

# APA VOICE VOTER GUIDE

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS VOTING & ORGANIZING TO INCREASE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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APA Voice New York

Dear Friend,

APA VOICE believes in a country and New York State where all people are welcome, treated fairly, and given the chance to achieve their dream. For numerous state and federal positions, this year is an important election year. At this politically divisive time, it is even more important to have a voice on important issues that directly impact our lives.

If you are a registered voter, we urge you to exercise your voice and vote in the upcoming elections. If you are not, you can register by contacting any of the APA VOICE organizations or by going to the Board of Elections. If you or your family member is not yet a citizen, we have provided information on the benefits of naturalization and a list of service providers who can help start the process. Becoming a citizen and exercising your right to vote is the first step to being fully active in our democracy.

Elected officials and candidates are less likely to address issues impacting communities with low voter turnout. Voting is our direct voice on issues affecting our families and communities, and how we maintain accountability in having those issues met. We vote for our youth who are still too young to vote. We vote for our neighbors who are not citizens. We vote for our collective future.

Sincerely,  
APA VOICE



## WANT TO VOTE? BECOME A CITIZEN!

Lawful permanent residents (green card holders) can live and work in the United States. However, there are several rights and privileges afforded only to citizens:

- ★ You can apply to bring family members to the U.S. more quickly: U.S. citizens who petition for family members to immigrate will get priority over permanent residents
- ★ Applying for citizenship once can save time and money. For example, green cards must be renewed every 10 years and can cost \$540 per renewal.
- ★ You can travel with a U.S. passport
- ★ You will be able to vote in elections
- ★ You will be protected from deportation

## NATURALIZATION SERVICE PROVIDERS

Low-income residents may be eligible for reduced or free USCIS filing fees. Listed below are naturalization service providers throughout the City.

### ASIAN AMERICANS FOR EQUALITY

111 Division Street, New York, NY 10002

Please call 212-979-8988 to make an appointment

LANGUAGES: English, Mandarin, Cantonese

### BANGLADESHI AMERICAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH SERVICES

83-10 Rockaway Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11416

Please call 718-235-1700 to make an appointment

LANGUAGES: English, Bengali, Hindi, Urdu

### CHHAYA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

37-43 77th St. Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Call 718-478-3848 to make an appointment

LANGUAGES: English, Bangla, Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu

### CHINESE-AMERICAN PLANNING COUNCIL

4101 8th Avenue, 4th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11232

Call 718-492-0409 to make an appointment

LANGUAGES: English, Mandarin, Cantonese

165 Eldridge Street, NY, NY 10002

Call 212-931-0030 to make an appointment

LANGUAGES: English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Fuzhounese

133-14 41st Avenue, 7th Floor, Flushing, NY 11355

Call 718-358-8899 to make an appointment

LANGUAGES: English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Fuzhounese

### CHINESE PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

230 Grand Street, Suite 504, New York, NY 10002

Call 212-274-1891 to make an appointment

LANGUAGES: English, Mandarin, Cantonese

### KOREAN COMMUNITY SERVICES OF METROPOLITAN NEW YORK

203-05 32nd Avenue, Bayside, NY 11361

Call 718-939-5137 to make an appointment

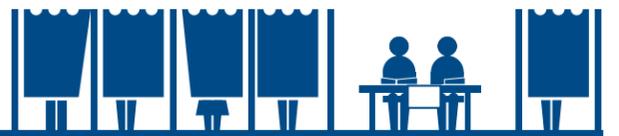
LANGUAGES: English, Korean

### MINKWON CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

136-19 41st Avenue, 3rd Floor, Flushing, NY 11355

Call 718-460-5600 to make an appointment

LANGUAGES: English, Korean, Mandarin



## ★ ★ ★ WHAT IF I'M NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE? ★ ★ ★

### IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE IN NEW YORK, YOU MUST:

- ★ Be a U.S. Citizen
- ★ Be 18 years old by the end of the year. If you are currently 17 and will turn 18 this year, you can register now and vote in any elections occurring after your 18th birthday.
- ★ Live at your present address at least 30 days before an election
- ★ Not be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction, and not be adjudicated mentally incompetent by a court
- ★ Not claim the right to vote elsewhere

### IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE, BUT NOT YET REGISTERED TO VOTE, YOU CAN DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TO REGISTER:

- ★ **Call or visit your local APA VOICE organization.** A staff member will personally assist you in filling out a form
- ★ **Pick up a voter registration form from your local library or Board of Elections**
- ★ **Download a form online:** <http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html>
- ★ **Register online with the DMV:** [www.dmv.ny.gov/mydmv/motv-pop.htm](http://www.dmv.ny.gov/mydmv/motv-pop.htm)
- ★ **Call the Board of Elections:** 1-800-FOR-VOTE

## WHAT IF I CAN'T VOTE?

Regardless whether you can vote or not, your voice still matters and can make a difference.

