

New York City Student Voter Registration Day

2015

Curriculum Guide

Student Voter Registration Day (SVRD) 2015 is a single-day program that educates New York City students about the importance of voting and civic engagement. The program is designed to increase youth voter registration and to get young people excited about being involved in the democratic process. Through interactive discussion, SVRD encourages youth to see how issues at the polls affect their everyday lives.

Friday, March 20, 2015



“Bad officials are
the ones elected
by good citizens
who do not vote.”

-George Jean Nathan

Acknowledgments

LEADERSHIP TEAM AND AUTHOR

Chyann Sapp

Youth Voter Coordinator, NYC Votes / NYC Campaign Finance Board

PARTICIPATING ELECTED OFFICIALS*

Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh

Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito

Council Member Maria Del Carmen Arroyo

Council Member Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.

Council Member Laurie Cumbo

Council Member Vincent Ignizio

Council Member Ben Kallos

Council Member Mark Levine

Council Member Daneek Miller

Council Member Antonio Reynoso

Council Member Donovan Richards, Jr.

Council Member Deborah Rose

Council Member Helen Rosenthal

Council Member Ritchie J. Torres

Council Member James Vacca

ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS

NYC Administration for Children's Services

NYC Board of Elections

Brennan Center for Justice

Citizen Action of New York

Citizens Union

City University of New York

Common Cause

Council of School Supervisors & Administrators

NYC Department of Education

NYC Department of Youth & Community Development

Dominicanos USA

Every Vote Counts

Generation Citizen

League of Women Voters

New York Democratic Lawyers Council

New York Immigration Coalition

New York Public Interest Research Group

New York Urban League Young Professionals

TurboVote/Democracy Works

United Federation of Teachers

Voto Latino

Women's City Club of New York

REVIEWERS

Onida Coward Mayers

Director of Voter Assistance, NYC Votes / NYC Campaign Finance Board

Eric Friedman

Assistant Director for Public Affairs, NYC Campaign Finance Board

Elizabeth Newcomer

Legislative Aide, Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal

Ahmed Tigani

Legislative Director, Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal

* Reflects participating members as of time of print. Members who did not sign up before the print deadline are not listed.

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Introduction

AN OVERVIEW OF STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION DAY (SVRD)

SVRD is a nonpartisan youth voter program designed to educate students about the importance of voting and civic engagement. The intent of SVRD is to increase youth voter registration and to get students excited about being involved in the democratic process.

SVRD is the product of a partnership between the City Council, led by the office of City Council Member Helen Rosenthal, the NYC Campaign Finance Board, and the Department of Education (DOE).

This curriculum offers a 45–60 minute condensed version of the Civic Engagement curriculum that has been implemented by the DOE in NYC high schools. It provides an opportunity for youth to learn about the process of voting and to register to vote while still in school.

This SVRD curriculum will help youth explore the issues that are most important to young voters, and challenge them to think critically about how these issues are dealt with at the public policy level.

How to Use This Curriculum

This lesson is divided into eight activities: “Welcome,” “Exploring Your Relationship to Government,” “So Why Does Voting Matter?,” “Why Are Young People Not Voting?,” “Becoming Civically Engaged,” “Elections & Registration,” “Trivia Recap,” and “Registering Students to Vote and What to Expect Now.” These units are arranged sequentially. Each contains discussion questions designed to help students think critically about the issues that are most important to young people, and how these issues translate to public policy. The workshop includes interactive discussion, a visual presentation, and a summarizing trivia game.

Part 1: Welcome

★ Icebreaker

- One student is selected to read aloud the quote from the presentation (on page 1), then additional students are called on to interpret the quote.

★ Introductions

- Facilitator Introduction
- Today is Student Voter Registration Day!
 - » What is SVRD?
- Partners involved: CFB/NYC Votes, and the Office of Council Member Rosenthal.

Part 2: Exploring Your Relationship to Government

In this segment, the facilitator will pose three questions for students to consider about themselves to help them better understand the framework of the discussion and the function of government:

- Who are *you*?
- What is your role and responsibility?
- What issues are important to you?

Circles of Life

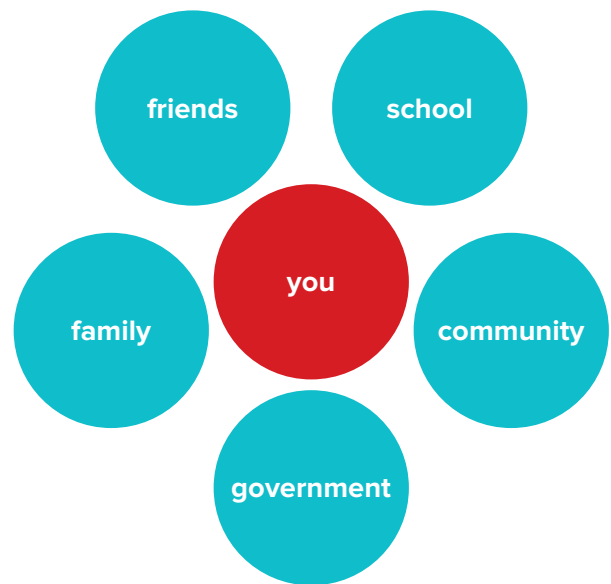
Students will examine the life circles that they are currently part of (family, friends, school, community, government, you) and how their interaction with each circle may begin to change as they move towards young adulthood.

★ Task:

- On a scale from 0%–100%, rate how much power you have in these circles.

★ Questions to pose:

- What sequence of circles best describes your life right now as a high school student?
- How will this sequence change during freshman year of college? Why?
- Which circles will you interact with more? Less? Why?
- How many of you right now have government IDs (ex: permit, driver's license, state ID, municipal ID)?
- How will your interaction with government change as you move into young adulthood?
- What is your role and responsibility to other circles in the chart?



Part 3: So Why Does Voting Matter?

What is voting?

A means for citizens to choose their elected representatives. Voting provides a way for you to express your needs and desires, and allows you to register your approval or disapproval for the state of current political and community affairs.

