



## Stand4Food: VOTER REGISTRATION

### OVERVIEW

For more Information contact:  
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**State Primary Voter Registration Deadline:**  
August 15, 2013

Thank you for hosting a Voter Registration drive for the upcoming elections! With your help, more New Yorkers will be able to exercise the right to have their say. Food Bank is here to assist you in conducting a successful non-partisan Voter Registration drive.

#### Why is hosting a voter registration drive important?

- With a network serving over 1.4 million New Yorkers, we have an obligation to ensure that our clients are informed on their right to vote.
- 2014 Elections are for U.S. Congress, New York State Governor, New York State Attorney General, New York State Senate, New York State Assembly, and School Boards
- Voting empowers community members to take a stand on issues that directly affect them.
- By hosting voter registration drives, and *reporting our collective outreach success*, we can help show the power and connectedness of the anti-hunger community.
- Voter Registration Forms are free to mail and used for: voter registration, change of name or address, political party enrollment

Food Bank, along with our friends at *New York City Campaign Finance Board: NYC Votes*, are providing **Voter Registration Forms, Absentee Ballot Applications, Poll Worker Applications**, and an **Information Toolkit**, enclosed. Additional copies of the toolkit can be found at [www.foodbanknyc.org/stand4food](http://www.foodbanknyc.org/stand4food). The provided Absentee Ballot and Poll Worker Applications expedite the application process, however are NOT postage paid – applicants must mail or submit in person to borough specific Board of Elections offices, as indicated on the forms.

We encourage you to hold voter registration drives *before August 15, 2014* in order for voters to participate in the primary election. **Once your drive is complete, please submit your tally form as soon as possible.**

Please review the **Information Toolkit** with your staff or volunteers running the drive:

- Non-Partisan Voter Drive Do's and Don'ts
- Host Checklist, Talking Points and Frequently Asked Questions
- Voter Rights – eligibility rights for special populations
- Voter Registration and Poll Worker Posters
- Tally Form – can also be submitted online [www.foodbanknyc.org/stand4food](http://www.foodbanknyc.org/stand4food)

Important Dates to Remember	
Last day to register to vote in the New York State Primary Election	August 15
New York State Primary (state and local offices)	September 9
Last day to register to vote in the General Election	October 10
General Election Day	November 4

We are excited to work with you this election season! Together, we can #Stand4Food!



## **Stand4Food: Voter Registration Non-Partisan “Do’s & Don’ts”**

What does “**nonpartisan**” mean?

- Does not support or oppose – directly or indirectly – any particular candidate or party.
- Strictly a good-government effort promoting pure democracy.

### **DO**

- Promote the democratic process and explain the importance of voting. Share your enthusiasm for voter participation!
- Encourage *everyone* to register – don’t make assumptions about whether people are eligible by how they look.
- Walk people through the registration form, step by step, and explain what information they need to provide.
- Remind people about when Election Day is, when the polls are open, and how they can find out where to vote.
- Keep track of how many people you register to vote on your tally sheet.

### **DON’T**

- Wear or carry any clothing or accessories with political messages – no buttons, pins, t-shirts, bags, etc.
- Engage in discussions about candidates or political parties.
  - You can direct individuals to the Campaign Finance Board’s website ([www.nyccfb.info](http://www.nyccfb.info)) for information about the candidates.
- Answer any questions about your own party registration or how you plan to vote.
- Ask any questions about a person’s views about candidates or political parties, even if you are only trying to entice them to register.



# Stand4Food: 2014 Voter Registration Drive Host Checklist

## Step 1: Before the Drive

- Set up voter registration table with the following materials – please provide pens:
    - Pre-ordered by Agency:
      - Voter registration forms in appropriate languages
      - Absentee ballot applications
      - Poll worker applications
    - Provided in Toolkit:
      - Tally Form
      - Posters
      - Voting rights – Criminal records fact sheet
      - Voting rights – Homelessness fact sheet
      - English/Spanish “Register to Vote HERE” sign
  - Review talking points (other side) with staff and volunteers
  - Review Frequently Asked Questions with staff and volunteers
  - Review (1) Voting Rights – Criminal Records Fact Sheet and (2) Voting Rights – Homelessness Fact Sheet with volunteers and staff
  - Provide volunteers with Tally Form for recording number of voter registration forms filled out
  - Don't forget to schedule staff/volunteers breaks!
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## Step 2: During the Drive

