



Tips For Voter Registration Volunteers

CONDUCT DURING EVENTS:

Please remember that the League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization which means:

1. We happily register everyone, regardless of whether they choose a political party or which party they choose.
2. We do not say anything during registration events that is in support or opposition to any party or candidate.
3. We do not wear any clothing that promotes any candidate or political party.

Please read our Non-Partisan and Diversity Policies in the About Us section of our website prior to volunteering.

Our goal at events is to engage!

1. Once your table is set up, please don't just sit!
2. Wear your League t-shirt or button.
3. Approach people with your clipboard in hand.
4. Introduce yourself, tell them you're from the League.
5. Ask if they are registered or if their registration is up to date.

WAYS TO REGISTER TO VOTE:

1. Using the hardcopy form. We encourage people to register with the paper form because according to the Board of Elections, problems sometimes arise with registrations completed on cellphones.
2. Online. People must first create a login at: <https://www.ny.gov/services/get-my-nygov-id>.

ONCE THEY'VE FILLED OUT THE FORM:

1. Check it over carefully.
2. The space for a New York State DMV number can also be used for a non-driver ID. Add a note to the right of the DMV number indicating that the ID is a non-driver ID.

3. Questions 5,6, and 7 are optional but make sure all others are completely filled out and legible.
4. Make sure they have signed the form.
5. Suggest that registrants take a photo of their completed form as a reminder of how they signed since they will need to sign the same way when voting.

QUESTIONS THAT MAY COME UP:

Who is eligible to register and vote in Monroe County in New York State?

A person who is:

1. A US citizen
2. At least 18 years old on or before the day of the general, primary, or other election in which they want to vote.
3. A resident of Monroe County for at least 30 days before the election.
4. Not incarcerated for a felony conviction.
5. Not claiming to vote in another place.
6. Not deemed incompetent by a court.

In addition, as of January 1, 2020, 16 and 17-year-olds may pre-register to vote. They can pre-register in section 2 on the NYS voter registration form. Then they will automatically be eligible to vote when they turn 18 years old.

People born in Puerto Rico are citizens of the US. Voting rights within Puerto Rico are determined by their status as a territory rather than a state. They cannot vote in federal elections in Puerto Rico, for example. However, if they have lived in Monroe County for at least 30 days before an election and do not vote in Puerto Rico, they are eligible to register and vote in federal and local elections in Monroe County.

People who have been incarcerated for a felony conviction but have served their sentence or are now released on parole or supervised release are eligible to register and to vote.

Offer the brochure about Voting Rights for Former Felons.

People who have been incarcerated for a misdemeanor conviction are eligible to register and to vote.

People who are currently homeless are eligible to register and to vote if they meet the above criteria. But there are two additional considerations when they complete the registration form:

1. A **mailing address is required**. This can be any place willing to accept mail on behalf of the individual, such as, a family member or a shelter. The Board of Elections must be able to send mail to the individual.

2. An **address where they live is required**. This is where they sleep. It could be a shelter or a street corner or street area. This address is used to determine the individual's election district.

People who are college students living away from their home area have two options:

1. Register using their college location to vote locally or,
2. Register using their home address which may require them to request an absentee ballot if they are not able to get to their home polling place.

Do I need to choose a party?

No, choosing a party is optional, but:

1. People must be registered with a political party if they want to vote in a party's primary.
2. The primary is the election in which they can vote for the candidates that will represent the party in the general election. Usually only the Democratic and Republican parties hold primaries.
3. If they do not want to register with a party, they should choose the last option, "No Party".

Offer to show them the copy of party descriptions from LWVNYS guide.

I'm not sure if I am registered / I need to make changes to my registration

If people don't know if they are registered, they can check their registration in Monroe County with the Monroe County Board of Elections at **monroecounty.gov/**.

Vote 411.org can also be used to check registration status. This is useful when helping college students, since all states are included in the database.

If they are registered, but need to update their name, address or party, they will need to fill out a new registration form.

How does early voting / absentee voting work?

Early voting was adopted in NYS in 2019 and could make voting easier for many people.

1. They can vote at any of the early voting sites over a period of ten days before election day.
2. In Monroe County, they can find the early voting locations announced closer to elections at **www.monroecounty.gov**.

Absentee voting means an individual will vote without going to their official polling place in person. It can be helpful but requires some advance planning. Start early!

To cast an absentee ballot a person must:

1. Apply for an absentee ballot at the Monroe County Board of Elections. There are several ways to do this:
 - a. Apply online using the [NYS Absentee Ballot Application Portal](https://ballotapplication.elections.ny.gov/home/absentee) (ballotapplication.elections.ny.gov/home/absentee)
 - b. Email the Board of Elections and ask to have an application mailed (monroecounty.gov/elections-contact)
 - c. Download, print, and submit via email a Regular Absentee Ballot Application or the Spanish Absentee Ballot Application
 - d. Visit the Board of Elections in person Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm to request an application.
 - e. Write to the Board of Elections at 39 West Main St., Rochester, NY 14614
 - f. Call the Board of Elections at 1-585-753-1509
2. Once the application is received, the Board of Elections will send an absentee ballot through the mail for the next election and all future elections.
3. To change this option, a new registration form will need to be submitted.
4. A new rule as of June 2022 says that individuals who have requested an absentee ballot can't vote in person at a polling location, using the voting machines. The individual can vote using an affidavit ballot at the polling location.

What do we do at the close of an event?

1. **Tabling materials should be packed back into the suitcase.** If larger items are used (e.g., Frederick Douglass cut out) they should have been carried to the event in a large tote bag.
2. **Completed Registration forms** should be placed in the large, marked envelope included and returned with the tabling materials, given to the materials manager or dropped off at the Board of Elections (BOE) during the next available office hours (M-F: 9:00 -5:00).
3. **Please send a brief email to the event organizer** and tell us how many registration forms were completed, how many fliers you distributed and how many people you spoke to. This helps us identify more successful venues.

For additional information, see the Toolkit for Voter Registration Drives on the LWV-NYS website https://lwny.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/LWVNYS-Voter-Registration-Toolkit_0224.pdf

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