- ★ **Talk to your friends, classmates, co-workers and others** around you that can vote about the issues that matter to you
- ★ **Call your representative** at the appropriate level of government and express your concerns (they still have a responsibility to serve you!)
- ★ **Donate or volunteer** in support of a candidate whose views you support
- ★ **Share this guide** with a family member or friend who can vote

### IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR FACE ANY PROBLEMS ON ELECTION DAY, YOU CAN CALL:

English 718-460-5600  
Chinese 718-232-0055  
212-274-1891

Korean 718-460-5600  
Bengali 718-478-3848  
Nepalese 718-937-1117

This voter guide is part of a campaign by APA VOICE: Voting and Organizing to Increase Civic Engagement. Our goal is to increase awareness and civic participation in the Asian Pacific American community. We are non-partisan and do not support any political party or candidate.



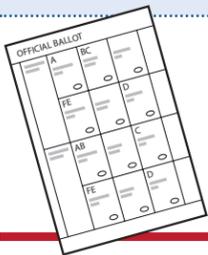
# 2018 ELECTIONS CALENDAR



	SPECIAL ELECTIONS	PRIMARIES		GENERAL ELECTION
	NEW YORK STATE	UNITED STATES	NEW YORK STATE	U.S. AND NEW YORK STATE
<b>ELECTION DAY</b>	TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2018*	TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2018	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2018**	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018
<b>POSITIONS UP FOR ELECTION</b>	11 vacant seats in the Legislature (2 in the Senate, 9 in the Assembly)	One-third of the U.S. Senate (1 Senator from New York) <b>ALL</b> 435 House of Representatives (27 from New York)	Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General <b>ALL</b> 150 State Assembly Members <b>ALL</b> 63 State Senate	Previously mentioned Senate, House, and statewide positions
<b>DEADLINE FOR FIRST TIME VOTERS TO REGISTER TO VOTE</b>	March 30, 2018	June 1, 2018	August 19, 2018	October 12, 2018
<b>DEADLINE TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT</b>	April 17, 2018	June 19, 2018	September 6, 2018	October 30, 2018

\* Not all districts will host special elections

\*\* Date is not confirmed and is subject to change.



## WHY PRIMARY ELECTIONS MATTER



### ★ There are TWO primary elections in New York in 2018.

Often in New York, the primary election is the “real” election and competition is fiercest at this stage in the electoral process.

★ **A primary election decides who will be the candidates from each political party to run in the general elections.** Since New York is a “Closed Primary” state, only voters who are enrolled in a party can vote in primary elections. In most cases, only the major political parties—the Democratic or Republican parties—hold primary elections.

### HOW DO YOU VOTE IN A PRIMARY ELECTION?

- ★ You **MUST** be enrolled in a political party to vote in that party’s primary election
- ★ Enrolling in a political party is **NOT** the same as voting for a party. In the general elections, you may vote for any candidate you support.

## VOTING: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q: WHERE DO I GO TO VOTE? WHAT DISTRICT DO I LIVE IN?

**A:** Your polling location and district depend on your home address. You can find where to vote and what district you live in online (<http://nyc.pollsitelocator.com/search>) or you can call the Board of Elections (1-866-868-3692).

### Q: WHO ARE MY ELECTED OFFICIALS?

**A:** You can find out who your elected officials at the federal, state, and city levels online at <http://gis.nyc.gov/doitt/nycitymap/>.

### Q: I DON’T KNOW IF I’M REGISTERED TO VOTE.

**A:** You can check if you’re registered to vote online (<https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/>) or call the Board of Elections (1-866-868-3692). See also the box to the right.

### Q: WHAT IF I CHANGED MY NAME OR ADDRESS?

**A:** If you are changing your name or address, you must report it to the Board of Elections at least 20 days before the elections. You can do this by re-submitting a voter registration form

### Q: WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO THE POLL SITE?

**A:** If this is your first time voting: Most voters provide a Social Security number or driver’s license when registering to vote. If you did not, you need to bring proof of identification the first time you vote. If you voted before: You are not required to provide identification. However, it may be helpful to bring your registration card from the Board of Elections.

### Q: WHAT IF I’M NOT ABLE TO MAKE IT TO THE POLL SITE ON THE ELECTION DAYS?

**A:** You can vote by an absentee ballot, which can be mailed or brought to the Board of Elections. You must have a valid reason to vote by absentee ballot in New York. Such reasons include if you will be

traveling on Election Day, are unable to go to the poll site due to temporary or permanent illness or disability, or if you’re the primary caregiver of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled.

To fill out an absentee ballot application, you can contact your nearest Board of Elections (1-866-868-3692) or download the application from <http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html>

### Q: WHAT IF I NEED HELP AT A POLL SITE?

**A:** If you need help because you are disabled or cannot read the ballot, federal law allows you to have a friend or relative assist you in the privacy booth. There will also be election workers, and possibly interpreters, at the poll site to help you.

### Q: CAN I CHANGE MY PARTY AFFILIATION?

**A:** If you are already registered to vote, and would like to change your party affiliation, you must complete a new voter registration form, marking a different choice for political party enrollment. However, you must wait for a general election to pass for the change to go into effect.

