



*How will the state treat an application listing an identifying number that is either incomplete or illegible?* If uncorrected (see below), the applicant’s registration will be considered “incomplete,” but if she is otherwise eligible, she will still be able to vote upon showing identification before Election Day or at the polls.

## **Matching Against Motor Vehicle and Social Security Records**

*What fields from the voter registration form will the state seek to match to motor vehicle or Social Security records?* Identifying number, first name, last name, date of birth, and address.<sup>8</sup>

*How precise is the match standard?* In matching information from a form with a driver’s license number, New York uses an exact match standard for each individual field, but then leaves the county official flexible discretion to determine how many fields must match for the record to be verified. New York will use the standard AAMVA criteria for matching information on forms with SSN digits: exact match of the SSN-4, first name, last name, month of birth, and year of birth.

*How much human intervention is involved in determining whether information is matched?* For matching information on forms with a driver’s license number, the system will return a list of records with an exact match of the driver’s license number and an indication, for each other field matched, of whether the match was exact (the system will not, apparently, return the contents of the field itself). The county official then has the discretion to determine whether a matching record exists among the possible matches returned. The process for matching records with SSN digits is fully automated.

*Description of matching process:* Currently, New York counties submit, either individually or in batches, records of voters registering with an elections official to the state Board of Elections, which automatically submits the records to the DMV. For matching information on forms with a driver’s license number, the DMV will return a list of all records that match the driver’s license number exactly, and an indication for each other field matched of whether the match was exact (the system will not, apparently, return the contents of the field itself). The county official then has the discretion to determine whether a matching record exists among the possible matches returned.

Information on forms listing SSN digits will be automatically checked against the SSA database through the standard AAMVA process: the county elections official will submit an entered record to the DMV database, which will automatically submit the appropriate fields to the SSA and return a code indicating whether the record was successfully matched or not.

For any record returned as unverified, the county elections official will resubmit the record to ensure that the information was correctly entered.<sup>9</sup>

*What are the consequences if the state cannot find a match?* If uncorrected (see below), and if the applicant is a first-time voter registering by mail, the application will be

considered “incomplete,” but the applicant may vote upon showing identification before Election Day or at the polls.<sup>10</sup>

## Notice and Opportunity to Resolve Errors

*Does the applicant have the opportunity to correct a missing or incomplete identifying number, without submitting a new form?* No. The applicant may submit a new form with correct information at any point before Election Day.

*Does the applicant have the opportunity to resolve a failed match, without submitting a new form?* No. The applicant may submit a new form with verifiable information at any point before Election Day.

*If information on an otherwise timely application is corrected after the voter registration deadline, is the correction still timely?* Yes. The applicant may correct information at any point before Election Day.<sup>11</sup>

*Description of notice and correction process:* The county elections official will attempt to notify an applicant whose identifying number is missing, incomplete, illegible, or unverified. All counties will attempt to contact the applicant at least twice by mail; some will attempt contact by phone as well.<sup>12</sup> The applicant may attempt to resolve the error by submitting a new form with valid information at any point; the correction will appear on the poll books if it is made before the poll books are printed. If the identifying number cannot be verified, the individual will have to provide identification before Election Day or at the polls.

## Identification Requirements at the Polls

*Who must provide identification at the polls?* Any first-time voter registering by mail whose identifying number has not been verified, and any voter who submitted an application with a missing or incomplete identifying number who has not previously presented a copy of valid identification to a county elections official, must provide identification at the polls.<sup>13</sup> Every voter must also sign her name, and this signature must be matched to the signature on the registration records.<sup>14</sup>

### Forms of ID:

1st-time voter registering by mail without verified identifying number, or any voter with missing/incomplete number:	current and valid photo ID current utility bill w/ name, address bank statement w/ name, address government check w/ name, address paycheck w/ name, address other gov't document w/ name, address
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*What forms of identification are accepted?* Current and valid photo ID, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter’s name and address.<sup>15</sup>

*What are the consequences of failing to show identification?* The voter may cast a provisional ballot.<sup>16</sup> The ballot will be counted if the voter is determined to be properly

registered in the appropriate jurisdiction, and if the name, address, date of birth, and signature on the provisional ballot envelope match the information provided at registration.<sup>17</sup>

## Statutes and Regulations

N.Y. ELEC. LAW art. 5 generally concerns registration. N.Y. ELEC. LAW § 5-614 directs the state board of elections to establish and maintain a single statewide voter registration system. N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. tit. 9, subtit. V comprises the applicable regulations.

