Guide to Voting by Absentee Ballot in New York City League of Women Voters of the City of New York

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Introduction

To vote by absentee ballot in New York, registered voters should:

- 1. Apply for an absentee ballot through the Board of Elections (BOE). For the Nov. 3, 2020 General Election, the deadline to request by mail is Oct. 27, 2020, but please leave extra time! If you apply in person at the Board of Elections, the due date is the day before Election Day, Nov. 2, 2020.
- 2. Wait to receive the ballot. Ballots will be mailed beginning on/after Sep. 18, 2020
- **3.** When the ballot arrives, follow instructions carefully to complete it. (LWVNYC will provide guidance after the ballots are available)
- 4. To return the ballot:
 - a. Mail it via USPS to the BOE in your borough; OR
 - b. Hand deliver it to the BOE in your borough (yourself or through a trusted source); OR
 - c. Hand deliver it to any poll site in your borough during Early Voting or on Election Day (yourself or through a trusted source).
- Even if you apply for an absentee ballot and vote by absentee ballot, you may still vote at a poll site on Election Day or during Early Voting. Your absentee ballot will be nullified.
- **NY State requires an "excuse" in order to vote by absentee ballot.** Legislation was just signed into law that allows any voter to use "temporary illness" as an excuse to request their absentee ballot (applies from 2020-2022).



There are a number of ways to apply that are described on the NYC BOE website vote.nyc:

Apply Online

To apply on-line, go to nycabsentee.com, which takes you to this page:

It is a crime to procure or furnish false material information or statements to the Board of Elections.

New York City Absentee Ballot Request November 3, 2020 Election ONLY

This website can be used only by registered New York City voters to apply for an Absentee Ballot for the November 3, 2020 Election.

Please enter your information exactly as it appears in your voter record. Failure to do so may result in a "Record Not Found".

This does not mean you are not eligible.

If you are affected by COVID-19 and/or the potential of contracting the virus, please check the box for "Temporary Illness" on the application. The definition has been temporarily expanded to include "a risk of contracting or spreading a disease" such as COVID-19.

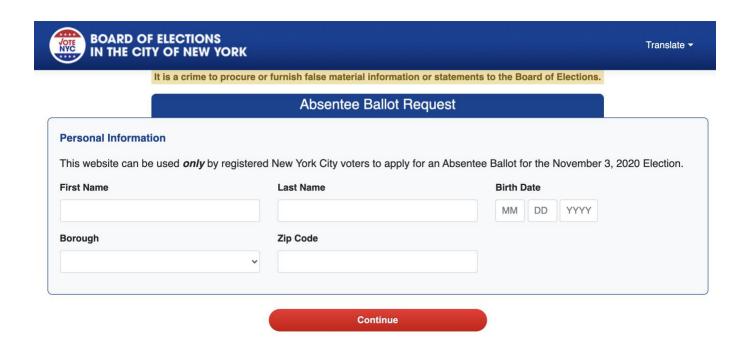
For further assistance please call 1-866-VOTE-NYC or email AbsenteeHelp@boe.nyc

Absentee Ballot Application

Click on:

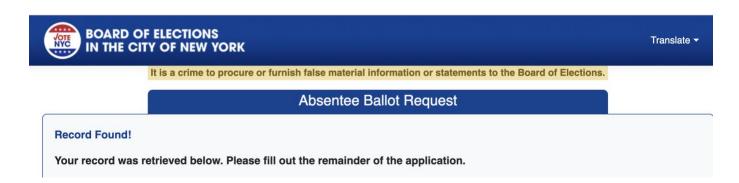
Absentee Ballot Application

Which takes you to https://nycabsentee.com/absentee:



Use the same name and address that appears on your voter registration.