- Check on drive volunteers/staff periodically
  - Remind volunteers to take breaks as needed (ensure all posts are covered at all times)
  - Remind everyone to keep tally of the number of completed voter registration on the Tally Form
- 

## Step 3: After the Drive

- Thank volunteers/staff for their hard work, give brief overview on importance of voter registration
- Check that the # of voter registration forms completed matches the # on the **Tally Form**
- Mail completed voter registration forms – no postage necessary for Voter Registration Forms
  - Forms can also be dropped off in person at your boroughs Board of Elections office
  - Absentee Ballot and Poll Worker Applications must be postmarked and mailed to borough Board of Elections Office
    - Borough Board of Election Offices are listed on each form
- Please submit **Tally Form** online, email or mail as soon as possible after you are done to:
  - [www.foodbanknyc.org/stand4food](http://www.foodbanknyc.org/stand4food)
  - Food Bank For New York City, Attn: Nicholas Buess
  - 39 Broadway, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10006
  - Email: [nbuess@foodbanknyc.org](mailto:nbuess@foodbanknyc.org)
  - Phone: 212.566.7855 x2249
  - Fax: 212.566.1463
- Pack up voter registration table



# Stand4Food: 2014 Voter Registration Drive Host Talking Points

## Important Dates

- Primary Election – September 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Deadline to register for Primary Election – August 15<sup>th</sup>
- General Election – November 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Deadline to register for General Election – October 10<sup>th</sup>
- 2014 elections are for
  - U.S. Congress Members
  - New York State Governor, Attorney General, New York State Senate and Assembly
  - School Boards

## 4 Steps for Registering Voters

### Step 1: Proper Opening

- “Good Morning/Afternoon/ Evening/ Hello and May I assist you in registering to vote today?”
- “May I assist you with updating your voting records such as: Have you moved? / Have you changed your name? / Will you be out of town on Election Day?”

### Step 2: Filling Out the Form (Note: there are two versions of the form, both work, but they have different box #'s)

- Fill out entire voter registration form, pay close attention to:
  - Box # 1: Applicant *must* be a US citizen to register to vote.
  - Box #7 & Box # 8: Applicant must include full address and/or location where they receive mail. (*Please see Voting Rights – Homelessness Fact Sheet for more information regarding homeless populations and proof of address.*)
  - Box # 12: Applicant should include his/her DMV number (non-driver's license, driver's license, or permit) OR the last four digits of their social security number.
    - If an applicant does not have either of these numbers check “I do not have a New York State driver's license or a Social Security number.” And inform them that they are required to bring a photo ID and proof of address (utility bill or shelter letter) to their poll site on Election Day.
  - Box # 13: It is the choice of the applicant of whether or not they would like to join a political party.
    - Volunteers are not allowed to sway applicant to register for any political party.
    - If applicants have questions about political parties encourage them to do some research online or at their local library.
    - To vote in a primary election you must be a registered voter in that political party.
  - Box # 14: Explain the requirements of absentee voting and ask applicant if they need to apply for an absentee ballot. If so, suggest that they complete onsite an absentee ballot application rather than waiting to receive one in the mail.
  - Box # 15: Applicant *must* sign and date the application for the form to be valid.

### Step 3: Review the Form

- Review the form to ensure that all of the boxes have been completed and that the form is signed and dated.

### Step 4: Congratulations!

- Congratulate the applicant on registering to vote!
- Inform the applicant that they will receive a voter confirmation card and their poll site location in the mail in 2-3 weeks.



## **Stand4Food: Voter Registration Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is a primary election?**

- A primary election determines which candidate will receive a party's nomination for an elected office, and is only held when two or more candidates have successfully completed all the steps to get on the ballot for the primary. The winner of a primary election runs as the party's nominee in the general election held in November. You can only vote in a primary election held by the party YOU belong to. For example, if you are a registered member of the Working Families Party, you can only vote in the Working Families Party primary, not the Democratic or Republican primary.

### **Do I need to register to a party to vote in a primary election? What happens if I don't choose a party?**

- In order to vote in a primary election you must be registered to a political party – except the Independence Party which permits non-registered voters to participate in certain primary elections.
- If you do not choose a party you simply are not permitted to vote in a primary election, however you are permitted to vote in a general election.

### **How can I change what political party I am registered in?**

- You can change your party registration by filling out a Voter Registration Form, indicating the change, and mailing it in. You will receive a new voter card reflecting the change in party in the mail.