## End Notes

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<sup>1</sup> N.Y. ELEC. LAW §§ 5-210(3), *as amended by* 2005 N.Y. Sess. Laws ch. 179 (S. 5819, A. 8930), 5-211(12), 5-212(7).

<sup>2</sup> John McCormick, *Illinois to Miss Deadline for Voter Rolls Law*, CHI. TRIB., Dec. 30, 2005, at 6.

<sup>3</sup> N.Y. ELEC. LAW § 5-614(2).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* § 5-210(8), *as amended by* 2005 N.Y. Sess. Laws ch. 179 (S. 5819, A. 8930).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* §§ 5-211, 212; N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. tit. 9, §§ 6213.2(c), 6213.3(e).

<sup>6</sup> Election Assistance Commission, *The Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office 2003-2004*, June 30, 2005, tbl. 2, *available at* [http://www.eac.gov/NVR\\_Spreadsheets/NVRA\\_table\\_2.html](http://www.eac.gov/NVR_Spreadsheets/NVRA_table_2.html). Due to rounding, the percentages listed may exceed 100%.

<sup>7</sup> N.Y. ELEC. LAW § 5-210(8), *as amended by* 2005 N.Y. Sess. Laws ch. 179 (S. 5819, A. 8930).

<sup>8</sup> *But see id.* § 8-303(3)(b) (specifying only consequences for the match of identifying number, name, and date of birth).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* § 5-210(9), *as amended by* 2005 N.Y. Sess. Laws ch. 179 (S. 5819, A. 8930).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* § 5-210(9), *as amended by* 2005 N.Y. Sess. Laws ch. 179 (S. 5819, A. 8930). The statute specifically states that “The failure of a county board of elections to verify an applicant’s identity shall not be the basis for the rejection of a voter’s application, provided, however, that such verification failure shall be the basis for requiring county board of elections to take the additional verification steps provided by this chapter.”

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* § 5-210(10), *as amended by* 2005 N.Y. Sess. Laws ch. 179 (S. 5819, A. 8930).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* § 5-210(9)-(10), *as amended by* 2005 N.Y. Sess. Laws ch. 179 (S. 5819, A. 8930).

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* §§ 8-302(2-a), *as amended by* 2005 N.Y. Sess. Laws ch. 179 (S. 5819, A. 8930), 8-303.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.* § 8-304.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.* §§ 8-302(2-a), *as amended by* 2005 N.Y. Sess. Laws ch. 179 (S. 5819, A. 8930), 8-303.

<sup>16</sup> *Id.* §§ 8-302(c), *as amended by* 2005 N.Y. Sess. Laws ch. 179 (S. 5819, A. 8930), 8-303(2)(b).

<sup>17</sup> *Id.* §§ 5-403, 9-209, *as amended by* 2005 N.Y. Sess. Laws ch. 179 (S. 5819, A. 8930).

# New York State Voter Registration Form

## You Can Use This Form To:

- register to vote in New York State
- change your name and/or address, if there is a change since you last voted
- enroll in a political party or change your enrollment

## To Register You Must:

- be a U.S. citizen
- be 18 years old by the end of this year
- not be in jail or on parole for a felony conviction
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere

## Need More Registration Forms?

You can get registration forms at most state agency offices and post offices or at any county board of elections or call 1-800-FOR-VOTE.

## Deadline Information:

You can register in person at your county board of elections on any business day. If you want to vote in an election, you must mail or deliver this form to your county board of elections no later than 25 days before the election in which you want to vote. You must be 18 years old by the date of the general, primary or other election in which you want to vote. Your eligibility to vote will be based on the date you file this form, and your county board will notify you of your eligibility.