Enter your information and click on Continue On the next page the top part looks like this:



Followed by your personal information:

Personal information is listed here

And the bottom part looks like this:

How would you like your General Election ballot delivered? (check one)		
Mail to me at my residential address		
Mail ballot to me at a different (mailing) address		
O Deliver to me in person at the board of elections		
I am requesting, in good faith, an Absentee Ballot due to (check one reason): If you are affected by COVID-19 and/or the potential of contracting the virus, please check the box for "Temporary Illness". The definition has been temporarily expanded to include "a risk of contracting or spreading a disease" such as COVID-19.		
Absence from county or New York City on election day		
 Temporary illness or physical disability (including affected/potential of COVID19) 		
O Permanent illness or physical disability		
Outles related to primary care of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled		
Resident or patient of a Veterans Health Administration Hospital		
O Detention in jail/prison, awaiting trial, awaiting action by a grand jury, or in prison for a conviction of a crime or offense which was not a felony		
Contact Information (optional)		
Phone	Email	
Verification		
Please verify with the CAPTCHA below		
I'm not a robot reCAPTCHA Privacy - Terms		
I certify that I am a qualified and a registered (and for primary, enrolled) voter and that the information in this application is true and correct and that this application will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit and, if it contains a material false statement, shall subject me to the same penalties as if I had been duly sworn.		
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Sub	mit	

Notes:

- You may check the box "Temporary illness or physical disability" if the reason for requesting an absentee ballot is that you are "affected/potential of COVID19"
- Most people will ask to have the ballot mailed to them, and the address does not need to be the same as the one on your registration. You have the option to pick up the ballot yourself at the Board of Elections or to authorize someone to pick it up for you.
- We encourage applicants to include their telephone number and/or email address in case the Board of Elections needs to reach them in order to process the application.

Verify that you are not a robot, certify that you are qualified and registered to vote, and hit Submit

Apply Using the Paper Application

Next, we show you how to fill out the paper version of the Absentee Ballot Application, shown on the next page. Instructions follow.

New York State Absentee Ballot Application BOARD USE ONLY: Town/City/Ward/Dist: Please print clearly. See detailed instructions. This application must either be personally delivered to your county board of elections not Registration No: _ later than the day before the election, or postmarked by a governmental postal service not later than 7th day before election day. The ballot itself must either be personally Party: delivered to the board of elections no later than the close of polls on election day, or ☐ voted in office postmarked by a governmental postal service not later than the day before the election and received no later than the 7th day after the election. am requesting, in good faith, an absentee ballot due to (check one reason): absence from county or New York City on election day ☐ resident or patient of a Veterans Health Administration Hospital temporary illness or physical disability permanent illness or physical disability detention in jail/prison, awaiting trial, awaiting duties related to primary care of one or more action by a grand jury, or in prison for a conviction individuals who are ill or physically disabled of a crime or offense which was not a felony absentee ballot(s) requested for the following election(s): Primary Election only ☐ General Election only ☐ Special Election only ☐ Any election held between these dates: absence begins: absence ends: last name or surname middle initial suffix email (optional) date of birth MM/DD/YYYY county where you live phone number (optional) 4 address where you live (residence) street apt state zip code 5 NY Delivery of Primary Election Ballot (check one) ☐ Deliver to me in person at the board of elections 6. ☐ I authorize (give name): to pick up my ballot at the board of elections. Mail ballot to me at: (mailing address) Delivery of General (or Special) Election Ballot (check one) ☐ Deliver to me in person at the board of elections I authorize (give name): to pick up my ballot at the board of elections. Mail ballot to me at: (mailing address) street name street no apt. city state zip code Applicant Must Sign Below I certify that I am a qualified and a registered (and for primary, enrolled) voter; and that the information in this application is true and correct and that this application will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit and, if it contains a material false statement, shall subject me to the same penalties as if I had been duly sworn. Sign Here: X Date If applicant is unable to sign because of illness, physical disability or inability to read, the following statement must be executed: By my mark, duly witnessed hereunder, I hereby state that I am unable to sign my application for an absentee ballot without assistance because I am unable to write by reason of my illness or physical disability or because I am unable to read. I have made, or have the assistance in making, my mark in lieu of my signature. (No power of attorney or preprinted name stamps allowed. See detailed instructions.) Date _ Name of Voter: Mark: MM/DD/YYYY I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the above named voter affixed his or her mark to this application in my presence and I know him or her to be the person who affixed his or her mark to said application and understand that this statement will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit and if it contains a material false statement, shall subject me to the same penalties as if I had been duly sworn. (signature of witness to mark) (address of witness to mark)