Voting Rights History

A brief overview of the history of voting in the United States covering the 14th, 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th amendments:

- Before the changes to the constitution, voting rights and eligibility were defined by each state. Most states allowed only Caucasian males—who either owned property or had taxable incomes—to vote.
- 14th Amendment, 1868: All persons born or naturalized are citizens of the United States and the state where they reside. All U.S. citizens are guaranteed equal protection under the law.
- 15th Amendment, 1870: All men, irrespective of race, color, or previous servitude, are granted the right to vote.
- 19th Amendment, 1920: Women are granted the right to vote.
- 24th Amendment, 1964: Prohibited poll taxes for voters in federal elections.
- 26th Amendment, 1976: 18-year-olds are granted the right to vote.
- Voting Rights Act, 1965: Act that aimed to overcome legal barriers at the state and local levels that prevented African Americans from exercising their right to vote under the 15th Amendment.
 - » Types of discriminatory barriers: poll taxes, grandfather clauses, literacy tests, social status.

★ Questions to pose to students:

- Who is eligible to vote in America?
- What is the significance of the 26th amendment as it pertains to youth and young adults?
- What were some of the recent changes made to the Voting Rights Act?
 - » What impact might these changes have in the future?
- How old does someone need to be to vote?

★ Activity

- Each student in the room guesses a number from 1–50 on how New York State turned out in the 2012 Elections. (1 being the best turnout, and 50 being the worst turnout.) The student who guesses 44th, or closest to it gets a wristband/candy.

Statistics

Students are provided with a breakdown of New York State, New York City, and national voting statistics.

- Youth voter turnout (ages 18–29) in the 2012 presidential election was 49%.
- In the 2013 mayoral election, the youth voter turnout was 11%.
- In the 2014 midterm elections, national youth voter turnout was 21%.
- In 2012, New York State ranked 44th out of the 50 states in total voter turnout.

What do these statistics tell us about young people and voter participation?

★ **Questions to pose:**

- What are some of the reasons why young people don't vote?
- How do these statistics impact policy around youth issues?
- How do groups benefit when they vote?

Issues

We will examine the key issues impacting NYC youth, and discuss how these issues affect the students' lives, and the lives of their family members, and their local communities.

As a collective group, the students will identify the 5–6 most important issues from the list, then participate in an interactive discussion about how these issues will impact their lives. The teacher/facilitator should have a white board or notepad and markers handy to record the students' contributions.

- **Key issues to address include:** minimum wage, public transportation, affordable housing, financial aid/student loans, food
- **Scenario:** You are an 18-year-old CUNY student who is working full-time, attending school full-time, and living off campus. What are the life costs that you will need to consider for living in NYC?
- The facilitator will go through each issue individually, writing the issue on the board in one column and the cost associated with the issue in the next column. While going through each issue, discuss how the issue is connected to an elected official, and to voting. The teacher should begin with financial aid/student loans (listed below) as this will provide the framework for the other costs associated with young adulthood. The cost associated with each issue should then be subtracted from the annual salary provided by the minimum wage.

★ **Introductory Issue: Financial Aid/Student Loans**

Note to Teachers: *This issue is included to begin the dialogue with the students about how the costs associated with each issue have a direct correlation with voting.*

- Questions to pose:
 - » Why is financial aid important for college-age youth?
 - » What is the current tuition for CUNY?
 - Answer: \$6,000 for full-time students at four-year colleges.
 - » Who is eligible for financial aid?
 - Answer: U.S. citizens and permanent residents.
 - » How does financial aid relate to government?
 - Answer: Federal and state financial aid is provided by the United States government to need-based students in the form of grants, work-study, and student loans.
 - » How does CUNY receive its funding?
 - Answer: It is a state-funded institution.
 - » What is the average student loan debt?
 - Answer: \$33,000 as of 2014, with 70% of college students nationwide taking on student loans.

★ Issue #1: Minimum Wage

- Questions to pose:
 - » What is the current minimum wage in New York?
 - Answer: \$8.75/hour.
 - » What is it expected to increase to?
 - Answer: It will automatically increase by 25 cents at the end of the year to \$9. Governor Cuomo has submitted a proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$11.50/hour in NYC and \$10.50 per hour in the rest of the state. The minimum wage is set at the state level.
 - » What is the role of the New York State governor?
 - Answer: The governor can propose legislation, and submits a budget to the Legislature. The governor can veto bills passed by the Legislature, and has the power of “line-item” veto on appropriations bills.
 - » What is the role of the New York State Legislature?
 - Answer: There are two houses of the Legislature, the Assembly and the Senate. A bill passed by both houses may become law, if it is signed by the [governor](#). A veto may be overridden if there is a [two-thirds majority](#) in each house. Furthermore, it has the power to propose amendments to the [New York State Constitution](#), which must be passed by majority vote in two successive sessions. If so proposed the amendment becomes valid if agreed to by the voters of a [referendum](#).
 - » What are taxes and why do people pay them?
 - Answer: Your tax money goes to many places including paying the salaries of government workers, as well as towards common resources such as police, firefighters, maintaining roads, and funding government programs such as CUNY.
 - » **Discussion Question: How might voting change the minimum wage?**
 - » For the issue of minimum wage, the facilitator should write on the board the current minimum wage (\$8.75/hour), and how much someone who is working full time (40 hours per week) would make in a year (\$16,800). Then subtract \$4,890 for taxes, for a total of \$11,910. The total income per month would be **\$992.50**.
 - Breakdown of taxes: 29.1% (Does not have to be shared with students)
 - ✓ Social Security: 6.2%=\$1,042
 - ✓ Medicare: 1.45%= \$244
 - ✓ Federal: 15%= \$2,520
 - ✓ State: 6.45%= \$1,084

★ Issue #2: Public Transportation

- Questions to pose:
 - » How do we vote on an issue like public transportation?
 - » What is the current MetroCard fee? Monthly MetroCard fee?
 - Answer: \$2.75 base fare and \$116.50 monthly
 - » Which elected official oversees the MTA?
 - Answer: The governor appoints the chairman and vice chairman of the MTA, so he has the most direct influence on how it operates. Any changes to the funding would go through the budget process—proposed by the governor, passed by the Legislature.
 - » Why do the fares increase?
 - Answer: Fares increase when the MTA doesn't get enough state subsidies to support the system, so the public has to pay for the deficit.
 - » How might voting change these fees?
 - Answer: Voting for elected officials who are committed to finding ways to keep the fares low.

