influence public policy
- Membership-based - Join us! Go to lwvnyc.org to learn more
Each Year, We Engage Thousands...

• Voter registration drives: at schools, churches, stores, gyms, senior centers, etc.
• Voter registration training: public facing and for small groups
• Census training and outreach
• Speaking events: You are the Future, Women’s History, Census, Ballot Initiatives
• Voting reform and voter advocacy
• Civics education
Agenda

• Who is the League of Women Voters of NYC?
• Review: Voter Registration in 2020 - Then & Now
• Important Dates
• Useful Resources
• Preparing for and Doing a Voter Drive
• How to Register to Vote in NYC (The Form)
  • How to Speak with & Motivate Voters
• Finishing up a Voter Drive
• How to Vote:
  • Absentee Voting & Early Voting
• Special to 2020: The Census
Presidential election years & new voters

510,337 total new voters registered in 2016
51% were 18-29 years old
New registration deficit in 2020

79,777 new voters have registered as of June 2020.

155,215 new voters had registered as of June 2016.

New registrations are down in NYS also, but NYC has a greater deficit.
2020 - What Happened?

• Historically, most voter registrations were in-person
  • Socially motivating (e.g. eye contact)

• In-person events largely cancelled due to COVID-19
  • People are distracted, dislocated, tired, sick and busy
  • People don’t want to touch things – individually wrapped pens, hand sanitizer
In-Person Formula Isn’t Great Now

But you will still talk with voters: on your own, or with us…

- Your training here qualifies you to register voters with LWVNYC
- We add you to our volunteer roster (unless you don’t to be)
- We reach out to you via email with volunteer opportunities
  - Once confirmed for drive, you coordinate with that day’s team to pick up supplies, run the drive, and return the supplies
- If not with the LWVNYC:
  - Can be partisan in organizing, but not in registering! More to follow
  - Talk to us: we can help you get set up!
    - Looking for partners
    - Looking for new ways to reach future voters
What Can You Do Now?

- Learn how to register voters
  - Dates & deadlines, how to vote absentee and vote early

- Call your elected officials - Advocate for safe & fair elections

- Help register voters
  - Work directly with the LWVNYC; help us find partners
  - Draw on YOUR network: friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc.

- Help registered voters VOTE
  - Absentee
  - Early
  - Election Day at the polls + working the polls
2020 General Election: Tuesday, Nov. 3rd

• Voter Registration Deadlines:
  • Postmarked by 10/09 (25 days prior), received by 10/14
• Early Voting: nine (9) days before every election in NY
  • Saturday 10/24 - Sunday 11/01; times differ each day
• Deadline to request Absentee Ballot (Current rule, subject to change):
  • By mail: 10/27 - 7 days before Election Day
  • In-person: 11/02 - 1 day before Election Day
• Deadline to return an Absentee Ballot
  • By mail: postmarked by 11/02, received by 11/10
  • In person: by end of Election Day, Tuesday 11/03
Useful Websites for NYC Voting

NYC Board of Elections:  www.vote.nyc
  • Voter lookup:  www.vote.nyc/page/am-i-registered
  • Poll site locator:  nyc.pollsitelocator.com/
    • Use this to find all your districts → look up your elected officials
Rock the Vote:  www.rockthevote.org
Vote411:  www.vote411.org/
Headcount:  www.headcount.org/
Ballotpedia:  ballotpedia.org/Main_Page
NY State Board of Elections:  www.elections.ny.gov/
NYC Campaign Finance Board - NYCvotes:  www.nyccfb.info/nyc-votes
League of Women Voters of NYC:  www.lwvnyc.org  OR  my.lww.org/new-york/city-new-york
LWVNYC’s Voter Education Toolkit: lwvnyc.org

- Voter Registration Training Guide
- How to register to vote in NYC*
- How to apply for an absentee ballot*
- How to register to vote through the DMV
- How to check your registration*

