

BRENNAN
CENTER
FOR JUSTICE

CAN I VOTE?

Frequently Asked Questions by People with Criminal Records in New York

Can I vote in New York if I'm on probation?

Yes. Anyone who is on probation, even if convicted of a felony, may register and vote in New York as long as they meet the other eligibility requirements described below.

Can I vote in New York if I've been convicted of a felony?

Maybe. You may vote if you were convicted of a felony but not sentenced to serve time in prison. You may also vote if you have already served your maximum prison sentence, been discharged from parole, or been pardoned. You may *not* vote if you have been convicted of a felony and are currently serving time in prison or are currently on parole.

Can I vote in New York if I'm in jail?

Maybe. You may vote if you were convicted of a misdemeanor or if you are charged with a felony and are awaiting trial or disposition of your case.

What are the other requirements to be eligible to vote in New York?

At the time of the election, you must be at least 18 years old, a United States citizen, and a New York resident.

How do I register to vote?

You must complete a voter registration form and sign the sworn affirmation that is contained in the form. Then you must mail or deliver the form to your local county Board of Elections. The address for the New York City Board of Elections is 32 Broadway, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10004.

How do I get a voter registration form?

Voter registration forms are available at the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Board of Elections and many other state agencies. In New York City, registration forms should also be available at all city correctional facilities, probation offices, community boards and other city agencies. They are also available on the internet at www.vote.nyc.ny.us and www.elections.state.ny.us.

Do I have to have a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities or other documentation about my criminal history in order to register to vote?

No. You do not need to provide any documentation about your criminal history in order to register.

What address should I put on the voter registration form if I am in jail?

You should put your permanent home address on the registration form, not the address of the facility where you are incarcerated.

How do I vote if I'm in jail?

You must request an absentee ballot from the Board of Elections. To obtain an absentee ballot you must first submit an absentee ballot application. In New York City, an application should be available at your facility, on the internet at www.vote.nyc.ny.us, or you can call 1-866-VOTE-NYC. Outside of New York City, contact your local county Board of Elections or visit www.elections.state.ny.us.