★ Issue #3: Affordable Housing

- Questions to pose:
 - » What is the average rent in NYC?
 - Answer: As of June 2014, it was on average \$4,042 to live in Manhattan.
(For the purpose of this exercise, let's say you rent an apartment with 3 people, and your rent is \$1,000 a month.)
 - » Why is affordable housing an issue in NYC?
 - » What is considered to be affordable housing?
 - Answer: Housing deemed affordable to those with a median household income as rated by country, state, region or municipality.
 - » How do we vote on affordable housing?
 - » What is the role of the City Council?

★ Issue #4: Food

- Questions to pose:
 - » On average, how much does a college student spend on food?
 - (For the purpose of this exercise, let's say it is \$100 per month.)
 - » How do we vote on an issue like food?
 - » What is a food desert?
 - Answer: A geographic area where affordable and nutritious food is difficult to obtain.

- » Which elected officials might be responsible for healthy food options within a community?
 - Answer: Senators, Assembly members, City Council members, Community Boards

At the end of this segment, the students will have an understanding of how the key issues impacting youth and young adults are directly related to voting and government, and how these issues affect their monthly incomes. Example: After taxes, housing, transportation, and food, students may have \$0 left over.

- Breakdown:
 - \$992.50 (monthly income)
 - \$1000.00 (rent)
 - 116.50 (transportation)
 - \$100.00 (food)

\$-224.00

Before casting your vote on these issues, what questions would you ask the candidates in order to inform your vote?

Part 4: Why Are Young People Not Voting?

★ Top 3 reasons according to your peers:

- Apathy
- Lack of education about voting and elections
- Mistrust in government

★ Discussion

- What are some consequences of youth not voting?
- What are some ways to change this trend?
- What are some things from each of the life circles that students can do to change this trend?
- What are some reasons to vote?
 - So you can make decisions for yourself. If you don't vote, someone else will.
 - Because politicians are listening! They know who votes, and they focus their attention on those people.
 - It is your right!
 - To have politicians in office who represent your needs and concerns.
 - To have money put towards the issues you care about.
 - It's your money on the line.
 - Your issues and your communities matter.

Part 5: Elections & Registration

★ Election year at a glance

- In this segment, it is emphasized that **every** year is an election year in New York. Students will be provided with an overview of:

- » The 2015 elections

- Positions:

- ✓ District Attorney (Bronx, Queens, Staten Island)
 - ✓ Supreme Court
 - ✓ Civil Court
 - ✓ Special Elections

What are the roles and salaries of these positions?¹

- Dates:

- ✓ September 15th: Primary Election
 - ✓ November 3rd: General Election

- » The 2016 elections

- What positions will we be voting for?
 - What are the roles and salaries of these positions?

★ Registering to Vote

- Eligible students will have the opportunity to register to vote. This segment will also include a discussion about:

- » Who can register?

- Answer: U.S. Citizens, age 17 and older

- » What does this mean for non-citizens?

¹ See page 18 for Elected Officials: Responsibilities and Duties.

Part 6: Becoming Civically Engaged

- Getting involved
 - » In this segment, we will review other ways students can get involved in their communities.
 - Join your local community board (16 and 17-year-olds can now become members).
 - Become a poll worker (if you are a registered voter or 17).
 - Join a political group.
 - Contact your local elected officials about issues in your neighborhood.
 - Vote by absentee ballot.
- Introduction to DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) for non-citizen students.
 - » What is DACA and who is eligible?
 - » What does it help with? (Provides information on applying for financial aid, the types of aid that are available, and free legal advice.)
 - » Where can I get more information? (Both students and teachers will be provided with a DACA Fact Sheet and contact resources upon request after the workshop.)

Part 7: Trivia Recap

A fun and incentivized recap of the information discussed in the workshop.

★ Trivia Questions

Q Who is the current United States vice president?

A Joe Biden

Q What was New York State's 2012 rank in voter turnout?

A 44th

Q What percentage of youth voted in the 2013 mayoral election?

A 11%

Q What are three ways youth can become civically engaged other than voting?

Q How old must a person be to register to vote?

A Age 17

Q Who is the current police commissioner?

A Bill Bratton

Q What is the current minimum wage?

A \$8.75/hour

Q What year were women given the right to vote?

A 1920

Q How often are presidential elections?

A Every four years

Q How long is a United States senate term?

A Six years

Q How many terms can a president serve?

A Two terms

Q Which amendment gave African Americans the right to vote?

A 15th amendment

Q What is the role of the electoral college?

A To formally cast votes for the president and vice president

Q Who is the 44th president of the United States?

A Barack Obama

Part 8: Registering Students to Vote and What to Expect Now

- Facilitator takes questions from students.
- Facilitator distributes voter registration forms, then goes through each question with the students using the annotated Guide to the New York State Registration Form.² Collect and review the forms from the students before they exit the room.
- Resources:
 - » **For Educators:** Teachers/Faculty will be provided with voter registration forms (to continue registering students post SVRD), Voter FAQ and Vocabulary, and the process for submitting forms. They will also be emailed after SVRD to complete a short survey about the day, as well as rate the components of the lesson, resources, and takeaways for the students.
 - » **For Students:** Facilitators should inform students that they will receive a confirmation in the mail with their poll sites in 3–6 weeks from the Board of Elections. Facilitators should have printed hand-outs of DACA flyers available to students as they exit the room, as well as a stack of the NYC Votes postcards.

² See pages 32–33.

Materials

Within this package, please find additional resources that may be used to complement the lesson. These resources include:

- Voter FAQ
- Voter Vocabulary
- Elected Officials: Responsibilities & Duties
- Voting Rights: Major Dates in History
- Absentee ballot application
- Poll worker application
- Introduction to DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)
- DAPA (Deferred Action for Parental Accountability)
- Guide to the New York State Voter Registration Form
- Submitting registration forms to NYC Votes

VOTER FAQ

Q How old do I need to be to register to vote?

A You must be 17 to register, and turn 18 by the end of the year. You must be 18 years old to vote.

Q What is the difference between primary and general elections?

A A primary election determines which candidates from each party will be on the ballot, and the general election determines which candidates get elected into office.

Q What elections can I vote in?

A If you are registered to a political party, you can vote in any primary or runoff election. Anyone can vote in the general election.

Q Where do I go to vote on Election Day?

A Click [here](#) to find your poll site location. (<http://nyc.pollsitelocator.com/>)

Q I am a permanent resident. Can I still register to vote?