### **What is a general election and can I vote in that?**

- In the general election, candidates from different parties compete to win elected office. You can vote for any candidate running on any party line for each office on the ballot. You can also vote "yes" or "no" on ballot proposals. All voters who registered by the deadline are eligible to vote in the general election.

### **I don't know if I'm registered to vote--how can I find out?**

- Use the *Voter Registration Look-up* (run by the NY State Board of Elections) to check your registration status online, or call the *voter hotline* for assistance.

### **Could my registration have expired?**

- Your registration has no expiration date, but it may have been cancelled if you moved and did not update your address with the BOE.

### **What if I moved (within New York City) since the last time I voted?**

- When you move, New York State law requires you to change your address with the BOE within 25 days. You do this by submitting a new voter registration form and filling in the information on the form, including information in the box labeled "Voting information that has changed." Fill in your new and old address, check the box for the party you wish to be enrolled in (do this even if you were enrolled in a party at your old address), and provide any other requested information. If you moved but you didn't change your address before the deadline, you should go to your NEW polling place and vote by affidavit ballot. Call the voter hotline to find out whether your change of address has been processed.

**What if they can't find my name on the list when I sign in to vote?**

- First, make sure you are signing in at the correct table for your assembly and election district. These district numbers are printed on the mailing label of your Voter Guide and provided on the mailer the BOE sends to all registered voters each August. A poll worker is available at each poll site to look up your name and address and determine which district you live in if you need assistance.

Once you confirm that you are signing in at the correct table, if you are not on the poll list, it may be because the BOE did not receive your registration form. If you believe that you are eligible, you can still vote. Ask a poll worker for an **affidavit 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 with a registration form for future elections.

**What if I can't get to my polling place on Election Day?**

- Registered voters who cannot make it to their polling site on Election Day because of occupation, business, studies, travel, imprisonment (other than a convicted felon), illness, disability, hospitalization, or residence in a long-term care facility can vote by absentee ballot. There are two ways to vote by absentee ballot: by mail or in person. Find out more here.

**Please note:** If the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot by mail has passed and you cannot appear at your poll site on Election Day because of an accident or sudden illness, then you may send a representative to your borough office with a written letter of authorization to receive an absentee ballot on your behalf. A completed application and your completed ballot must be returned to the BOE office in your borough by 9:00 p.m. on Election Day.

**Do I have to fill out the organ donor portion of the voter registration form?**

- No, you may simply leave this portion of the form blank if you choose not to fill it out.

**Can I vote if I am on parole?**

- No, however you can vote if you are on probation.

\*Please see the Voting Rights - Criminal Records Fact Sheet for more information.



## VOTER REGISTRATION TRAINING

### Common Reasons for not Registering to Vote and Possible Responses

Reason	Possible Responses
My vote doesn't make a difference.	Your vote could be the very one that makes a difference, especially in low turn-out elections. Politicians know and pay attention to people and communities that vote.
I've never gotten around to it.	It only takes a couple of minutes. Here's the registration form. I can help you fill it out.
I don't know how or where to register.	You can register here. Just fill out this form and we can put it in the mail for you. I can help you fill it out.
I don't want to be called for jury duty.	Voter registration is not the only way they pick people for jury duty. They also use other lists – like driver's license lists – and that doesn't stop anyone from driving.
I'm disgusted with politics/politicians.	If you don't vote, you can't complain. - or - Then change it! You have the power to change the situation. If you don't vote, it will never change. - or - Politicians make decisions every day that affect your life. Wouldn't you like to have some control over those decisions?
I don't know if I can vote.	If you are a US citizen, over age 18 on Election Day, and are not now incarcerated, you can vote.
I don't pay attention to politics; it has nothing to do with me.	The decisions politicians make – the quality of schools, your health care, jobs and the economy – affect you and your family every day.
My husband takes care of that.	Your husband's vote is very important, but so is yours.

# YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

EVEN IF YOU HAVE A CRIMINAL RECORD

Can I register and vote in New York if I have a criminal record?

## YES:

If you...

- ➔ Are on **probation**; or
- ➔ Were **not sentenced to prison** or had your **prison sentence suspended**; or
- ➔ **Served your maximum prison sentence**; or
- ➔ Were **discharged from parole**; or
- ➔ Were **pardoned**; or
- ➔ Were **convicted of a misdemeanor**

## NO:

If you...

- ➔ Are **currently incarcerated**; or
- ➔ Are **under parole supervision**

## OTHER QUESTIONS:

Do the same rules apply if I have a federal felony conviction?

**YES**

Do the same rules apply if I have a felony conviction in another state?

