

NYC VOTING RESOURCE TOOLKIT

What's at stake for women in this election?

This year, New Yorkers will elect a new Mayor, Comptroller, Public Advocate, Borough Presidents, City Council Members, and Manhattan District Attorney.*

Important issues on the ballot will include:

- Childcare
- Education Funding
- Housing
- Jobs
- LGBTQ Rights
- Policing
- Reproductive Justice
- Sexual Violence

UPCOMING DEADLINES

Primary Election: June 22, 2021

- May 28:** Registration Deadline
- June 15:** Absentee Ballot Request Deadline
- June 12-20:** Early Voting
- June 22:** Primary Election Day

General Election: November 2, 2021

- October 8:** Registration Deadline
- October 26:** Absentee Ballot Request Deadline
- November 2:** General Election Day
- October 23-31:** Early Voting

* The Manhattan District Attorney race will not use Ranked Choice Voting.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING (RCV) RESOURCES

- **RCV Palm Card:** DemocracyNYC, NYC Civic Engagement Commission (CEC)
- **NYC Campaign Finance Board (CFB) Resources**
 - ▶ RCV FAQ (CFB in 15 languages)
 - ▶ Additional CFB Resources Folder including:
 - Social Media
 - Sample Ballots
 - RCV Postcard + Flyer/one-pager (flyers in English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese)
 - RCV in NYC Training Materials (NYCCFB)
 - CFB Plans 2020
- **NYC Civic Engagement Commission RCV Information**
- **Rank the Vote: Videos, FAQs, news updates, and educational resources.**
 - ▶ **VOTER RESOURCES**
 - Short Voter Training Presentation (available in Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Nepali, Korean, Haitian Creole, English, and Bangla)
 - Citywide RCV Explainer (available in Vietnamese, Traditional Chinese, Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Russian, Nepali, Korean, Khmer, Haitian Creole, French, English, Bangla, Arabic)
 - Extended Voter Training - English
 - ▶ **CANDIDATE RESOURCES**
 - Examples of RCV Messaging by Candidates (A collection of materials created and distributed by campaigns.)
 - Candidate Training Exercises (District X Candidates; Message Development; Power Mapping; RCV Convo 101; Vote Goal Calculation)
 - RCVNYC Candidate & Campaign Training Presentation
 - ▶ **ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES**
 - Examples of RCV Messaging by Endorsing Organizations
 - Community Partners Training
- **Q&A on Ranked Choice Voting** (The City)
- **Queens Public Library RCV Presentation: Video Recording and Presentation Slides** (League of Women Voters)

ADDITIONAL VOTING RESOURCES

- **Voter Resource Document**
(DemocracyNYC)
- **Make a Plan to Vote**
(Women Creating Change)
- **Voter Guide** (Campaign Finance Board)
- **Vote411 Election Information You Need**
(League of Women Voters Education Fund): Check Your Voter Registration, Register to Vote, and Find What's On Your Ballot
- **Pledge to Vote**
(United Neighborhood Houses)
- **Poll Site Language Assistance List**
(NYC Civic Engagement Commission)
- **ElectNYC.org** (Citizens Union):
A nonpartisan public education campaign or the upcoming NYC election designed as a one-stop shop for New Yorkers to find out who is running, information about the candidates running, the role of different elected offices and how voters can rank their candidates.
- **Absentee/Vote by Mail Information**
(Board of Elections New York State)
- **Understanding the Ballot**
(Board of Elections NYC)
- **Accessibility**, on.nyc.gov/VoteAccess,
(Board of Elections NYC)

TAKE ACTION AND VOLUNTEER

- **Register New Yorkers on May 11, 2021:**
Help New Yorkers register to vote using DemocracyNYC's digital outreach tools. All you would need is a phone, tablet, or computer to participate. Sign up and help New Yorkers register to vote at on.nyc.gov/RegisterToVoteDOA.
 - **Get Out the Vote Phone Banking Efforts:**
Participate in Get Out the Vote phone-banks for the upcoming primary election. Please sign-up and promote among your networks: on.nyc.gov/CallOutTheVote.
 - **Post on Social Media and Educate Your Networks on RCV:**
 - [Ranked Choice Voting Social Media Toolkit](#) on.nyc.gov/RCVToolkit
 - [RCV social media resources](#)
 - **Join the Language Assistance Advisory Committee:**
The Civic Engagement Commission is looking for new members interested in the intersection of language access and civic engagement to help shape CEC programming. To learn more about CEC's volunteer opportunities, visit nyc.gov/civicengagement.
- Share these virtual voter education workshops:**
- [Latinx workshops in English and Spanish](#)
 - [Black History Month workshop](#)
 - [Urdu workshop](#)
 - [Bangla workshop](#)