A No. You can only vote if you are a United States citizen.

Q Should I register to vote if I don't know my citizenship status?

A You should only register to vote if you are sure of your citizenship status.

Q I don't know if I'm registered to vote—how can I find out?

A Use the [Voter Registration look-up](#) website (<https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/>) to check your registration status online, or call the voter hotline for assistance. (212-868-3692)

Q What happens if I move out of the country or go away to school?

A You can still vote by [absentee ballot](http://vote.nyc.ny.us/downloads/pdf/forms/boe/absenteevoting/absenglish.pdf) (<http://vote.nyc.ny.us/downloads/pdf/forms/boe/absenteevoting/absenglish.pdf>). Call in to the Board of Elections to ask one to be sent to you, or fill out the form, print, and mail it in to the Board of Elections.

Q I was previously convicted of a felony. Can I register to vote?

A If you were convicted of a felony, you cannot register to vote or vote until you have completed your prison sentence and are no longer on parole.

Q I was previously convicted of a misdemeanor. Can I register to vote?

A Yes. Misdemeanor and violation convictions do not bar you from voting, even if you are, or have served time in jail for the misdemeanor.

Q I am a student. Can I register to vote at my school address?

A **Yes!** You have the right to register to vote at your school address — this includes a dorm room. Any student living in a dorm is entitled to the same rights as any other student. To imply otherwise is illegal. If you receive mail in a P.O. box you can sign an affidavit (or, in some cases, get a letter from your college's Residential Life office) asserting that you live at your dorm address.

Q I am currently homeless, can I register and vote?

A Yes, you have the right to vote. Write a location where you can be found, such as “Bench on Central Park on 86th Street,” as the address where you live. Write the address of a shelter, a P.O. box, or family member's address as the address where you receive mail. Your voter card will be sent to this address and you will be assigned a poll site according to the address where you live.

Q Do I need to re-register every time I move?

A Yes. For each time you move, you will likely have a new poll site address, depending on the location.

Q What happens if I get to my poll site and I am not listed?

A First, make sure you are signing in at the correct table for your assembly and election district. Once you confirm this, and you believe you are eligible to vote, you can still vote by filling out an affidavit/provisional ballot, and follow the instructions. After the election, the BOE will check its records, and your vote will be counted if you were eligible to vote. If not, you will receive a notice that you were not eligible to vote, and you should fill out a new registration form for future elections.

Q Does my voter registration ever expire?

A Your registration has no expiration date, but it may be moved to inactive if you did not vote in the last two federal elections, or if you moved and did not update your address with the [BOE](#).

Q I recently changed my legal name. How do I change my name on my voter registration form?

A To change your name, address, political party, or email, fill out a new [registration form](#) and send it in to your local Board of Elections office. (<http://vote.nyc.ny.us/downloads/pdf/forms/boe/voterreg/voterregenglish.pdf>)

Q Which political party should I select?

A As a nonpartisan initiative, we are not allowed to tell you which party to select. To learn more about the political parties in New York State, click [here](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_political_parties_in_New_York) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_political_parties_in_New_York).

Q Do I need to show identification to vote? If so, what type?

A Yes. You must provide either a valid DMV identification number (driver's license or non-driver ID) or the last four digits of your social security number on your voter registration form. If you don't have one of these forms of ID, then you should bring a valid photo ID and one of the following forms of identification to your poll site on Election Day: a copy of a current utility bill, a bank statement, a paycheck, a government check, or some other government document that shows your name and address.

Q On Election Day, if I think my rights have been violated, what should I do?

A Call (866) OUR-VOTE if you feel your rights have been violated. There will be lawyers on hand to answer Election Day questions and concerns about voting procedures.

Q Where can I learn more about the elections: political parties, who's running for office, issues, and voting rights laws?

A Check out [Project Vote Smart](http://www.votesmart.org) (www.votesmart.org) to learn more about the election process, who is running for office in your community, and what issues matter this cycle.

Q What happens after I register to vote?

A After you register, you will receive a confirmation in the mail from the Board of Elections within 2–3 weeks that will include your poll site, and voter card. Use this information to vote on Election Day.

VOTER VOCABULARY

Absentee Ballot

A way people can vote when they can't make it to their polling place. They vote on a special ballot and mail it in.

Affidavit/Provisional Ballot

An affidavit/provisional ballot is used to record a vote when there are questions about a given voter's eligibility. A provisional ballot would be cast when: The voter refuses to show a photo ID (in regions that require one), or the voter's name does not appear on the electoral roll for the given poll site.

Assembly District

A political subdivision that elects a member of the State Assembly.

Ballot Proposal

A ballot proposal is a question placed on the ballot for voters to decide. Ballot questions may involve bond issues, or proposed amendments to the New York State Constitution or the New York City Charter. In some cases, an individual or group submits a petition to place a question on the ballot.

Candidate

An election of candidates to city, state, or federal office.

General Election

A regular election of candidates for office for city, statewide, or national offices.

Electoral College

A body of “electors” chosen by popular vote on a state-by-state basis, who formally elect the president and vice president of the United States.

Election District

The basic political subdivision for purposes of registration and voting. By New York State law, there are no more than 950 registered voters in an election district.

Gerrymandering

To manipulate the boundaries of an electoral constituency so as to favor one party or class.

Nonpartisan

Not biased or partisan, especially toward any particular political group.

Participatory Budgeting

A democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget. In other words, the people who pay taxes decide how tax dollars get spent.

Partisan

A strong supporter of a party, cause, or person.

Petition

A formally-drawn request, often bearing the names of a number of those making the request, that is addressed to a person or group of persons in authority or power, soliciting some favor, right, mercy, or other benefit.

Political Party

An organized group of people with similar political aims and opinions that seeks to influence public policy by getting candidates elected to public office.

Poll Site

A place where votes are cast.

Poll Worker

A person who is responsible for operating the polls including opening the poll site, serving voters, and closing the polls. The poll worker can serve as an inspector, poll clerk, information clerk, door clerk, or interpreter.

Primary Election

An election at which enrolled members of a party vote to nominate party candidates and elect party officers.

