



VOTER EDUCATION GUIDE

WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

CREATING A CULTURE OF POSSIBILITY FOR EACH WOMAN AND GIRL



2020 VOTER EDUCATION GUIDE

The WNY Women's Foundation is committed to fostering a vibrant and diverse community, where women and girls have the opportunity to grow and thrive.

This guide offers information on voting rights, voting registration, how to find your candidates, and further explores the issues impacting women.

By voting, you act as a catalyst for change in making your voice heard on the decisions and priorities of government leaders and policies that will impact you and your community.



VOTING 101

It took women almost 100 years to get the right to vote. The Suffrage Movement brought about social change, including giving women the right to have voice in our political process. Continue the suffragettes' legacy—get to the polls and vote!



ABSENTEE VOTING

If you cannot make it to the polls, you still have the right to cast your vote! This guide offers information on who qualifies for absentee voting and how to cast your absentee ballot.



ISSUES IMPACTING WOMEN

There are many issues that specifically impact girls and women, impacting their ability to reach economic self-sufficiency. This guide offers information on some of the most pressing issues and highlights the disparities women experience regarding poverty, economic equity, and child care.



KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

Women know the issues that impact women best, yet the majority of those that hold political office are men. It is important to know where your candidates stand on issues that specifically impact women. This guide offers information on finding out who your candidates are and questions to ask them to understand their positions on issues that specifically impact women.



VOTING 101

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

Know your rights: [New York State Voting Rights](https://ag.ny.gov/civil-rights/voting-rights)

(<https://ag.ny.gov/civil-rights/voting-rights>)

Know your district: [Elected Officials and District Map](https://www.elections.ny.gov/district-map/district-map.html)

(<https://www.elections.ny.gov/district-map/district-map.html>)

Find your polling place: [Poll Search Site](https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/)

<https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>)



REGISTERING TO VOTE

- You can register in person at your County Board of Elections.
- You can mail in a voter application form to your local board of elections. The voter application form can be found [here](https://ag.ny.gov/civil-rights/voting-rights). (<https://ag.ny.gov/civil-rights/voting-rights>)
- You can register online through the [NYS Department of Motor Vehicles](https://voterreg.dmv.ny.gov/motorvoter) (<https://voterreg.dmv.ny.gov/motorvoter>)

To register to vote, you will need the following information:

- In person: last 4 of your social security number or your NYS DMV number (9-digit number located on the front near the top of your license, permit or non-driver ID).
- Online: last 4 of your social security number, your NYS DMV number (9-digit number located on the front near the top of your license, permit or non-driver ID), NYS ID document number (8 or 10-character combination of numbers and letters on your license, permit or non-driver ID), and an email address.



VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES

DATE	DEADLINE INFORMATION
October 9	Last day to postmark a voter application form sent by mail. Must be received by the local Board of Elections no later than October 14.
October 10	Last day to turn in a voter application form in person.
October 14	Last day to provide notice of change of address.



ABSENTEE VOTING*

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

Absentee Ballot information and application: [Absentee Voting Rights](https://www.elections.ny.gov/votingabsentee.html)
(<https://www.elections.ny.gov/votingabsentee.html>)



QUALIFICATIONS FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS

- Absent from your county or if a resident of New York City, absent from said city, on election day.
- Unable to appear at polls due to temporary or permanent illness of disability; or because you are the primary caregiver of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled.
- A resident or a patient of a Veterans Health Administration Hospital.
- Detained in jail awaiting Grand Jury action or confined in prison after conviction for an offense other than a felony.



ABSENTEE BALLOT DEADLINES

DATE	DEADLINE INFORMATION
October 27	Last day to postmark an application or letter of application by mail for an absentee ballot.
November 2	Last day to apply in-person for an absentee ballot. Last day to postmark ballot. Must be received by the local board of elections no later than November 10th.
November 3	Last day to deliver ballot in-person to the local board of elections (by someone other than the voter).

*Qualifications and deadlines may be subject to change based on COVID-19, check the NYS Board of Elections website for the most up-to-date information



ISSUES IMPACTING WOMEN

38%

POVERTY

Women in America are 38% more likely than men to live in poverty.¹

1 in 3

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1 in 3 women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime, with 1 in 4 experiencing severe physical violence, sexual violence, and post-traumatic stress disorder.²

5%

LEADERSHIP

Only about 5% of CEOs in corporate America are women.³

2/3rds

MINIMUM WAGE

Women are nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers in this country. They are twice as likely as men to be employed in occupations that pay poverty wages.⁴

81¢

PAY EQUITY

Women earn 81 cents for every dollar earned by men.⁵

67%

CHILD CARE

The employment rate among single mothers who find a child care program is 87% compared to 67% among those who did not.⁶

1.) <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Poverty-Snapshot-Factsheet-2017.pdf>

2.) <https://ncadv.org/statistics>

3.) https://www.catalyst.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/everyday_heroes_catalyst_ceo_champions_for_change.pdf

4.) <https://wnywomensfoundation.org/app/uploads/2019/08/Moving-Women-Forward-On-the-50th-anniversary-of-title-vii-of-the-civil-rights-act-part-one.pdf>

5.) <https://www.payscale.com/data/gender-pay-gap>

6.) <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2019/03/28/467488/child-care-crisis-keeping-women-workforce/#:~:text=Specifically%2C%20the%20employment%20rate%20fell,mother%20did%20not%20find%20care.>



KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

Know your candidates: [Sample Ballot Lookup](https://ballotpedia.org/Sample_Ballot_Lookup)
(https://ballotpedia.org/Sample_Ballot_Lookup).

Knowing a candidate's positions on issues that directly impacts the outcomes of women is important, as those positions will directly impact you and your community. Things such as poverty, domestic violence, and inequity in wages and leadership roles impacts the ability for women to thrive.

The following are questions to ask your candidates, and it is important to know their positions on such important issues as you make your decision on which candidate to vote for.



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CANDIDATE

- What is your plan to increase investment in programs that assist women and children living in poverty?
- What will you do to ensure single mothers have the support they need to secure family sustaining jobs and end the inter-generational cycle of poverty, including access to child care?
- How will you address closing the gender wage gap?
- What policies will, or have you championed, equal opportunity for women?
- What will you do to create a safer community for women who have experienced domestic and/or sexual violence?
- How will you combat racism, sexism, and other prejudices?
- How will you support access to affordable, accessible, and quality child care?
- How will you engage employers to take steps to improve their organizational culture to support getting women into leadership positions?



VOTE!

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

The status of women is directly linked to the status of their families and communities. The more women who show up to the polls and vote, the more candidates will vie for their support. And when women use their voices to vote, candidates will pay more attention to issues that specifically impact women and their communities.

Though many consider voting a civic duty, it is far more than that. Voting is an opportunity to have your voice heard and to hold accountable those elected to serve our communities. Our elected officials are supposed to be the voice of the people, so lend your voice and exercise your right to vote!



The mission of the WNY Women's Foundation is to create a culture of possibility so each woman and girl can live, grow, and lead to her fullest potential.

Learn more at

www.wnywomensfoundation.org



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