*In both English and Spanish

Voter Drive Preparation

Packed in LWVNYC bags:
• Registration Forms
• Absentee ballot applications (*sometimes*)
• LWV Tally sheet
• “Remind Me to Vote” signup
• League literature
• Info on upcoming elections
• Clipboards
• Signs/decorations
• Blue or black ink pens

If you organize your own Drive:
• Registration forms & absentee ballot applications from a BOE office:
  • Back of the forms, OR
  • vote.nyc
• Clipboards with signs on back
• Blue or black ink pens (lots)
• ‘Voting in NYC’ printed handouts
• *If needed*, your own signage
• **Location**: chose a good place and a good time where people are meandering, NOT marching
When Preparing a Voter Drive, Consider...

- **Your Comfort:** What’s the weather? Wear walking shoes. How are you going to carry and hold the materials? Have snacks and water.

- **General Knowledge:**
  - Date of next election voter can vote in
  - Closed Primaries - must be registered w/ party
  - Registration Deadlines *(more on this next slide)*

- **Representation:** must be non-partisan; say you’re a fellow NYer

- **Goal:** not just register voters, but to TURN OUT voters
  - Use encouraging language
  - ‘Be’ a voter
# Board of Elections Form Submissions:

## 25-Day Deadline = Think 30 Days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Must be postmarked by…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New voter registration forms</td>
<td>25 days before election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forms for those making changes to registration (e.g. new address or name)</td>
<td>25 days before election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forms for those changing party affiliation, or going from no party to a party</td>
<td>Valentine’s Day (February 14)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At a Voter Drive:
Engage Current & Future Voters

• Use a clipboard; get out from behind the table, and be physically present

• Use eye contact & talk to everyone

• Go beyond Yes/No questions:
  o “When is the last time you updated your voter registration?”
  o “Are you registered to vote at your current address?”
  o “Do you want information on who is running in the current election?”
  o “Have you checked to make sure your polling place hasn’t changed?”
Talking with Voters: Common ‘Barriers’

• “I don’t know if I am eligible.”
  - “Here is a list of eligibility requirements.” Show them the blue box at the top of the form “Does this apply to you?”
  - Refer to blue box at top of NY voter registration form

• “I’m not sure what is the status of my registration.”
  - Look up the person at vote.nyc OR voterlookup.elections.ny.gov

• “I’m in a rush”
  - “No problem, I don’t want to take away from your day, so I’m happy to walk with you and even fill out the form as you go.” OR, if they still refuse: “Here’s a form to take with you; when you’re done, seal it and drop it in the mail - you don’t even need a stamp!”
Talking with Voters: Common ‘Barriers’
Voter Frustration & Feeling Powerless

→→→ Validate the voter: actively listen & empathize ←←←

• “The system is rigged.”
  • “You’re right - it IS rigged, in part because it’s set up to prevent all people from voting. By voting, you are helping to unrig the system.”

• “Politicians are crooks/criminals.”
  • “You’re right: there are a lot of crooked politicians out there, and that’s why I vote: to get those people out of office and replace them with people who care about me and my interests.”
  • “You have the power to take a situation you dislike and make it better.”
  • “Call or email your representatives; they WANT to hear from you. After all, they work for you.”
“My vote doesn’t make a difference”

- **HEAR** the voter: be an active listener; they tell you what they need to vote
- **VALIDATE** the person: voter has to **trust** you
  - Talk casually and normally - speak slowly, use simple words, ‘repeat back’
  - Be positive, respectful, and nonjudgmental
- Help them **CONNECT** voting directly to their day-to-day lives
  - Facts don’t matter → use emotional intelligence (joy, NOT fear or anger)
  - Skip policy; **instead** focus on general outcomes
    - You don’t have to agree with the voter, but need to find **common ground**
  - Most things we vote on are **local**, and therefore directly impactful
  - Tell a quick, personal story (if it fits)
- **EMPOWER**: stress importance of their individual action - BE a voter
  - Do NOT tell people to “remember to vote” or to “go vote”
  - Voting is not a chore; it’s **caring for yourself**, community
2 Ways to Register to Vote in NYC