ELECTED OFFICIALS: RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor

The mayor is the chief executive officer of the City of New York. The mayor appoints most heads of city agencies, boards and commissions, at times pursuant to the advice and consent of the City Council. The mayor is responsible for the effectiveness and integrity of city government operations, proposes the city budget, and has the power to approve or veto all bills proposed by the City Council. The mayor is elected every four years. *Salary: \$225,000.*

Comptroller

The city comptroller is the chief fiscal officer of the City of New York. The comptroller audits city agencies, advises the mayor and the City Council of the financial condition of the city, and may make recommendations, comments, and criticisms concerning the operations, fiscal policies and financial transactions of the city. The comptroller is elected every four years in the same election as the mayor. *Salary: \$151,500.*

Public Advocate

The public advocate monitors the operation of the public information and service complaint programs of city agencies. The public advocate receives and responds to complaints of a recurring and multi-borough or citywide nature. The public advocate may also hold public hearings on any of the matters within his or her jurisdiction and duties. The public advocate participates in the discussions of the City Council but is not a voting member. The public advocate is elected every four years in the same election as the mayor. *Salary: \$165,000.*

Borough President

The borough presidents have the power to work with the mayor and other city officials in the interest of people of the boroughs. Generally, the borough presidents appoint members of the community boards and work to promote the long-term welfare of the boroughs. To be eligible to serve as borough president, an individual must be a resident of the borough for which he or she is elected. The borough president is elected every four years in the same election as the mayor. *Salary: \$160,000.*

City Council Member

The City Council is the legislative branch of the City of New York. Generally, the Council has the power to propose and adopt local laws, investigate matters related to the property, affairs, and government of the city, and approve the city budget. There are 51 members of the City Council. City Council members are elected every four years. *Salary: \$112,500.*

District Attorney

The five district attorneys in the City of New York protect the public by investigating and prosecuting criminal conduct in the counties in which they hold office. They are elected every four years. *Salary: \$62,000.*

STATE OFFICIALS

Governor

The governor is the chief executive of the State of New York. The governor may approve or veto laws, convene the legislature on extraordinary occasions, and grant reprieves, commutations and pardons after conviction. The governor is elected every four years. *Salary: \$179,000.*

Lieutenant Governor

The lieutenant governor is elected in the same election as the governor. The lieutenant governor is first in line of succession to the governor. The lieutenant governor is also the president of the Senate, but has a casting vote only. *Salary: \$151,500.*

Attorney General

The attorney general is the chief legal officer of the State of New York and is the head of the Law Department. The attorney general prosecutes and defends all legal actions and proceedings in which the state is interested. The attorney general is elected every four years in the same election as the Governor. *Salary: \$91,100.*

Comptroller

The state comptroller is the head of the Department of Audit and Control of the State of New York. The comptroller is required to audit payments made by the state and all official accounts of the state. The comptroller is elected at the same time as the governor and holds office for four years. *Salary: \$151,500.*

State Senator

The State Senate is one of the two houses of the New York State Legislature. The Senate proposes and passes bills, which, if also passed by the Assembly, are presented to the governor for approval. At this time there are 62 state senators. Senators must be residents of the senate districts which they are chosen to represent for at least twelve months at the time of election, and are elected every two years. *Salary: \$79,500.*

State Assembly Member

The Assembly is one of the two houses of the New York State Legislature. The Assembly proposes and passes bills, which, if also passed by the Senate, are presented to the governor for approval. The New York State Constitution provides for 150 Assembly members. Assembly members must be residents of the assembly districts from which they are chosen to represent for at least twelve months at the time of election, and are elected every two years. *Salary: \$79,500.*

FEDERAL OFFICIALS

President

The president is the chief executive of the United States and the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. With the approval of the Senate, the president appoints federal judges, cabinet members, and other public officials, except as otherwise provided by law. The president is elected every four years, and may serve no more than two terms. *Salary: \$400,000.*

Vice President

The vice president is elected together with the president. The vice president is first in line of succession to the president. The vice president is also the president of the Senate, but may only cast a vote to break a tie. *Salary: \$230,700.*

U.S. Representative

The House of Representatives is one of the two houses that compose the U.S. Congress, with the power to enact laws, impeach officials, and determine budget priorities. The number of representatives for each state is apportioned according to the population of that state, based on the census, which is taken every ten years (the next census is 2017). Representatives must be an inhabitant of the state from which they are elected at the time of election, and are elected every two years. *Salary: \$174,000.*

U.S. Senator

The U.S. Senate is one of the two houses that comprise the U.S. Congress. The Senate enacts laws, approves presidential appointments, and also has the sole authority to try all impeachments. The Senate is composed of two senators from each state, each of whom must be an inhabitant of the state at the time of election. Senators serve for a term of six years. Terms of office for senators are staggered such that one-third of the Senate seats are up for election every two years. *Salary: \$174,000.*

WHICH ELECTED OFFICIAL DO I NEED FOR MY ISSUE?

ISSUE	ELECTED OFFICIAL
My building has had no heat or hot water for the past month.	City Council Member
My school is in danger of closing and needs funding to stay open next year!	State Senator State Assembly Member Public Advocate City Council Member
My best friend is undocumented, and needs financial aid to go to school. How can I help him?	U.S. Representative U.S. Senator
The cost of rent is too high! My family is about to lose our apartment.	Public Advocate City Council Member
I'm a college student, and I can't afford tuition, and a monthly MetroCard.	State Senator State Assembly Member
I want to see changes made to our city's gun laws.	U.S. Representative State Senator State Assembly Member Mayor City Council Member
There are not enough healthy food options in my community.	Mayor Borough President City Council Member
My community garden needs funding to continue into next year.	City Council Member
I am a youth with a criminal record, and I want to see the laws for minor convictions changed.	State Senator State Assembly Member
I want to be able to vote early and online.	Governor State Senator State Assembly Member
There's a street light on my corner that has been broken for months!	Mayor City Council Member
I am concerned about climate change and pollution in NYC.	Mayor

HOW DO I CONTACT MY ELECTED OFFICIALS?

Step 1: Find your elected officials. There are a number of websites that make it easy for you to find your elected officials.

Here are a few:

- [Common Cause](#)
- [League of Women Voters](#)

Step 2: Search online for the official websites for the elected officials, or use the NYC Votes website. Within the official websites, the elected officials may have their email addresses listed, as well as the street addresses for their district offices.