## Questions?

Call your county board of elections. Find the phone number on the other side of this form. Hearing impaired people with TDD may call 1-800-533-8683. Visit our website - [www.elections.state.ny.us](http://www.elections.state.ny.us)

Información en español: si le interesa obtener este formulario en español, llame al 1-800-367-8683

中文資料：如果你有興趣索取本中文資料表格，請電 1 - 800 - 367-8683

한국어: 한국어 양식을 원하시면 1-800-367-8683 으로 전화하십시오.

↓ Please tear off this panel and use tape strip below to seal and mail. ↓

Fold on center line, remove tape, seal and mail

## TO COMPLETE THIS FORM:

*Box 1:* Must be completed. If you answer NO, do not complete this form.

*Box 2:* Must be completed, however if you check NO, do not complete this form UNLESS you are a New York resident who will be 18 by the end of this year.

*Box 4:* Give your home address.

*Box 5:* Give your mailing address if it is different from your home address (post office box no., star route or rural route no., etc.)

*Box 8:* The completion of this box is optional.

*Box 9:* Must be completed. If you have a current New York driver's license, you must provide that number. If you do not have a current New York driver's license, you must provide the last four digits of your social security number.

*Box 10:* If you have never voted before, write "None." If you can't remember when you last voted, put a question mark (?). If you voted before under a different name, put down that name. If not, write "Same."

*Box 11:* In order to vote in a party primary, you must be enrolled in one of New York's 5 constituted parties. Check one box only.

*Box 12:* This application must be signed and dated in ink.

If you would like an application for an ABSENTEE BALLOT or would like to be an ELECTION DAY WORKER, please check the corresponding box below.

## IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Identification means a verifiable New York Driver's License number or the last four digits of your Social Security number, as requested in Box 9 of the application.

If you do not have either of these, and you are registering for the first time and are doing so by mail, 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. If you do not provide identification with this form, you will be asked for it the first time you vote.

If you include a copy of any identification, be sure to tape the sides of this form closed.

Yes, I need an application for an Absentee Ballot **Please print or type in blue or black ink**  Yes, I would like to be an Election Day Worker

<b>1</b>	Are you a U.S. citizen? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If you answered NO, do not complete this form.	<b>2</b>	I will be 18 years old on or before election day: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If you answered NO, do not complete this form, unless you will be 18 by the end of the year.	<b>For Board use only!</b>	
<b>3</b>	Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Suffix _____				
<b>4</b>	Address Where You Live (do not give P.O. address) _____ Apt. No. _____ City/Town/Village _____ Zip Code _____ County _____				
<b>5</b>	Address Where You Get Your Mail (if different from above) _____ P.O. box, star rte., etc. _____ Post Office _____ Zip Code _____				
<b>6</b>	Date of Birth _____	<b>7</b>	Sex (circle) M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>8</b>	Home Tel. Number (optional) _____
<b>10</b>	The last year you voted _____	Your Address was (give house number, street, and city) _____			<b>9</b> →
	In county/state _____	Under the name (if different from your name now) _____			
<b>11</b>	<b>Choose a Party</b> — Check one box only <input type="checkbox"/> REPUBLICAN PARTY <input type="checkbox"/> DEMOCRATIC PARTY <input type="checkbox"/> INDEPENDENCE PARTY <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATIVE PARTY <input type="checkbox"/> WORKING FAMILIES PARTY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (write in) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT WISH TO ENROLL IN A PARTY		<b>12</b>	<b>AFFIDAVIT:</b> I swear or affirm that • I am a citizen of the United States. • I will have lived in the county, city, or village for at least 30 days before the election. • I meet all requirements to register to vote in New York State. • This is my signature or mark on the line below. • The above information is true. I understand that if it is not true I can be convicted and fined up to \$5,000 and/or jailed for up to four years. ↓ Signature or mark ↓ X _____ Date _____	

Please do not write in this space

SAMPLE