• **Online**: currently, only online way is through the DMV: [dmv.ny.gov/mydmv/](http://dmv.ny.gov/mydmv/)
  • Requires having updated NYS drivers’ license, permit, or non-drivers ID
  • See LWVNYC Guide: *How to Register to Vote in New York through the DMV* for instructions
  • Online registration for NYC has passed the State Senate but is stalled in the Assembly (*regardless, online registration for NYS in effect in 2021*)

• **Paper Form** - most common
  • Free download and print your own from NYC Board of Elections: [vote.nyc](http://vote.nyc)
  • Pick up for free and with prepaid postage at any Board of Elections office
    • Call ahead for: bulk pick up, or to have forms mailed to you
  • Paper forms are ALWAYS faster and easier to use for in-person voter registration drives
NY Voter Registration Form

Catch-all form for all purposes:

• Register to vote for the first time ever OR first time anywhere in NY state

• Update your name OR address for your voter registration

• Become a member of a political party

• Change your political party affiliation

• ‘Pre-register’ to vote if you are 16 or 17 years of age
Organ Donation

(Optional) Register to donate your organs and tissues

If you would like to be an organ and tissue donor upon your death, you may enroll in the NYS Donate Life™ Registry online at www.donatelife.ny.gov or complete the form below.

You will receive a confirmation email or letter, which will also provide you an opportunity to limit your donation.

By signing below, you certify that you are:

- 16 years of age or older;
- consenting to donate all of your organs and tissues for transplantation, research, or both;
- authorizing the Board of Elections to provide your name and identifying information to NYS Donate Life™ Registry for enrollment;
- and authorizing the Registry to give access to this information to federally regulated organ procurement organizations and NYS-licensed tissue and eye banks and others approved by the NYS Commissioner of Health upon your death.

Last name
First name
Middle Initial
Suffix
Address

Apt. Number
City

Birth date

Gender □ M □ F

Eye color

Height Ft. In.

Email

DMV or ID NYC #

Sign Date

• Totally optional, but highly needed
• This is NOT the application to vote - they are not connected
The Back/Second page of the Form
Eligibility Requirements: Overview

- Citizen of the United States
- 18 years old by election day to vote
  - ‘Pre-registration’ starting at 16 years old
- Not be in prison for a felony conviction
- Live in their NY municipality for at least 30 days before Election Day
- Not claim a right to vote elsewhere
- Not found to be incompetent by a court (very rare but very obvious)

Now let’s dive in to each of these…
Eligibility Requirements: Citizenship

- Born in the US, born abroad to US parents, or naturalized
- Includes those born in Puerto Rico, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Northern Mariana Islands (not American Samoa)
- Green card holders CANNOT register to vote

Do NOT ask:
“Are you a citizen?”

Do ask:
“When did you last update your voter registration?”
Eligibility Requirements: 18 Years Old by Election Day

- Register to vote as long as you are at least 16 years old
- Once registered, you must be 18 years old by Election Day to vote
Eligibility Requirements:
Pre-Registration for 16- & 17-year-olds

- As of January 2020, anyone at least 16 years old may register to vote, but…
  - Their registrations will not become “Active” (can’t vote) until they turn 18

| 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 |
Eligibility Requirements: Residency

- Must be a resident at the location where you are registering for at least 30 days before the election in order to vote
Eligibility Requirements: Voting with a Criminal Record

• In NYS, a criminal record **cannot** keep someone from voting, **unless** the individual is still serving a prison sentence for a felony conviction (i.e. currently incarcerated)

• Once the individual is released from prison, they can vote but **need to re-register**
  • Individuals on parole may register IF they have had their voting rights restored → have your parole officer to contact the Governor’s office
Let’s Go Through the Registration Form

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 U.S. 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 parolee 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.

