Two Important Elections are Coming Up! Will You Be Voting This Year?

Who is on the Ballot?
This year, many state-level positions, such as Governor, Lt. Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General, State Senator, and State Assemblyperson, are up for re-election. Do you know what these elected officials can do and how they can influence your everyday life?

1. Which of the following accurately describes the role of the Governor of New York?
A. Controls funding for the MTA, which manages all the subways and buses of New York City
B. Approves the state's yearly multi-billion dollar budget, which reflects the governor’s priorities
C. Is New York’s most influential politician or issues such as taxes, education funding, government corruption, real estate regulations, environmental protections, and more
D. All of the above

Answer: D

The Governor of New York has the duty to enforce state laws, the power to either approve or veto bills passed by the New York State Legislature. The Governor is also influential in determining the state budget and funding for the MTA and New York schools.

2. Which of the following accurately describes the role of Lieutenant Governor?
A. Acts as the President of the State Senate and can cast tie-breaking votes
B. Assumes the position of Governor in the case of disability, death, resignation, or impeachment
C. Leads task forces and performs other duties as directed by the Governor
D. All of the above

Answer: D

The Lieutenant Governor is the President of the State Senate, and may also serve as Acting Governor in the absence of the Governor from the state.

3. Which of the following accurately describes the role of the Attorney General of New York?
A. As the state’s top law enforcement officer, investigates and prosecutes civil rights violations, business fraud, and corruption cases
B. Provides legal counsel to state agencies
C. Can sue the president’s administration on behalf of New York State
D. All of the above

Answer: D

The Attorney General of New York, or the “People’s Lawyer,” is the chief law enforcement officer of the state and the head of the New York state government’s Department of Law. The Attorney General is tasked with protecting the rights of New Yorkers, its organizations, and its natural resources by advising the state executive branch, handling criminal appeals and statewide criminal prosecutions, and legally defending actions and proceedings on behalf of the state.

4. Which of the following accurately describes the role of the Comptroller of New York?
A. Manages the state accounting system and the state’s pension fund
B. As the chief financial officer of the state government
C. Acts as the chief financier of the state government
D. All of the above

Answer: D

The Comptroller of New York is the chief financial officer of the state government, and is responsible for managing the state accounting system and the state’s pension fund. The Comptroller also controls the New York State and Local Retirement System for public employees.

5. What is the role of the 63-seat State Senate and 150-seat State Assembly of New York?
A. Proposes and passes new laws
B. Votes on the state budget
C. Acts as advocates for residents of their district
D. All of the above

Answer: D

The New York State Assembly is the lower chamber of the New York State Legislature (the New York State Senate is the Legislature’s upper chamber). The State Assembly and State Senate work alongside the Governor of New York to create laws, establish the state budget, raise and lower taxes, and pass bills on public policy matters.

Dear Friend,

APA VOICE believes in a country and a New York State where all people are welcome, treated fairly, and given the chance to achieve their dreams. During this politically divisive time, it is important to make your voice heard on important issues that directly impact our lives. For numerous state and federal positions, this is an important election year. This guide includes important election dates and information the roles of different elected officials running for office. Elected officials and candidates are more likely to address issues impacting communities with high voter turnout. Voting ensures that our elected officials remain accountable to our communities and on issues affecting our families and communities. 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

Election Timeline

State and Local Issues
New York City School Board Members
Dist. Attorneys
Party District Leaders & Committees
U.S. Senators
State & Local Judges
Public Advocate
District Attorneys
State Senators
City Council Members

2020
2021

The election of President and Vice President of the United States happens every 4 years. Other federal, state, and local elections also take place.

2019
2020

On years when neither a presidential nor a midterm election occurs, many important local elections, such as the election of city council members, take place.

Voter Guide
Asian Pacific Americans voting & organizing to increase civic engagement

If you have any questions or face any problems on election day, you can call:

English 718-460-5600
Chinese 718-222-0055
Korean 718-460-5600
Dhongali 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.

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APA VOICE New York

TWO IMPORTANT ELECTIONS ARE COMING UP! WILL YOU BE VOTING THIS YEAR?
**2018 ELECTIONS CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELECTION DAY</th>
<th>PRIMARIES</th>
<th>GENERAL ELECTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEW YORK STATE</td>
<td>U.S. AND NEW YORK STATE</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2018</strong></td>
<td>Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General ALL 150 State Assembly Members ALL 63 State Senate</td>
<td>Senate, House, and statewide positions</td>
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<td><strong>TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018</strong></td>
<td><strong>DEADLINE FOR FIRST TIME VOTERS TO REGISTER TO VOTE</strong></td>
<td>August 19, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DEADLINE TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT</strong></td>
<td>September 6, 2018</td>
<td>October 30, 2018</td>
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**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.

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**VOTING: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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

- In order to be eligible to register to vote in New York, you must be a U.S. Citizen, 18 years old by the end of the year, living at your present address at least 30 days before an election, not be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction or adjudicated mentally incompetent by a court, and not claim the right to vote elsewhere. If you fulfill these requirements, you can register by:
  - Calling or visiting any APA VOICE organization
  - Picking up a voter registration application from your local library or Board of Elections.
  - Downloading a form online:
    - www.elections.ny.gov/VoterLookup.html
  - Registering online with the DMV:
    - www.dmv.ny.gov/mydmv/motv-pop.htm
  - Calling the Board of Elections at 1-800-FOR-VOTE

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

- 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.pollsite locator.com/search) or you can call the Board of Elections (1-866-868-3692).

**Q: WHO ARE MY ELECTED OFFICIALS?**

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

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

- 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 polling site due to temporary or permanent illness or disability, or if you’re the primary caregiver of one or more individuals who are 80 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?**

- 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?**

- In order to change your party affiliation, you must complete a new voter registration form, marking a different choice for political party enrollment. However, you are not required to provide identification. However, it may be helpful to bring your registration card from the Board of Elections.

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

- 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.