

Know Your Rights

MOST NEW YORKERS WITH CONVICTION RECORDS ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

Can I vote if I have felony convictions? Yes – unless you are currently incarcerated on a felony sentence. All other New York state residents with felony convictions are now eligible to vote.

Can I vote if I am on parole? Yes. As of May 4, 2021, New Yorkers on parole or post-release supervision can register to vote as soon as you are released from incarceration.

Can I vote if I have only misdemeanor or violation convictions? Yes. Misdemeanor and violation convictions do not affect your right to vote in New York. This is true even if you are in jail or on probation.

Can I vote if have a federal conviction or a conviction from another state? Yes. If you are a New York State resident and have federal or out-of-state felony, misdemeanor, or violation convictions, you are eligible to vote unless you are currently incarcerated on a felony sentence.

Can I vote while I am incarcerated? Yes - unless you are incarcerated on a felony sentence. You are eligible to vote while serving a misdemeanor sentence or if you are incarcerated pre-sentence on any charges. You may be eligible to vote while serving a local jail sentence for a felony conviction if you have been granted a Certificate of Relief from Civil Disabilities for that conviction. If you are serving a felony sentence in state prison, you will not be eligible to vote until your release.

If I am eligible to vote in New York, can I vote in all elections – federal, state, and local? Yes.

If I am eligible to vote, do I need to register to vote? Yes. You must register to vote if you have never registered before or if you registered to vote before being sentenced to jail or prison for a felony conviction. You can register through the New York Department of Motor Vehicles website (<https://dmv.ny.gov/>), or by providing a paper form in person or by mail to your county board of elections. Paper registration forms are available by calling 1-800-FOR-VOTE.

How do I vote if I am in jail? If you are eligible and have registered to vote, you can cast your vote with an **absentee ballot**. In New York City, the Department of Correction is required to provide both voter registration forms and absentee ballots to eligible people in jail. If your facility does not provide them, you can ask your attorney or a loved one to send you printed versions of the registration form and absentee ballot request. Both are available on the New York Board of Elections website. (<https://www.elections.ny.gov/>).