Use it to register anywhere in NYS, but for fastest processing take form to Central NYC BOE office: 32 Broadway, Manhattan

Información en español: si le interesa obtener este formulario en español, llame al 1-800-387-8683

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

한국어: 한국어 양식을 원하시면 1-800-167-8683으로 전화 하십시오.

印地安語: आपकी जानकारी के लिए सीखने के लिए चूने 1-800-387-8683
Get verbal permission to observe their filling out the form to catch mistakes
Encourage people to give at least one: email or phone #
## Registration Form: Questions 8 & 9

### The address where you live

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Address (not P.O. box)</th>
<th>Apt. Number</th>
<th>Zip code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### New York State County
Select your New York State County

### The address where you receive mail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Address or P.O. box</th>
<th>P.O. Box</th>
<th>Zip code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

City/Town/Village

- If BOE registration confirmation postcard comes back to the BOE undeliverable, the individual is not registered and must call **1-866-VOTE-NYC**
# Registration Form: Special Populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College students</th>
<th>Houseless</th>
<th>Domestic abuse victims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• May choose to register to vote at campus address OR at (parent’s) home address</td>
<td>• Can put any place as “address where you live,” but MUST ALSO provide an “address where you receive mail”</td>
<td>• Do not need to disclose their address when registering, but must</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Can use a dorm address, but MAKE SURE they can receive mail there</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Register and vote in-person at their borough BOE office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Voters who miss last 5 years of voting will be made “inactive” and must reregister
- If unsure, fill it out - no penalty for duplicate registrations!
- Qu. #13: avoid problems later by using one of 1st two options (DMV or SSN)
LWV urges all NY voters to enroll in the political party of their choice

- New York state has a ’closed primary’ system = you have to be a member of that party to vote in its primary elections

- Registering with one of the two main parties that hold primaries allows voters to vote twice as much each year because they can vote in that party’s primary elections

- Primary elections are where many of the real electoral choices and voter influence are in NYC!

Vote and the Choice is Yours;
Don’t Vote and the Choice is Theirs.
**Registration Form: Questions 14, 15, 16**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political party</th>
<th>I wish to enroll in a political party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Democratic party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I do not want to enroll in any political party and wish to be an independent voter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No party</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Optional questions</th>
<th>15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I need to apply for an Absentee ballot.</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would like to be an Election Day worker.</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- **Qu. #14:** Independence Party ≠ No party
- **Qu. #16:** voter must sign and date **in own hand**
Registration Form: What to do with completed forms

- Ask voter if you can review it (Up to the voter)
  - Ideally, you would have got their verbal permission first and reviewed the form with them as they complete it
  - Check to ensure it’s completed correctly, signed & dated
  - *If there is an error, start a new form (don’t cross it out)*
- Tell the voter what is going to happen to their form
  - You will mail it or hand deliver to BOE on their behalf
- Get form to the BOE: mail using “postage paid” feature OR hand delivery them to any BOE office
Board of Elections Borough Offices

General Office
32 Broadway, 7 Fl
New York, NY 10004-1699
Tel. 1.212.467.5300 / 1.212.487.5400
Phone Bank: 1.866.VOTE.NYC
E-mail: electioninfo@boe.nyc.ny.us
Web Page: www.vote.nyc.ny.us

Borough Offices

Manhattan
200 Varick Street, 10 Fl
New York, NY 10014
Tel. 1.212.886.2100

Brooklyn
345 Adams Street, 4 Fl
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Tel: 1.718.797.3600

Queens
116-36 Queens Boulevard, 11th Fl
Forest Hills, NY 11375
Tel: 1.718.730.5730

Staten Island
1 Edgewater Plaza, 4 Fl
Staten Island, NY 10305
Tel: 1.718.875.0070

NEW YORK, NY 10275-5067
23 BROADWAY, 7 FL
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 4347 NEW YORK NY

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE
“What do voters do next?” Talking Points

You’ve already reviewed their form with them and it’s correctly completed.

