



2020 ✓ GENERAL ELECTION VOTING BASICS

I am a voter in Suffolk County. What are my options for the 2020 General Election?

ABSENTEE VOTING: If you do not wish to vote in person, you may vote with an absentee ballot. There are several ways to request an absentee ballot. You may apply for an absentee ballot:

- Online by October 27: (absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov).
- By mail postmarked by October 27 (that is, no later than 7 days before November 3rd, Election Day). You can pick up an absentee ballot application at the Reference desk of the Patchogue-Medford Library, or print one out at: suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/BOE/InvitationtoBid.
- By phone (631-852-4515), fax (631-852-4590), or e-mail (Absentee.voters@suffolkcountyny.gov) by October 27: visit suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/BOE/Absentee-Voting-FAQ for further details.
- In person during office hours at the Suffolk County Board of Elections by November 2 (address: 700 Yaphank Avenue, Yaphank, NY 11980; phone number: 631-852-4500)
Note on the October 27th deadline to apply for an absentee ballot by mail: The Post Office has advised that they cannot guarantee timely delivery of ballots applied for less than 15 days before an election.¹ So if you plan to ask for the ballot to be mailed to you, the sooner the better!

Once you have completed, signed, and sealed your absentee ballot and are ready to vote, you have options:

- If you would like to return your absentee ballot by mail, it must be postmarked by November 3rd.
- You may drop off your absentee ballot in person at any of 12 Early Voting Sites in Suffolk County between October 24th and November 1st. For the list of sites and hours, see pg. 4 of this document or visit: suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/BOE/Early-Voting-Sites-11-3-2020.
- You may drop off your absentee ballot to the Suffolk County Board of Elections during hours of operation through November 3rd.
- You may drop off your absentee ballot at a polling location during voting hours on Election Day, November 3rd.

The Suffolk County Board of Elections is located at: 700 Yaphank Avenue, Yaphank, NY 11980; phone number, 631-852-4500. For more on absentee voting and other voting-related information, visit: suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/BOE/Absentee-Voting-FAQ.

EARLY VOTING: Early voting is available to registered voters in Suffolk County from October 24th through November 1st at any of 12 Early Voting Sites listed by the Suffolk County Board of Elections. Hours vary throughout the week. For a complete list of Early Voting locations in Suffolk County, see pg. 4 of this document, or visit: suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/BOE/Early-Voting-Sites-11-3-2020.

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY: You can vote at your assigned polling place on Election Day, November 3rd, from 6:00am-9:00pm! To find your regular polling location, use the Voter Lookup tool provided at the New York State website: voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/.

¹ <https://www.ny.gov/early-voting-and-absentee-voting-mail-or-dropbox>

Do I qualify to vote absentee?

Registered voters are eligible to receive an absentee ballot for the following reasons:

- Absence from Suffolk County on Election Day;
- Temporary illness or disability including instances where a voter is unable to appear personally at the polling place because there is a risk of contracting or spreading a disease like COVID-19;
- Permanent illness or physical disability;
- Duties related to primary care of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled;
- Resident or patient of a Veterans Health Administration Hospital; or
- Detention in a jail/prison, awaiting trial, awaiting action by a grand jury, or in a prison for a conviction of a crime or offense which is not a felony.²

If I vote absentee by mail, is there anything I should know about the timing of when my ballot is received?

The USPS recommends allowing enough time for ballots to be returned to the Suffolk County Board of Elections, which is generally 7 days ahead of the general election. New York State requires your ballot to be both postmarked by November 3, 2020 and received by the Board by November 10, 2020. Voters who mail in their ballots on Election Day must be aware of the posted collection times on collection boxes/at Postal Service retail facilities; ballots entered after the last posted collection time will not be postmarked until the following business day.³

Can I drop off an absentee ballot on Election Day?

Even if you request or cast and return an absentee ballot, you may still go to the polls and vote in person. The Election Law recognizes that plans change. The Board of Elections is required to check the poll book before canvassing any absentee ballot. If the voter comes to the poll site, on Election Day or during early voting and votes in person, the absentee ballot is set aside and not counted.⁴

I'm not sure I'm registered to vote. Is there a quick way to check?

