Boards of Elections located in the Capital District

Albany:
Albany County Board of Elections
32 North Russell Road
Albany, NY 12206
518.487.5060

Rensselaer:
Rensselaer County Board of Elections
1600 7th Avenue, 1st floor
Troy, NY 12180
518.270.2990

Schenectady:
Schenectady County Board of Elections
388 Broadway, Suite E
Schenectady, NY 12305
518.377.2469

Registration Deadlines
For updated registration deadlines, contact:
NYS BOARD OF ELECTIONS
40 NORTH PEARL STREET, SUITE 5
ALBANY, NY 12207-2729
518.474.1953

YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE IN NEW YORK STATE

For persons detained in jail and/or for those with a criminal conviction

Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration
Albany Social Justice Center
33 Central Avenue
Albany, NY 12210
nycaami@gmail.com

CAAMI meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Social Justice Center, at 7pm.

Center for Law and Justice
153 South Pearl St
Albany, NY 12202
Phone: 518.427.8361
Fax: 518.427.8362
CFLJ@verizon.net
www.cflj.org

your VOTE is your VOICE
Can I register and vote in New York if I have a criminal record?

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE EVEN IF YOU 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
• If you have been issued a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities or a Certificate of Good Conduct while on parole; or
• Were convicted of a misdemeanor.

NO, IF YOU:

• Are currently incarcerated in prison; or
• Are under parole supervision

Why Register?

While your voting rights are automatically restored upon a Board of Parole discharge or serving the maximum sentence, you needed to register to vote in order to use this right.

How do I register to vote?

You may obtain a voter registration form by writing to any county Board of Elections and requesting the form. When you receive the form, complete it, and mail or deliver it to the Board of Elections in the county of your permanent address. If you are in jail awaiting grand jury action or trial, or confined after conviction for an offense other than a felony, you should register to vote in the county of your permanent address. List the jail or prison address as the place where you receive your mail temporarily.

How do I vote if I’m in jail?

If you are serving a misdemeanor sentence or if you are awaiting trial then you have the right to vote from jail. Send a letter to the Board of Elections in the county where you are currently registered to vote requesting an absentee ballot application. If you’re not currently registered to vote then send this letter to the county of your permanent home address. The letter must be received by the county board no earlier than 30 days and no later than seven days before the election. The letter must contain ALL of the following:

- the address where you registered,
- an address where the ballot is to be sent
- the reason for the request
- the signature of the voter

Continued…

An absentee ballot will be mailed to you. Your ballot must be postmarked no later than the day before the election.

If you will not be able to receive it through the mail on time, you have the right to designate someone to pick it up for you as late as the day before the election. Only the person designated on your application may pick up and deliver your ballot.

How are voting rights restored?

If you have been convicted of a felony and were sentenced to prison, you lose the right to vote while you are serving your felony sentence. This right is automatically restored when you complete your maximum sentence or are discharged by the Board of Parole. While your voting rights are automatically restored, you need to take the step and register to vote, in order to use these rights. If you have been issued a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities or a Certificate of Good Conduct while on parole, you may register to vote.

Where may I obtain more information about Certificates of Relief and Good Conduct, and about licensing and employment?

Article 23 of the Correctional Law deals with Certificates of Relief from Disabilities and Certificates of Good Conduct. Articles 23A of the Correction Law deals with licenses and employment of persons convicted of criminal offenses. Consult your Parole Officer or Legal Action Center about specific questions you may have. If you need immediate assistance with a voting rights problem call the National Campaign for Fair Elections at 1.866.687.8683.