Now communicate to the voter:

1) Acknowledgment of registration
2) Pre-election materials from BOE
3) When the next election they can vote in is!
4) How to vote: absentee & early options
5) Affidavit ballots: just in case

Now, let’s quickly look at each of these…
1) Acknowledgment of registration

• Cheer and celebrate the voter!
• Tell the voter what will happen with their form:
  • How and when you will submit it to the BOE on their behalf
  • BOE should mail the voter a confirmation in 4-6 weeks
    • If voter does not receive it, contact BOE at 212-VOTE-NYC
• Provide ‘Voting in New York’ handout:
  • Check voter registration status online at: vote.nyc
    • Check before each time you vote: “status” says “ACTIVE”
  • Election date(s) more on this in a minute
Each year, NYC voters receive in the mail:

- A packet from the Board of Elections with poll site information, or visit nyc.pollsitelocater.com
- Information guide from NYC Campaign Finance Board with general voting information
3) Date of the next election the voter can vote in

- Voters need to know when they can act on their new status
- Need to refer to whether or not the voter selected a political party that regularly has primary elections
4) Voting Options: Absentee (Rules in Flux)

• For November’s General Election, NYS legislators passed bills expanding definition of "Temporary Illness" (one of the reasons you’re allowed to vote absentee) to include "a risk of contracting or spreading a disease," such as from COVID-19. HOWEVER,
  • Governor Cuomo has yet to sign this bill; call his office 😊
  • To use, one would simply check the box “Temporary Illness” on the form and proceed as usual

• So far, nothing has been done about electronic absentee voting applications OR having applications or ballots mailed automatically

• To request an absentee ballot, fill out the application and mail it to the Board of Elections (BOE):
  • vote.nyc OR call 1-866-VOTE-NYC
  • After it receives your absentee ballot application, BOE will mail out your ballot this autumn
4) Voting Options: Early Voting

• First used in NY in November 2019 election
• When to vote early:
  • Any of the nine (9) scheduled days prior to each Election Day:
    • 2 weekends plus the week in between before every Election Day OR
      The 10 days before every election minus the Monday before E-Day
• Early Voting poll sites differ from Election Day poll sites!
  • Look up your poll site and hours: nyc.pollsitelocator.com
  • Just like on Election Day, you may only vote at your designated poll site
  • Times vary by day: early morning, daytime, and evening hours all
    available but on different days
• Early voting = socially distanced voting
5) Affidavit Ballots (Just in Case)

• For registered voters who go to the correct poll site BUT for some reason they are not provided a paper ballot, never leave without voting
  ➔➔➔ Ask to vote on an **affidavit ballot** ➔➔➔

• Saying this term is legally triggering: poll workers must allow you to cast your vote via affidavit

✅ VOTE
After a Voter Drive

• Seal and submit completed voter registration forms, either…
   ➢ To a local Board of Elections (within NYC)
   ➢ To Central Board of Elections at 32 Broadway (NYC/NYS)
   ➢ By mail, using prepaid postage feature

• *If drive was League sponsored*, return materials, “Remind me to vote” list, and Tally sheet to League office
One more thing: Census 2020

- The Census population count is what determines how much of the $800 billion in Federal funding for critical social, health, education, and infrastructure programs each state gets for the next ten years
- Determines allocation of representatives in Congress and state and local offices
- Answers are completely confidential as revealing any information is a felony
- To respond go to My2020census.gov or 844-330-2020
  - Anyone who left NYC temporarily should respond to the census based on their “usual residence” – where they normally would have been on April 1st, 2020
  - Use your address if you don’t have a CensusID
  - Some households received a paper form, but everyone can do it online
- Follow up door-knocking begin August 11; count ends October 31st, 2020

LWVNYC Census & Redistricting Committee: census@lwvny.org
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Celebrating a Century

lwwnc.org

Democracy is not a spectator sport

VOTE LOUDER™