Check your voting status in Suffolk County using the New York State voter lookup tool: voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/.

If your name does not appear when you search and you believe you are registered to vote, contact the Board of Elections.

- Suffolk County Board of Elections / PO Box 700 / 700 Yaphank Avenue / Yaphank, NY 11980
- 631-852-4500
- BOEInfo@suffolkcountyny.gov

For a complete list of New York State County Boards of Elections: elections.ny.gov/countyboards.html.

Can I apply to become a poll worker?

Yes! Poll workers are needed. To inquire about becoming a poll worker during this year's General Election, fill out the form here: elections.ny.gov/BecomePollworkerForm.html.

(This form is specifically for poll worker inquiries in New York State **outside** of NYC).

² <https://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/BOE/Absentee-Voting-FAQ>

³ <https://www.elections.ny.gov/votingabsentee.html>

⁴ <https://www.elections.ny.gov/votingabsentee.html>

If I go to cast my ballot in person for the 2020 General Election, what COVID-19 safety measures can I expect will be in effect?

You are required to wear a mask/face covering and maintain 6 feet of distance when entering any Board of Elections facility or voting poll site. Booths, privacy sleeves and pens will be continuously sanitized.⁵

I just moved to a different address within New York State and would like to update my voter registration address. How do I do that?

To update your address, use the Voter Registration Form (the same form used for first-time registration). Copies are available at the Reference desk of the Patchogue-Medford Library, or can be printed from the Suffolk County Board of Elections website: suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/BOE/InvitationtoBid. You may also use the DMV Electronic Voter Registration Application to make changes to your voter information: dmv.ny.gov/more-info/electronic-voter-registration-application. Notices of change of address from registered voters received at least 20 days before a special, primary or general election by a county board of elections must be processed and entered in the records in time for that election.⁶

Am I eligible to vote?

Eligibility requirements in New York State include:

- be a United States citizen;
- be 18 years old (you may pre-register at 16 or 17 but cannot vote until you are 18);
- be a resident of this state and the county, city or village for at least 30 days before the election;
- not be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction (unless parolee pardoned or restored rights of citizenship);
- not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court;
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere.⁷

If I am not registered to vote, can I register to vote AND cast my ballot for the 2020 general election on the same day in New York State?

At present, New York does not have same-day voter registration. Your registration must be completed in advance of your vote. [The NY voter registration deadline for the 2020 General Election is October 9th, 2020!](#)

Where do I go to vote if I plan to vote in person on Election Day, November 3rd?

Voters who plan to vote in-person on Election Day will report to their local polling places to cast their ballots. Registered voters can find their polling location using the New York State Poll Site Search tool: voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/. If you are having trouble finding your information this way, or do not have access to a computer, you may also contact your Board of Elections for assistance.

⁵ <https://suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/BOE>

⁶ <https://www.elections.ny.gov/votingregister.html>

⁷ <https://www.elections.ny.gov/votingregister.html>

Where do I go to vote if I plan to vote in person during the Early Voting period (October 24th-November 1st)?

Voters who would like to vote in-person during the Early Voting period (October 24-November 1) may cast their ballot at any of 12 Early Voting Sites listed by the Suffolk County Board of Elections. See the list of locations below (note that hours vary). The site closest to the Patchogue-Medford area is Brookhaven Town Hall:

Early Voting Sites for General Election of November 3, 2020

Locations

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Babylon Town Hall Annex 281 Phelps Lane North Babylon NY 11703 | Brookhaven Town Hall 1 Independence Hill Farmingville NY 11738 | Dix Hills Fire Department 115 E Deer Park Road Dix Hills NY 11746 | Huntington Public Library (Station Branch) 1335 New York Avenue Huntington Station NY 11746 |
| Islip Town Hall Annex 401 Main Street Islip NY 11751 | Knights of Columbus 96 2nd Avenue Brentwood NY 11717 | Mastic Recreation Community Center 15 Herkimer Street Mastic NY 11950 | Nesconset Elementary School 29 Gibbs Pond Road Nesconset NY 11767 |
| Riverhead Senior Center 60 Shade Tree Lane Aquebogue NY 11931 | Southold Senior Center 750 Pacific Street Mattituck NY 11952 | Stony Brook University Southampton Campus 70 Tuckahoe Road Southampton NY 11968 | Windmill Village 219 Accabonac Road East Hampton NY 11937 |

