



DOROT was delighted to have Marion Novack from The League of Women Voters recently present a Zoom workshop entitled "Everything You Need to Know to Vote 2020". The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that focuses on issues, not parties or candidates, and encourages informed and active participation in government. Below is a summary of pertinent details she provided to support individuals in creating their own Voting Plan.

**Important Deadlines** – The below chart reflects legal deadline dates. Please plan accordingly and act before the deadlines to ensure that your vote is counted.

Date	Deadline Information
October 27	Last day to apply online, by e-mail, fax or to postmark an application or letter of application by mail for an Absentee Ballot. <b>Please be warned that despite this deadline, the Post Office has advised they cannot guarantee timely delivery of ballots applied for less than 15 days before an election.</b>
November 2	Last day to apply for an Absentee Ballot IN-PERSON at your County Board of Elections office.
November 3	Last day to postmark an Absentee Ballot. Must be received by the local board of elections no later than Nov 10.
November 3	Last day to deliver Absentee Ballot IN-PERSON to the County Board of Elections or to any polling site.

### Create Your Voting Plan

STEP 1: Confirm that you are registered to vote and identify your voting sites. Do this as soon as possible. Resource: <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>.

Helpful notes:

- You must enter all required information; your legal first and last names must be exactly as you listed when initially registering to vote.
- When done entering your county, click the "search" button. (If a message pops up on your screen saying, "Please verify your data and hit submit button", just click the "search" button again.)
- Scroll down to the second section to view your Voter Information.

**If the information is correct**, you are registered to vote. Scroll up to the first section to identify your polling site locations. Your early voting polling site location and your

Election Day polling site location may be different from where you voted in previous elections.

**If you live in any of the five boroughs of New York City**, under the heading, "Election Day Poll Site", click on the link <https://nyc.pollsitereg.com/search>. The result will provide you with both your early voting day polling site location and hours AND your Election Day polling site location and hours.

**If you are a New York State resident living outside of New York City**, there is no way yet to identify your early voting polling site location. Instead, you must contact your County Board of Elections directly. To do this, under the heading, "Early Voting Poll Site", click on the link, "County Board of Elections".

**If your voter information is incorrect**, a message will appear saying, "Unable to find voter record. Please check the data supplied or contact your County Board of Elections". If this message appears, before you contact your County Board of Elections, verify that you entered the correct county, birthdate and zip code, and that your names are spelled correctly. If all the information you entered looks correct, you should then contact your County Board of Elections. Go to:  
<https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/Counties/CountyBoardRoster06172020.pdf>

**Please also note that if you changed your name or address in the last 12 months** you must complete a Voter Registration Form. Legally, a name or address change received at least 20 days before Nov 3 by your County Board of Elections office must be processed and entered in your voter record in time for Election Day. Given the current mail issues, please do this as soon as possible.

STEP 2: Decide how you will vote – there are three options.

**Option 1: Vote in person during the nine early voting days, Sat, Oct 24 thru Sun, Nov 1.** Decide which day/time is best for you. Choose a backup day/time in the event you get to your polling site and decide the line is too long. Remember to confirm your early voting polling site address; it may be different from where you voted in previous elections.

**Option 2: Vote in person on Election Day, Tues, Nov 3.** Decide what time is best for you. Polls are open 6am-9pm. Remember to be prepared for long lines and to confirm your polling site; it may be different from where you usually vote.

Helpful notes about voting in person, on early voting days or Election day:

- Think about how you will get to your polling site and how you will return home.
- Please keep in mind that there is a possibility of long lines that could leave you standing outdoors in cool temperatures, wearing your mask, possibly in the rain, and with no place to sit while you wait.
- You must wear a mask inside all polling sites and Board of Elections offices.
- This election is different from any previous election – it's best to bring your driver's license or other legal photo identification with you to your polling site.

**Option 3: Vote by Absentee Ballot.** You may return your Absentee Ballot by mail postmarked no later than Tues, Nov 3 or by:

- Hand delivering it to your County Board of Elections office no later than Nov 3;
- Bringing it to an early voting polling site between Sat, Oct 24 and Sun, Nov 1 – you can hand deliver it to a poll worker or put it in the drop box at the site; or
- Bring it to a polling site on Tues, Nov 3 and hand deliver it to a poll worker or put it in the drop box at the site.

Helpful notes about Absentee Ballots:

- If you are a New York City resident, there is a new option to complete and submit an application form online. Go to: <https://nycabsentee.com> and follow the prompts. If the electronic Absentee Ballot Application Form does not appear, instead download and mail the application form for an Absentee Ballot.
- One first class stamp is required to return your absentee ballot by mail. Be prepared by having forever stamps available at home.
- A person you trust can mail your ballot or hand-deliver it to either your polling site or your County Board of Elections office. We recommend planning this with the person in advance.
- Additional information on how to complete an Absentee Ballot correctly, ensuring that your vote is counted, is on the last page of this document.

STEP 3: Seek timely guidance if needed. Useful voting resources include:

- League of Women Voters: <https://www.vote411.org/>
- NYC Board of Elections: <https://www.vote.nyc/> or call 1-866-VOTE-NYC
- For NYC residents who need any assistance due to a disability: <https://www.vote.nyc/page/accessibility>
- NYS Board of Elections: <https://www.elections.ny.gov>
- NYS County Boards of Elections: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/Counties/CountyBoardRoster06172020.pdf>

## **Additional Information about Absentee Voting**

Absentee Ballots will begin to be mailed the third week of September. They will be mailed to only those voters who submitted an application for an Absentee Ballot. Once you receive your Absentee Ballot, mark it according to your choices for each office following the instructions on the ballot.

Please follow the required steps carefully:

Confirm your information is correct on the Official Absentee Ballot Envelope. Make sure that your name and address on the front side of the envelope are correct. If there is an error, contact your County Board of Elections office.

After completing your ballot, fold it and put it in the Official Absentee Ballot Envelope. The barcode on the Official Absentee Ballot Envelope must be visible through the window on the back of your return envelope. Depending upon where you live in New York State, your return envelope may not have a window.

Sign and date the outside of the Official Absentee Ballot Envelope. This envelope will have a place for your signature and date on the outside of the envelope. Without your signature and the date, your ballot will be invalid and will NOT be counted.

Seal the Official Absentee Ballot Envelope. Do not use glue or tape to seal it.

Place the Official Absentee Ballot Envelope in the Return Envelope. The Return Envelope will include the pre-printed address of your County Board of Elections on the front and should have a logo that reads, "Official Election Mail".

Seal and stamp the Return Envelope. Do not use glue or tape. Only one first class stamp is needed.

### **Please also note:**

- Any person voting by mail can complete an Absentee Ballot with the header "Official Absentee Military Ballot".
- Absentee Ballots are not counted until after polls close on Election Day. Legally, officials at the Board of Elections must accept and count properly postmarked Absentee Ballots that arrive at their office by Nov 10.
- There may be a long line at your polling site, even to just hand your ballot to a poll worker.