Board Use Only 2015 Absentee Ballot Application

Instructions for filling out the paper application:

- Q1. Check the box that matches your situation. You may check the box "Temporary illness or physical disability" if you are requesting an absentee ballot due to concern about catching or transmitting COVID-19.
- Q2. Check which elections you are requesting absentee ballots for.
- Q3. Use the same name that appears on your voter registration.
- Q4. We encourage applicants to include their telephone number and/or email address in case the Board of Elections needs to reach them in order to process the application.
- Q5. Use the address that appears on your voter registration.
- Q6 and Q7. Most people will ask to have the ballot mailed to them, the address does not need to be the same as the one on your registration. You have the option to pick up the ballot yourself at the Board of Elections, or to authorize someone to pick it up for you.

Q8. Make sure you sign and date. This signature will be compared to the one on file on your voter registration.

The fillable English language Absentee Ballot Application is available at both the Board of Elections websites for both NY State and NYC. These sites also contain links to applications in Spanish (both NYC and NYS), and in Korean, Chinese, and Bengali (NYC only). The English language application is available here and on P.2 of this Guide, but that form is not fillable. Absentee Ballot Applications may also be picked up at the Board of Elections offices, shown below for New York City.

NYC Board of Elections Locations:

Hours of Operation

9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Executive Office

32-42 Broadway, 7 Fl, New York, NY 10004 Tel: 1-212-487-5400

Directions

Bronx

1780 Grand Concourse, 5 Fl, Bronx, NY 10457 Manhattan

Tel: 1-718-299-9017 Fax: 1-718-299-2140

Directions

Brooklyn

345 Adams Street, 4 Fl, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Tel: 1-718-797-8800 Fax: 1-718-246-5958

Directions

Oueens

118-35 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, NY 11375

Tel: 1-718-730-6730 Fax: 1-718-459-3384

Directions

200 Varick Street, 10 Fl, New York, NY 10014

Tel: 1-212-886-2100 Fax: 1-646-638-2047

Directions

Staten Island

1 Edgewater Plaza, 4 Fl, Staten Island, NY 10305

Tel: 1-718-876-0079 Fax: 1-718-876-0912

Directions

Who may apply for an absentee ballot?

Each person must apply for themselves. It is a felony to make a false statement in an application for an absentee ballot, to attempt to cast an illegal ballot, or to help anyone to cast an illegal ballot.

Information for military and overseas voters:

If you are applying for an absentee ballot because you or your family are in the military or because you currently reside overseas, do not use this application. You are entitled to special provisions if you apply using the Federal Postcard Application. For more information about military/overseas voting, contact your local board of elections or refer to the Military and Federal Voting sections

Where and when to return your application:

Applications must be mailed seven days before the election, or hand-delivered to your county board of elections by the day before the election; If the address of your county board of elections is not provided on this form, contact information for your local election office can be found on the New York State Board of Elections' website, under "County Boards of Election" directory"

Options available to you if you have an illness or disability:

If you check the box indicating your illness or disability is permanent, once your application is ap- proved you will automatically receive a ballot for each election in which you are eligible to vote, without having to apply again/ You may sign the absentee ballot application yourself, or you may make your mark and have your mark witnessed in the spaces provided on the bottom of the application. Please note that a power of attorney or printed name stamp is not allowed for any voting purpose.

What if I or someone I know has a print disability:

People with print disabilities can use the New York Accessible Electronic Absentee Ballot Application.

When your ballot will be sent:

Your absentee ballot materials will be sent to you at least 32 days before federal, state, county, city or town elections in which you are eligible to vote. If you applied after this date, your ballot will be sent immediately after your completed and signed application is received and processed by your local board of elections. If you provide dates in section 2, identifying the time frame within which you will be absent from your county or from the City of New York, you will be sent a ballot for any primary, general, special election or presidential primary election which might occur during the time frame you have specified. If you prefer, you may designate someone to pick up your ballot for you, by completing the required information in section 6 and, or section 7, as appropriate/ contact your local county board of elections if you have not received your ballot.