TOOLKITS

- **Ranked Choice Voting - Social Media Toolkit**
(NYC Mayor’s Public Engagement Unit and DemocracyNYC — on.nyc.gov/RCVToolkit)
- **Ranked Choice Voting Toolkit** (NYC Votes)
- **Voter Engagement Information for Nonprofits**
 - ▶ **VOTER ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT**
Community Votes, Nonprofit NY, and Nonprofit Vote released this comprehensive and nonprofit specific 2021 Toolkit including basic voting timelines and nonpartisan tactics, tips for GOTV, templates for emails and pledges to vote, and social media graphics.
 - ▶ **GOTV TOOLKIT** (United Neighborhood Houses)
Including:
 - Staying Nonpartisan: Permissible Election Activities Checklist for 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organizations
 - Pocket Guide-New York State Voter Facts
 - Pledges to Vote
 - Make a pledge to vote in the 2021 NYC Primary Elections!
 - NYC 2021 Elections Timeline-GOTV
 - Guide: Planning and Running a Voter Registration Drive
 - FAQ: Ranked Choice Voting
 - New York Nonprofit 2021 Elections Training

RCV INTERACTIVE BALLOT

- To educate New Yorkers on the new voting process, DemocracyNYC has contracted a web-based tool in 16 different languages to help New Yorkers learn how to fill out the new ballot in the language they speak. The tool then demonstrates how results are calculated through the new system. [Create a ballot](#) in a language of your choice.
- Try a sample ballot and [Vote Here](#) on your favorite Parks Named for Famous Women.

RCV PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **BRIC PSA:**
What is Ranked Choice Voting?
- **Campaign Finance Board PSAs:**
 - ▶ [English](#)
 - ▶ [Bengali](#)
 - ▶ [Chinese](#)
 - ▶ [Korean](#)
 - ▶ [Spanish](#)
- **Rank the Vote:**
How Does Ranked Choice Voting Work?
- **Board of Education RCV PSAs:**
 - ▶ [English](#)
 - ▶ [Bengali](#)
 - ▶ [Chinese](#)
 - ▶ [Korean](#)
 - ▶ [Spanish](#)

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

- **2021 Campaign Database:**
Identifies candidates running in each neighborhood, borough, and citywide and contains website info, social media and campaign contact details, and financial information. See more about the City Elections Initiative [here](#). (Created by the Center for Community Media at the Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY.)
- **Meet Your Mayor:**
A private, fun, informative tool, where one can answer a few multiple choice questions and see how mayoral candidates have answered the same questions. (THE CITY)
- **What Can My Elected Officials Do?** (CFB)
- **Learn about other candidates: what you need to know about each.**
 - ▶ [Mayor](#)
 - ▶ [District Attorney](#)
 - ▶ [Public Advocate](#)
 - ▶ [Borough President](#)
 - ▶ [City Council](#)
 - ▶ [Council Part II](#)
 - ▶ [Comptroller](#)
 - ▶ [Sign up](#) to stay up to date on their election coverage.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

- **Know Your Rights**
New York Civil Liberties Union
- **Know Your Rights**
NYC Civic Engagement Commission

**If you are turned away
at the polls: call the
voter suppression hotline
@ 866-OUR-VOTE
(866-687-8683)**

Election Protection

GLOSSARY: NEW YORK CITY ELECTIONS

Absentee Ballot: Usually submitted by mail, an absentee ballot is used to cast a vote by an absentee voter who is unable to be physically present on Election Day.

Borough Presidents: An advocate for their borough. Borough Presidents are able to fund local initiatives, groups and projects like buying technology for public schools, renovating local parks or spearheading community health outreach. Borough Presidents work with the New York City Council and are able to introduce bills, though they cannot vote on them. With New York City Council Members, Borough Presidents appoint all members of Community Boards.

Comptroller: Also known as the City's Chief Financial Officer, the Comptroller oversees the city's fiscal health by conducting performance and financial audits of city agencies, protecting pensions, enforcing prevailing and living wage laws, overseeing the budget, and promoting policies that enhance government's efficiency, integrity, and performance.

District Attorney (DA): The top prosecutor for a town, city, county or state. The District Attorney has wide latitude on what and how to prosecute, such as setting bail or making decisions about plea bargains. In New York City, district attorneys are elected by the public.

General Election: An election held at regular intervals in which voters elect candidates in all or most constituencies of a nation or state.

Mayor: Also known as the city's Chief Executive, the Mayor has the power to remove and appoint Commissioners, make judicial appointments, and set the city's policy and budget priorities. The Mayor can serve up to two, four-year terms and manages relationships with state and federal lawmakers; proposes, enacts, and vetoes laws; and manages large zoning, land use and housing policy decisions.

New York City Council: Members of the New York City Council represent one of 51 districts in New York City. They are responsible for proposing and voting on legislation in policy areas such as policing, housing, and street safety. Members of the New York City Council work with the Mayor to craft the city budget each year. Importantly, if two-thirds of the City Council agree, they can override a veto from the Mayor. The City Council is an important check on the office of the Mayor.

Primary: An election to narrow the number of candidates before a General Election. Primaries can be partisan (meaning voters can only cast a ballot for the member of their own political party they want to represent them in the General Election) or nonpartisan (voters can cast a ballot for members of either party to decrease the number of overall candidates in advance of the General Election).

Public Advocate: A non-voting member of the New York City Council who can introduce and co-sponsor legislation, the Public Advocate is the first in line to become Mayor if they cannot fulfill their duties. The Public Advocate oversees city agencies; investigates and makes proposals to address citizens' complaints about city services; and appoints members to boards and commissions.