Step 3: Find their social media accounts. Their official websites may also list links to their social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and even LinkedIn. You can use these accounts to contact your elected officials directly, or their press managers.

VOTING RIGHTS: MAJOR DATES IN HISTORY

★ 14th Amendment, 1868

All persons born or naturalized are citizens of the United States and the state where they reside.
All U.S. citizens are guaranteed equal protection under the law.

★ 15th Amendment, 1870

All men, irrespective of race, color, or previous servitude, are granted the right to vote.

★ 19th Amendment, 1920

Women are granted the right to vote.

★ 24th Amendment, 1964

Poll taxes for voters are prohibited in federal elections.

★ Voting Rights Act

Voting Rights Act, 1965: Act that aimed to overcome legal barriers at the state and local levels that prevented African Americans from exercising their right to vote under the 15th Amendment.

★ 26th Amendment, 1976

18-year-olds are granted the right to vote.

ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION

New York State Absentee Ballot Application

Please print clearly. See detailed instructions.

This application must either be personally delivered to your county board of elections not later than the day before the election, or postmarked by a governmental postal service not later than 7th day before election day. The ballot itself must either be personally delivered to the board of elections no later than the close of polls on election day, or postmarked by a governmental postal service not later than the day before the election and received no later than the 7th day after the election.

BOARD USE ONLY:

Town/City/Ward/Dist:

Registration No: _____

Party: _____

☐ voted in office

1.

I am requesting, in good faith, an absentee ballot due to (check one reason):

- ☐ absence from county or New York City on election day ☐ patient or inmate in a Veterans' Administration Hospital
- ☐ temporary illness or physical disability
- ☐ permanent illness or physical disability ☐ detention in jail/prison, awaiting trial, awaiting action by a grand jury, or in prison for a conviction of a crime or offense which was not a felony
- ☐ duties related to primary care of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled

2.

absentee ballot(s) requested for the following election(s) :

- ☐ Primary Election only ☐ General Election only ☐ Special Election only
- ☐ Any election held between these dates: absence begins: ____/____/____ absence ends: ____/____/____

3.

last name or surname first name middle initial suffix

4.

date of birth county where you live phone number (optional)

5.

address where you live (residence) street apt city state zip code

NY

6.

Delivery of Primary Election Ballot (check one) ☐ Deliver to me in person at the board of elections

☐ I authorize (give name): _____ to pick up my ballot at the board of elections.

☐ Mail ballot to me at: (mailing address)

street no. street name apt. city state zip code

7.

Delivery of General (or Special) Election Ballot (check one) ☐ Deliver to me in person at the board of elections

☐ I authorize (give name): _____ to pick up my ballot at the board of elections.

☐ Mail ballot to me at: (mailing address)

street no. street name apt. city state zip code

Applicant Must Sign Below

8.

I certify that I am a qualified and a registered (and for primary, enrolled) voter; and that the information in this application is true and correct and that this application will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit and, if it contains a material false statement, shall subject me to the same penalties as if I had been duly sworn.

Sign Here: **X** Date ____/____/____

If applicant is unable to sign because of illness, physical disability or inability to read, the following statement must be executed: By my mark, duly witnessed hereunder, I hereby state that I am unable to sign my application for an absentee ballot without assistance because I am unable to write by reason of my illness or physical disability or because I am unable to read. I have made, or have the assistance in making, my mark in lieu of my signature. (No power of attorney or preprinted name stamps allowed. See detailed instructions.)

Date ____/____/____ Name of Voter: _____ Mark: _____

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the above named voter affixed his or her mark to this application in my presence and I know him or her to be the person who affixed his or her mark to said application and understand that this statement will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit and if it contains a material false statement, shall subject me to the same penalties as if I had been duly sworn.

(address of witness to mark)

(signature of witness to mark)

Board Use Only
2010 regular ab app2_rev (6/15/10)

POLL WORKER APPLICATION

FOR BOE USE ONLY

VSN #:	Initials	NYCAPS EMPLOYEE ID #:	Initials
PARTY/STATUS:		POLL WORKER#:	
<input type="checkbox"/> NOT REGISTERED		Source:	
MISSING INFORMATION - SPECIFY:			

Borough: _____

Date: _____

BOARD OF ELECTIONS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK POLL WORKER APPLICATION

Valid from July 15, (current year) _____ - July 14, (next year) _____

Are you a New York City Resident? ☐ Yes ☐ No At least 18 years of age? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If No to either question, DO NOT CONTINUE. Please note, all incomplete applications will be returned.

NAME _____ () Male () Female _____ / _____ / _____
(please print or type) first middle last suffix (Jr., Sr.) date of birth

HOME ADDRESS _____
house # street apt #

city state zip code in care of / P.O. Box

PHONE NUMBER day: () _____ - _____ - _____ night: () _____ - _____ - _____ cell: () _____ - _____
area code ext. area code ext. area code

SOCIAL SECURITY # _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

(Fill in ONLY if you wish to have your paycheck mailed to a different address than the one listed above; please provide the alternate address below and the dates it would be in effect.) Effective date: _____ / _____ / _____ until _____ / _____ / _____
month day year month day year

house # street apt #
city zip code in care of / P.O. Box

ALL POLL WORKERS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND A MANDATORY TRAINING CLASS. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.

1. Are you currently or have you ever been an employee of New York City Government? _____ YES NO
If yes, please advise for which agency on the line below.

2. *Please indicate which of the following languages you speak fluently: ☐ Spanish* ☐ Chinese Mandarin*

☐ Chinese Cantonese* ☐ Korean** ☐ Bengali** ☐ Hindi** ☐ Punjabi**

3. Do you hold an elected office paid for out of public money? _____
If Yes, state the office in which employed on the line below.

4. Are you a candidate, or the spouse, parent, or child of such a candidate, for any public office or party position to be contested at an upcoming election in the district in which you are applying for service? _____

5. Have you ever been convicted of a felony? _____
If so, state the circumstances in full on the lines below. (The date, nature of offense, name and location of the disposition of the case including term of sentence.)

6. Do you agree to take and subscribe to the oath of office as an Election Inspector, if you are appointed and notified thereof? _____

7. If you are a registered voter, please check which party: ☐ Democratic ☐ Republican ☐ Other _____
(Interpreters and Door Clerks do not have to be registered voters. However, to serve as an Inspector, Poll Clerk or Information Clerk you must be a registered voter appointed by the Democratic or Republican Commissioner of Elections.)

I SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE TRUE.

Signature of Applicant: **X** _____ Date: _____ / _____ / _____

NOTE: Any poll worker removed from office for cause shall forfeit the compensation earned up to the time of such removal.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ----- PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

HOURS OF WORK WILL BE FROM 5:00 A.M. TO COMPLETION OF RETURN OF CANVASS.

Election Law Section 3-400(6)

No person shall be certified or act as an election inspector or poll clerk who is not a registered voter and a resident of the county in which he or she serves, or within the city of New York, of such city, who holds any elective public office, or who is a candidate for any public office to be voted for by the voters of the district in which he or she is to serve, or the spouse, parent, or child of such a candidate, or who is not able to speak and read the English language and write it legibly.

- ♦ Interpreters and Door Clerks earn a salary of \$200 for working an Election Day, \$25 for attending class and passing the exam.
- ♦ Inspectors, Poll Clerks and Information Clerks earn a salary of \$200 for working an Election Day, \$100 for attending a 6 hour training class and passing the exam.
- ♦ Any worker who does not attend training class will not be assigned to work an Election Day.
- ♦ Any worker who does not work an Election Day will not receive payment for attending class.
- ♦ Any worker who does not work at the site to which they are assigned will not be paid.

Please return the completed form to the Board of Elections office in your Borough of Residence:

Manhattan Office 200 Varick St., 10 th Fl New York, NY 10014 Tel. # (212) 886-2100 Fax # (646) 638-1967	Bronx Office 1780 Grand Concourse Bronx, NY 10457 Tel. # (718) 299-9017 Fax # (718) 299-2140	Brooklyn Office 345 Adams St., 4 th Fl Brooklyn, NY 11201 Tel. # (718) 797-8800 Fax # (718) 246-7357	Queens Office 126-06 Queens Blvd Kew Gardens, NY 11415 Tel. # (718) 730-6730 Fax # (718) 459-3384	Staten Island Office 1 Edgewater Plaza, 4 th Fl Staten Island, NY 10305 Tel. # (718) 876-0079 Fax # (718) 876-0912
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*Spanish language assistance is offered city wide; Chinese is offered in New York, Kings and Queens Counties.

**Korean, Bengali, Hindi and Punjabi are offered in Queens County only.

Applicants must be willing to travel within the borough

DACA

*Deferred Action for
Childhood Arrivals*

WHAT

DACA is a special immigration program for students who came to the US as children. It protects you from deportation and gives you a work permit.

WHO

- You came to the US before your 16th birthday
- You came to the US before January 1, 2010
- You are enrolled in school or already graduated from school

WHY

Because you can:

- Get a work permit
- Get a driver's license
- Get a social security card
- Be eligible for special scholarships and in-state tuition in New York

HOW

For more information:

Talk to your teacher or go to www.dacanyc.org
Remember, always talk to a lawyer before applying for any immigration benefit.



NEW YORK IMMIGRATION COALITION
united for justice and opportunity

WHY DACA?

6 Reasons to Consider Applying TODAY!

1

Get a work permit, get a job, earn money!

2

Get a social security number and card!

3

Qualify for special scholarships and in-state tuition in New York!

4

Protect yourself from deportation!

5

Travel in the US without problems! Or, apply to travel abroad for a school trip!

6

Take charge of your future! Join a powerful community & movement!

For more information, talk to your teacher or go to www.dacanyc.org!



NEW YORK IMMIGRATION COALITION
united for justice and opportunity

DAPA

DEFERRED ACTION FOR PARENTS OF AMERICANS
AND LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS

GET READY!



BE AWARE!

There is no way
to apply yet!



SAVE MONEY

for filing fees



GATHER EVIDENCE

to show you qualify



RENEW YOUR DOCUMENTS

including passport
or any document
from your country



BIRTH CERTIFICATE

or green card
of your child



CONSULT WITH A IMMIGRATION

LAWYER or an
accredited
representative




For more information go to www.thenyic.org/ready4relief


DAPA

DEFERRED ACTION FOR PARENTS OF AMERICANS
AND LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS

YOU COULD QUALIFY FOR A WORK PERMIT IF:

 **You have a child whose birthday is 11/20/2014 or earlier who is a U.S. citizen or green card holder**

 **You entered the U.S. on or before 01/01/2010**

 **You were in the U.S. on 1/1/2010 and were "out of status"**



For more information go to www.thenyic.org/ready4relief

DAPA

ACCIÓN DIFERIDA PARA PADRES DE CIUDADANOS
ESTADOUNIDENSES Y DE RESIDENTES PERMANENTES LEGALES

¡PREPÁRESE!



OJO CON EL FRAUDE !

No es hora de aplicar
aún. NO se confíe de
ningún notario.



AHORRE DINERO

para el costo de la
aplicación y otros
gastos



REÚNA EVIDENCIA

Todos los
documentos que
comprueben que ha
estado en los EE.UU.
desde 1/1/2010



RENUEVE SUS DOCUMENTOS

Incluyendo su
pasaporte, matricula
consular o cualquier
documento de su país



ACTA DE NACIMIENTO

o prueba de
residencia de su
hijo/a



CONSULTE CON UN ABOGADO

Si tiene dudas consulte
o abogado o visite una
organización
comunitaria



Para más información vaya a www.thenyic.org/ready4relief

DAPA

ACCIÓN DIFERIDA PARA PADRES DE CIUDADANOS
ESTADOUNIDENSES Y DE RESIDENTES PERMANENTES LEGALES

**USTED PODRÍA CALIFICAR PARA UN PERMISO DE
TRABAJO SI:**



**Tiene un hijo/a nacido en EE.UU. o que
posee residencia permanente (tarjeta
verde)**



**Ha vivido continuamente en los estados
Unidos desde 1 de Enero de 2010**



**Estuvo presente en los EE.UU. y sin
estado migratorio en 20 de Noviembre del
2014**



Para más información vaya a www.thenyic.org/ready4relief



GUIDE TO THE NEW YORK

You may register to vote at age 17 as long as you will be 18 by the end of the year.

2

Write the address where you live in Box 8.
To receive mail at a different address, write it in Box 9.