| Date | Timings |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Saturday, October 24 | 10:00am - 3:00pm |
| Sunday, October 25 | 10:00am - 3:00pm |
| Monday, October 26 | 7:00am - 3:00pm |
| Tuesday, October 27 | 12:00pm - 8:00pm |
| Wednesday, October 28 | 8:00am - 4:00pm |
| Thursday, October 29 | 8:00am - 4:00pm |
| Friday, October 30 | 12:00pm - 8:00pm |
| Saturday, October 31 | 10:00am - 3:00pm |
| Sunday, November 1 | 10:00am - 3:00pm |

What will my ballot look like?

Visit the Reference desk at the Patchogue-Medford Library within 2 weeks of the election to familiarize yourself with the ballot. Libraries across Suffolk County receive all sample ballots from the Board of Elections of Suffolk County.

Who will be on the ballot?

The 2020 General Election will determine the next President and Vice-President of the United States. Depending on your location, various State and Local Races and/or propositions will also be on the ballot. Please visit the Library 2 weeks before the election to review your sample ballot before voting.

What do I need to bring with me when I go to vote?

Federal law requires persons who register by mail and are voting for the first time to provide identification, either on the Voter Registration Form or in person at the polling place. Identification usually means a current NYS driver's license or the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you do not have a current NYS driver's license, you need to provide the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you do not have either of these, you may provide a copy of a valid photo ID, or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or some other government documentation that shows your name and address. It's a good idea to bring your ID to the polls, especially if you registered by mail and are voting for the first time.⁸

What if I go to vote after having registered and my name does not appear on the rolls?

If your name does not appear on the voter rolls, ask a poll inspector to confirm that you are at the right table for your voting address. (If you recently registered to vote or updated your information, it is possible your name isn't listed because your form was not received by the deadline.) If your name is not on the list, ask for a provisional ballot!⁹

I am experiencing an issue at my polling place and would like to speak with someone about it. Who can I call for help?

For help when at the polls, call the non-partisan Election Protection Hotline at: 1-866-OUR-VOTE.

How does the Electoral College work?

Established in the Constitution, the Electoral College is a process that involves the meeting of electors selected to vote for President and Vice President, and the counting of the electoral votes by Congress. The Electoral College consists of 538 electors. A majority of 270 electoral votes is required to elect the President. Each state has the same number of electors as it does Members in its Congressional delegation: 1 for each Member in the House of Representatives, plus 2 Senators. (New York State has 29 electoral votes in the Electoral College.) Each candidate running for President has his or her own group of electors (known as a slate) in each state. To learn more about the process and procedures of the Electoral College (e.g., the selection of electors), visit: [archives.gov/electoral-college/about](https://www.archives.gov/electoral-college/about).¹⁰

I would like to learn more about voting in New York State and Suffolk County and/or the history of voting in the United States. Where can I start?

- **New York State Board of Elections:** elections.ny.gov
- **Suffolk County Board of Elections:** suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/BOE/InvitationtoBid
- **League of Women Voters of Suffolk County:** my.lwv.org/new-york/suffolk-county/voting
- **Propublica—A User's Guide to Democracy:** propublica.org/article/users-guide-to-democracy-last-minute-tips-for-figuring-out-your-ballot-and-making-sure-you-can-vote
- **Scholastic—A History of Voting:** scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/history-voting/
- **Voting & Electioneering – 1789 – 1899 – National Museum of American History:** americanhistory.si.edu/democracy-exhibition/machinery-democracy/voting-and-electioneering-1789%E2%80%931899
- **Voting Rights: A short History – The Carnegie Corporation of New York:** carnegie.org/topics/topic-articles/voting-rights/voting-rights-timeline/

⁸ <https://my.lwv.org/new-york/suffolk-county/voting>

⁹ <https://my.lwv.org/new-york/suffolk-county/voting>

¹⁰ <https://www.archives.gov/electoral-college/about>