

A Summary of
NEW VOTING LAWS
for Westchester Residents



Honorable Benjamin Boykin II
Chairman of the Westchester County
Board of Legislators

March 2019

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN....

I am pleased to provide you with the attached Summary of New Voting Laws that affects voters in New York. This explains the voting bills that were passed by the New York State Legislature and signed into law in January 2019 by Governor Cuomo.

We all share the goals of increasing voter turnout and making it easier for voters to cast ballots. I hope these new changes to State Law will help achieve these goals. Our County Board of Elections is working hard to implement the new requirements.

Also attached is a document from the Westchester County Board of Elections providing information on becoming an Election Inspector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin Boykin II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a distinct 'II' at the end.

Honorable Benjamin Boykin II
Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators

SUMMARY OF NEW VOTING LAWS

NEW LAW	WHAT IT MEANS	EFFECTIVE DATE
<p>One Primary Election Date <i>A single Primary Election date means there will no longer be a September Primary Election date</i></p>	<p>This law establishes a unified primary date, <u>the fourth Tuesday in June</u>, which applies to all candidates for public office (Federal, State, County and Local).</p> <p>Village Elections will remain on the <u>third Tuesday of March</u> every year.</p>	<p>Immediately.</p> <p>The 2019 Primary Date is Tuesday, June 25th.</p>
<p>Voter Change of Address <i>Voters will no longer have to re-register in person when they move</i></p>	<p>This law ensures that when a voter moves elsewhere within New York State, and the Board of Elections receives notice of an address change from the U.S. Post Office, a State Agency or an affidavit ballot, their voter registration will seamlessly go with them.</p>	<p>March 25, 2019</p>
<p>Pre-registration for Minors <i>Relates to voter pre-registration</i></p>	<p>This law allows 16 and 17-year-olds to <u>pre-register</u> to vote and enables them to then be automatically registered and eligible to vote on their 18th birthday.</p>	<p>January 1, 2020</p>
<p>Early Voting <i>Will allow registered voters in New York the option to vote early</i></p> <p><u>EARLY VOTING DATES:</u> <i>In 2019, the dates for Early Voting will be <u>Saturday, October 26th through (and including) Sunday, November 3rd.</u></i></p>	<p><u>EARLY VOTING PLACES:</u> <i>The Westchester County Board of Elections will select multiple voting locations <u>specifically for Early Voting</u> (which may not be a regular polling place). At least seven locations for early voting are required under State law. The Westchester County Board of Elections will notify you by mail of your Early Voting polling place.</i></p>	<p>Although this new law is effective immediately, the first opportunity for early voting will take place before the General Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2019</p> <p><u>NOTE:</u> <i>In 2019, there is no Early Voting for the Primary Election in June</i></p>

In addition, there are two more laws that have been approved for Constitutional Amendments; this means they must pass two consecutive State Legislatures and a public referendum before these laws can become effective.

<p>Same-Day Registration <i>Currently, voter registration must take place at least 25 days before Primary and General Elections</i></p>	<p>This bill, if enacted, would allow same-day voter registration.</p>	<p>(No earlier than 2021)</p>
<p>Absentee voting by mail** <i>Currently, a voter may only vote by mail (via an absentee ballot) if they will knowingly be out of town or ill on Election Day</i></p>	<p>This bill, if enacted, would remove the current restrictions and allow all voters the option of voting by mail for any reason.</p>	<p>(No earlier than 2021)</p>

**** There is no change in the absentee voting by mail process in 2019 or 2020**

For more information, go to the Board of Legislators' website: www.westchesterlegislators.com or call (914) 995-2800

For more information on voting and elections, go to the Board of Elections' website: www.westchestergov.com/boe or call (914) 995-5700

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AN ELECTION INSPECTOR?

Westchester County is in need of election inspectors willing to work at various polling sites on Election Day.

We are especially in need of poll inspectors who are proficient in both English and Spanish.



Election inspector requirements

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must be registered to vote in the County of Westchester
- Hours are from 5:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Election inspectors are always needed

We are always looking for individuals to work as election inspectors. Election inspectors receive \$225 for working on Election Day, plus \$25 to attend each training class. To qualify you must:

- Be a registered voter
- Be a resident of Westchester County
- Attend two training classes

If you are interested in becoming an election inspector, contact:

- Ericka Sterling, Democrat, by phone at (914) 995-8568 or by e-mail at ems2@westchestergov.com
- Jonathan Cannella, Republican, by phone at (914) 995-8563 or by e-mail at jqce@westchestergov.com