**YES**, if the conviction would be a felony in New York.

Can I register and vote if I am in a county jail?

**YES**, but you need an absentee ballot.

Do I have to re-register after my felony conviction?

**YES**, if you were sentenced to prison, after you serve your maximum sentence or are discharged from parole.

- ★ To be eligible to vote in the 2008 general election on November 4, your county board of elections must have your completed voter registration form by October 10, 2008.
- ★ To download a voter registration form or to find out where your county board of elections office is located, visit [www.elections.state.ny.us/](http://www.elections.state.ny.us/)
- ★ For more information about felony disfranchisement, visit the New York Civil Liberties Union website at [www.nyclu.org/vote](http://www.nyclu.org/vote)



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[www.brennancenter.org](http://www.brennancenter.org)





# Your Right to Vote in New York State: Homeless Individuals

## *Do homeless people have the right to vote?*

**YES.** In 1984 a federal court in New York explicitly found that homeless persons could not be denied the right to vote just because they did not live in a traditional residence.

The Coalition for the Homeless filed a lawsuit that guaranteed the right to vote to homeless New Yorkers, whether they are living in shelters, in welfare hotels, or on the streets. All you need to do is list the address of the homeless shelter or drop-in center as your residential address. Otherwise, to be eligible to vote, you must:

- be a United States citizen
- be 18 years old by December 31 of the year in which you register (note: you must be 18 years old by the date of the general, primary or other election in which you want to vote)
- live at your present address at least 30 days before an election
- not be in jail or on parole for a felony conviction
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere
- have registered to vote.

## *Why Should I Vote?*

In order for our government to truly represent the people, citizens must vote.

- Voting defines our democracy.
- It is an expression of equality.
- It is your right.
- It doesn't matter if you are rich or poor.
- It gives you a voice in your community.
- When you don't vote, you allow others to speak for you.

## *Why do people not vote?*

Many potential voters say, "My vote doesn't count, and it doesn't directly affect my life." Others say that they do not vote because those with money can influence the government. Still others say that their own vote will not make a difference.

## *What are some reasons I should vote?*

Each election, low income and homeless individuals vote at a lower rate than people with higher incomes, despite the fact that many policy decisions directly impact people who are economically disadvantaged. Currently, issues such as raising the minimum wage and funding certain social welfare and housing programs are being debated in the U.S. Congress and in communities around the country.

**It is your tax money.** The winning candidate will decide how much of your money to allocate for public services, defense and taxes.

**It is your health care.** His or her decisions on healthcare issues, Medicaid and Medicare determine your health care benefits.

**It is your job.** The winning candidate may affect what job training is available, what health insurance is available through your employer, and fair hiring practices.

**It is your housing.** He or she may make decisions that influence housing subsidies and, most importantly, affordable housing.

**It is your social programs and services.** The candidate who wins the election makes decisions that affect how much money is given to public assistance and services such as substance abuse, counseling, HIV and others.

## *What should I say is my home/mailling address on the registration form?*

You should enter the location of where you stay at night, which can be a street corner, a park, a shelter, a bus station, or any other location. This address will be used by the board of elections to assign you to the appropriate polling location. In addition, you must provide a mailing address so that voter notification cards and other election materials may be sent to you. Having your mailing address also helps the boards of elections maintain current and accurate voter registration lists. The address you give as your mailing address

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League of Women Voters of New York State, 62 Grand Street, Albany, New York 12207

Telephone: 518-465-4162

Fax: 518-465-0812

E-Mail: [lwvny@lwvny.org](mailto:lwvny@lwvny.org)

Website: [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)

*\*\*The League of Women Voters of New York State is a unique, multi-issue, nonpartisan, political organization. It encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. \*\**

may be that of a local advocacy organization, shelter, outreach center, or anywhere else willing to accept mail on your behalf. Your mailing address does not have to be your residential address.

***What if I don't have the required identification?***

If you register by mail, in order for the board of elections to verify your identity in advance of voting, you must provide a driver's license number or the last four digits of your Social Security number on your voter registration form. If you don't have these numbers or they can't be verified, first-time mail-in registrants must provide another identification document, and should bring it with them to the polls. Acceptable identification for first-time mail-in registrants includes a current and valid photo ID, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. *Since first-time mail-in registrants may have to provide some sort of identifying documentation at the polls, homeless registrants without any of the documents listed above may want to register to vote in person at their local board of elections or other registration location, such as a state agency office (the Department of Motor Vehicles for example).*

***What if I am not on the rolls at the polling place?***

Ask the poll worker for an affidavit ballot, and ask them how to follow up to make sure that your registration information is correctly on file.

