



— VOTING AND BALLOT MARKING DEVICE INFORMATION —

VOTING INFORMATION

All New Yorkers will be using a new voting system beginning during this fall's elections. Voters will now mark their choices on a paper ballot using either a pen or a ballot marking device (BMD) as described below, and will then insert their ballot into a scanner. The scanner will then be used to count the votes after the polling place has closed at the end of Election Day. A bin attached to the scanner will capture and keep the paper ballots as a record of all votes.

The new process works as follows:

- Enter the poll site, sign in, and receive your paper ballot from the poll worker.
- Go to a booth with a privacy sleeve and fill out your ballot by marking the appropriate ovals.
 - BMDS will be available for those who are in need of assistance.
 - If you make a mistake you can request a new ballot. If you mark your ballot incorrectly by marking more choices for one contest than you are supposed to, the scanner will notify you of an "overvote." To have your vote count, you must obtain a new ballot and mark your choices correctly.
- Once done, proceed to the scanner area, and insert the marked ballot into the scanner to cast your vote.

Ballot Marking Device

Voters will be able to use the Election Systems & Software (ES&S) AutoMARK ballot marking device (BMDs) that is mandated to be available at each polling location in the City.

Any voter, including voters with disabilities, may use the BMD to view, and or listen to, the ballot in any of the required languages for that poll site (English, Spanish, Chinese or Korean). Voters may use the BMD to complete a paper ballot independently and privately on Election Day by using its ATM-style touch screen, Braille-enhanced keypad, sip and puff device or its rocker paddle. More information on the new process is available at the New York City Board of Elections website: <http://www.votethenewwayny.com/>

If you have trouble voting on the BMD at your poll site, we encourage you to call the City Board of Elections at 1-866-VOTE-NYC and make them aware of the problem.

Finally, Citizens Union encourages voters to use the new machines this election and provide us with your thoughts and experiences by emailing your name and poll site information to rfauss@citizensunion.org.

To Register for an Absentee Ballot

To be eligible to vote in municipal, federal and state elections you must be 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States and registered 25 days before the election. If you are not yet 18, but will be 18 before the election you are eligible to vote. Send your voter registration card in January of the year you turn 18 and it will be filed on your 18th birthday.

The last day to postmark and application for an absentee ballot is September 7, 2010 and the last day to file in person for an absentee ballot at the City Board of Elections is September 13, 2009.

NYC Board of Elections • (212) VOTE-NYC • www.vote.nyc.ny.us
NYPIRG • (212) 349-6460 • www.nypirg.org
League of Women Voters of NYC • (212) 725-3541 • www.lwvny.org



Further Information

Voting on Election Day

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, September 14th. Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you have general questions regarding eligibility or the location of your polling place, please call 1-866-VOTE-NYC. You can also locate your polling place online at: <http://gis.nyc.gov/vote/ps/index.htm>

Under federal law, if you are disabled and choose to vote in person rather than by absentee ballot, you are entitled to assistance. You can rely on the election employees for help. To locate the handicap entrance to your polling site, please visit: <http://gis.nyc.gov/vote/ps/index.htm>

At the polls, if there is no entry for you on the voter registration list, it may be because your registration form was not received or was filled out incorrectly. If you believe that you are eligible to vote, you can still vote by requesting an affidavit ballot. After the election, the Board of Elections will check its records and your vote will be counted if you are indeed eligible to vote.

To Research Campaign Contributions

NYS Board of Elections • (800) FOR-VOTE • www.elections.state.ny.us
FEC Federal Database • (202) 628-0617 • www.fec.gov

To Research Candidates and Issues

Citizens Union • (212) 227-0342 • www.citizensunion.org
Gotham Gazette • (212) 227-0342 • www.gothamgazette.com
Project Vote Smart • (888) VOTE-SMART • www.votesmart.org
NY1 • www.ny1.com

Find Out More About Who is Running

(Who's Running for What) is Gotham Gazette's unique and searchable database on all candidates running for state and city office. To find out available campaign funds and research candidates' websites, or to search by office holder or candidate position, log on to www.gothamgazette.com/campaigns. Gotham Gazette is published by Citizens Union Foundation, the education and research affiliate of Citizens Union.

To Research Incumbent Records

New York State Assembly • (518) 455-4218 • assembly.state.ny.us
New York State Senate • (518) 455-2800 • www.nysenate.gov/legislation
Project Vote Smart • (888) VOTE-SMART • www.votesmart.org