VOTING IN NYC

FOR THE

FORMERLY INCARCERATED

A GUIDE

nyc votes

ALL OF OUR CIVIL LIBERTIES AND RIGHTS DEPEND ON OUR ABILITY TO VOTE!
DO YOU KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS?
MYTH
You can’t vote if you have a criminal record.

FACT
In New York, you have the right to vote even if you have a criminal record depending on certain conditions.

Did You Know?
On April 18, 2018, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo issued Executive Order 181. Under the order, the New York State Department of Corrections must submit a list of parolees to the Governor’s Office for review. Each individual will be considered for a pardon, which will then restore their voting rights.

To learn more about the executive order, visit
What is a Misdemeanor?

A misdemeanor is a criminal offense that is considered less serious than a felony. Misdemeanors are punishable by 15 days to 1 year in jail and/or up to $1,000 in fines, while felony convictions can result in lengthy prison sentences. If you have been convicted of a misdemeanor, you can still vote or register to vote.

What is a Felony?

A felony is a more serious criminal offense and is punishable by prison sentences over 1 year. Being convicted of a felony could result in the loss of your voting rights.
How to Know if You Can Vote

Are you currently serving prison time?

Yes
You do not yet have the right to vote.

No
Are you on parole?
Go to Page 5.
Are you on probation?
Go to Page 4.
Are You Currently on Probation?

You have the right to vote!

If you were previously registered to vote, your voter record should still be active. To check if you’re registered, go to voting.nyc.

If this is your first time registering to vote, go to page 5 to find out how to register.
Are You Currently on Parole?

If you are currently on parole, but you have been pardoned, you have the right to vote. Check on the status of your pardon from the governor at www.doccs.ny.gov/ParoleeLookup/Lookup.aspx (look for the Voting Restoration Pardon indicator).

If you have NOT been pardoned, you will not have the right to vote until you have completed your parole. But, you can have your voting rights restored if you apply for a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities or a Certificate of Good Conduct. To learn more, ask your parole officer.

Registering to Vote

- Go to voting.nyc and click on “Voter Registration” to download a registration form from the Board of Elections (BOE). Once you’ve filled it out, mail it into your local BOE office. You can also register in person to vote at your local BOE office.

- You should receive a confirmation from the BOE in the mail within a few weeks after registering. You can also find out if you’re registered by going to voterlookup.elections.ny.gov or calling the BOE at 212-487-5400.
Additional Voting Rights Resources

Restoring Voting Rights
www.brennancenter.org/issues/restoring-voting-rights

Voting Rights Restoration Efforts in New York
www.brennancenter.org/analysis/voting-rights-restoration-efforts-new-york

Voting Rights for Ex-Offenders

Voting Rights of New Yorkers with Felony Convictions
BOE OFFICE LOCATIONS

1. Bronx  1780 Grand Concourse, 5 Fl, Bronx, NY 10457 (718-299-9017)
2. Brooklyn  345 Adams Street, 4 Fl, Brooklyn, NY 11201 (718-797-8800)
3. Queens  118-35 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, NY 11375 (718-730-6730)
4. Manhattan  200 Varick Street, 10 Fl, New York, NY 10014 (212-886-2100)
5. Staten Island  1 Edgewater Plaza, 4 Fl, Staten Island, NY 10305 (718-876-0079)