***How do I register to vote?***

You need to fill out and submit a Voter Registration form. You may register in person at your local board of elections or at any state agency participating in the National Voter Registration Act, on any business day throughout the year. You may also register by mail. Forms are available from your county board of elections, town and city halls, post offices, political parties, various state offices, and the League of Women Voters. Contact the League of Women Voters of New York State - 1-866-LWVNY1, the New York State Board of Elections - 1-800-FOR-VOTE, or your county board of elections to have a voter registration form sent to you. You may also download a voter registration form in New York State from <http://www.elections.state.ny.us/>. Complete, sign, and submit the form, either in person or by mail.

***If I register to vote, will I be called for jury duty?***

The rolls of prospective jurors are compiled from a number of sources, so registering to vote does not necessarily mean that you will be called. Similarly, *not* registering to vote does not necessarily mean that you will *not* be called for jury duty. If you are called and feel that you cannot serve, jurors can often be excused for a valid health reason.

***To obtain a Voter Registration form or Absentee Ballot Application form, or to find out dates for the elections, for registering, for filing absentee ballot applications and submitting ballots:***

- Call the NYS Board of Elections at 1-800-367-8683, or download the forms/calendar from the web site for the New York State Board of Elections (<http://www.elections.state.ny.us/>).
- Call, write to, or download forms/calendar from the web site for your local county board of elections. You can get their contact information from the NYS Board of Elections.
- Call your local League of Women Voters, or the League of Women Voters of New York State at 518-465-4162 or toll free at 1-866-598-6971, or go to our web site at <http://www.lwvny.org/>.

***To check your voter registration status:***

You should receive in the mail before the election a card that informs you of your polling place. If you do not receive such a card, call your local board of elections and ask them:

1. Am I registered to vote?
2. Is my registration status set to "Active"? If not, to what is it set?
3. Will my name appear in the polling place roll book on Election Day?

***If you are not on the rolls at your polling place:***

If you believe you are registered to vote and are not on the rolls, ask for an "affidavit" (paper) ballot, and ask the poll worker for advisement about following up on your status. You are legally entitled to an affidavit (paper) ballot and must be given one.

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***League of Women Voters of New York State, 62 Grand Street, Albany, New York 12207***

***Telephone: 518-465-4162***

***Fax: 518-465-0812***

***E-Mail: [lwvny@lwvny.org](mailto:lwvny@lwvny.org)***

***Website: [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)***

**EARN \$500**

**AS A**

**POLL WORKER**



**REGISTER TO  
VOTE HERE**



# INSCRIBIRSE PARA VOTAR AQUÍ





# **REGISTER TO VOTE!**



## **Are YOU Eligible?**

### **YES if...**

- ✓ You are a citizen of the United States (Includes those born in Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands)
- ✓ You have been a NYC resident for at least 30 days
- ✓ You are 18 years of age before the next election
- ✓ You are not serving a jail sentence or be on parole for a felony conviction
- ✓ You are not determined mentally incompetent by a court
- ✓ You have not claimed the right to vote elsewhere (outside New York City)



## Voter Registration Tally Form

<b>Date:</b>		<b>EFRO #:</b>	
<b>Agency Name:</b>			
<b>Address:</b>			
<b>Borough:</b>		<b>Zip Code:</b>	
<b>Primary Contact for Voter Registration Drive</b>			
<b>Name:</b>		<b>Title:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Voter Registration Drive Schedule</b>			
<b>Voter Registration Drive Location</b>			

Voter Registration Forms completed and returned onsite				Voter Reg. Forms Distributed (Not Completed Onsite)	Poll Worker Applications		Absentee Ballots Applications	
New Voters	Change of Address	Change of Party	Total Forms collected onsite		Completed and collected onsite	Distributed	Completed and collected onsite	Distributed

*Information above to be filled out immediately after Voter Registration drive*

### How To Submit

**Online:** Forms can be filled out and submitted at [www.foodbanknyc.org/stand4food](http://www.foodbanknyc.org/stand4food)

**Via Email:** Please complete this form and send back to [nbuess@foodbanknyc.org](mailto:nbuess@foodbanknyc.org). In the subject line please write: "2014 Voter Registration Drive Tally"

**Via Fax:** If you wish, you may fax your request to 212.566.1463. Please include a cover page that indicates the total number of pages sent and please address to "Government Relations".