8

If you are homeless:

9

- write a location where you can be found, such as “Bench in Central Park on 86th Street”, in Box 8.
- write an address where you can receive mail, such as a shelter or P.O. Box in 9.

If you are updating your voter registration, fill in your previous name, address, or county/state to help the BOE find your existing registration.

12

You can choose one of the parties listed, write in the name of a party, or choose not to enroll in any party. You must enroll in one of the listed parties to vote in that parties’ primary elections.

14

You may change your party once a year by completing a new registration form and submitting it no less than 25 days before the general election.

If you are unable to vote at your poll site on Election Day, check the box to receive an Absentee Ballot application. You may request an Absentee Ballot from the BOE after registering to vote whether or not you check this box.

15

! Qualifications

1

Are you a citizen of the U.S.
If you answer *No*, you cannot

2

Will you be 18 years of age or older on or before election day?
If you answer *No*, you cannot

Your name

3

Last name

First name

More information

Items 6 & 7 are optional

4

Birth date | M | M | D | D

6

Phone | | | - | | |

The address where you live

8

Address (not P.O. box)

Apt. Number

City/Town/Village

New York State County

The address where you receive mail

Skip if same as above

9

Address or P.O. box

P.O. Box

City/Town/Village

Voting history

10

Have you voted before?

Voting information that has changed

Skip if this has not changed or you have not voted before

12

Your name was

Your address was

Your previous state or New York

Identification

You must make 1 selection

For questions, please refer to *Verifying your identity* above.

13

☐ New York State DMV number

☐ Last four digits of your Social Security number

☐ I do not have a New York State ID

Political party

You must make 1 selection

To vote in a primary election, you must be enrolled in one of these listed parties—except the Independence Party, which permits non-enrolled voters to participate in certain primary elections.

14

☐ Democratic party

☐ Republican party

☐ Conservative party

☐ Working Families party

☐ Independence party

☐ Green party

☐ Other

☐ I do not wish to enroll in a party

Optional questions

15

☐ I need to apply for an Absentee ballot

☐ I would like to be an Election Day worker

WRITE LEGIBLY IN BLUE INK

STATE VOTER REGISTRATION FORM

...? ☐ Yes ☐ No
...t register to vote.

...or
...ay? ☐ Yes ☐ No
...t register to vote unless you will be 18 by the end of the year.

Suffix
Middle Initial

/ Y Y Y Y Y 5 Sex ☐ M ☐ F
7 Email

Zip code

Zip code

☐ Yes ☐ No 11 What year?

...w York State County was

...nber

...cial Security number x x x - x x -

...State driver's license or a Social Security number.

16 **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.

Sign

Date

1 You must be a citizen to register to vote.

3 Your name must match the name on your ID.

6 Writing your phone number and/or email allows the Board of Elections (BOE) to contact you if there are any problems with your registration form. It is not required.

7

10 If you are updating your voter registration, this information will help the BOE locate your voting record. It is not required.

11

13 Provide either a New York State ID number or the last 4 digits of your social security number.

If you don't have either, check the third box. The first time you vote, you will be need to present 2 forms of identification at the poll site: (1) a photo ID and (2) a proof of address, such as an electric or gas bill that shows your name and address.

16 Please read the terms of the affidavit carefully before you sign and date to validate your form.

Someone can assist you with filling out the rest of the form, but you must sign it yourself.

USE OR BLACK INK!

PROCESS FOR SUBMITTING REGISTRATION FORMS

Thank you for participating in the first annual Student Voter Registration Day! The workshop facilitator will collect the voter registration forms and submit to NYC Votes for processing.

If there are students who wish to submit their poll worker or absentee ballot applications after the workshop, the forms can be mailed in directly to the Board of Elections. See below the list of NYC Board of Elections offices.

Bronx

1780 Grand Concourse, 5th Floor
Bronx, NY 10457
Tel: 1.718.299.9017
Fax: 1.718.299.2140
Hours of Operation: 9am – 5pm

Brooklyn

345 Adams Street, 4th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Tel: 1.718.797.8800
Fax: 1.718.246.5958
Hours of Operation: 9am – 5pm

Queens

126-06 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
Tel: 1.718.730.6730
Fax: 1.718.459.3384
Hours of Operation: 9am – 5pm

Manhattan

200 Varick Street, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10014
Tel: 1.212.886.2100
Fax: 1.646.638.2047
Hours of Operation: 9am – 5pm

Staten Island

1 Edgewater Plaza, 4th Floor
Staten Island, NY 10305
Tel: 1.718.876.0079
Fax: 1.718.876.0912
Hours of Operation: 9am – 5pm

Helpful Links

http://www.nycctb.info/PDF/issue_reports/WhoVotes.pdf

<http://www.sos.wv.gov/elections/civics/Documents/Why%20is%20Voting%20important.pdf>

<http://4h.msue.msu.edu/uploads/files/GovernmentUsCurriculum.pdf>

<http://www.rockthevote.com/get-informed/elections/frequently-asked-questions/>

<https://votesmart.org/education/vocabulary#.VLghvyvF9ql>

http://gothamist.com/2014/04/23/make_under_40k_good_luck_renting_an.php

<http://nypost.com/2014/06/18/4-nyc-neighborhoods-boasting-rentals-for-less-than-2k-a-month/>

http://gothamist.com/2013/07/08/wtf_does_nyccs_comptroller_do.php

<http://blogs.wsj.com/numbers/congratulations-to-class-of-2014-the-most-indebted-ever-1368/>

Stay Connected

For more information on voting and elections in NYC, find us on Facebook and Twitter @NYCVOTES!
To contact NYC Votes, email us at nycvotes@nycctb.info.

Special thanks to the following participating schools:

Belmont Preparatory High School
Boys & Girls High School
Brooklyn Technical High School
Bronx Leadership Academy
Community Health Academy of the Heights
CUNY Prep
Eleanor Roosevelt High School
Frank McCourt High School
George Washington Carver High School for the Sciences
Global Learning Collaborative
High School for Enterprise, Business, and Technology
Humanities & Arts Magnet High School
Innovation Diploma Plus High School
KAPPA International High School
Lehman High School
New Explorers Academy
Park East High School
Port Richmond High School
Progress High School for Professional Careers
School for Legal Studies
St. Joseph by the Sea High School
Tottenville High School
Urban Assembly School for Careers in Sports
Urban Assembly School for Performing Arts