



VOTER EDUCATION GUIDE

Help us to
win the vote

WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL WOMEN TO EARN, LEARN, AND LEAD

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WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

2022 Voter Education Guide

The Western New York Women's Foundation is committed to fostering a vibrant and diverse community where each woman has the opportunity to learn, earn, and lead to her fullest potential.



This guide will offer information related to voting rights, voter registration, how and where to find the candidates, important dates relating to voting in 2022, and what issues are impacting women that you should determine candidate positions on.

Voting gives you the opportunity to take part in decision making and take part in changing your community.

✓ ESSENTIALS

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2022.



VOTING 101: HOW TO VOTE & REGISTER

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, hindering 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 political participation.



KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

Women know the issues that impact women best, yet the majority of those who 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 8, 2022.

Know your rights: [New York State Voting Rights](https://www.nyclu.org/en/issues/voting/your-rights-voting-info#Rights)¹

Know your district: [Elected Officials and District Map](https://www.elections.ny.gov/district-map.html)²

Find your polling place: [Poll Search Site](https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/)³



HOW TO VOTE

First, you must be registered in time to vote (see page 6).



YOU CAN VOTE IN PERSON

You can vote in person at your polling place on Election Day (Tuesday, November 8, 2022) from 6 a.m.- 9 p.m.

You can also vote in person early. In both Erie and Niagara counties, from Saturday, October 24 to Sunday, November 1, you can cast your ballot at one of many Early Voting Locations.

Visit <https://elections.erie.gov> or <https://elections.niagara.ny.us> to find the nearest Early Voting Location to you.



YOU CAN VOTE BY MAIL

This is also called "absentee voting."

This form of voting **must be requested**.

This link allows you to request **an absentee ballot**:

<https://www.vote.org/absentee-ballot/>

Once you have your ballot, you can vote by:

- Dropping your absentee ballot in any mailbox.
- Taking your absentee ballot to an Early Voting Location.
- Taking your absentee ballot to your polling place.

See page 7 for details on how to request your ballot in the mail.

1) <https://www.nyclu.org/en/issues/voting/your-rights-voting-info#Rights>

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

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



REGISTER TO VOTE!

To have the opportunity to vote, you **need** to register!

Registering is a quick task that can be completed within two minutes.

Need to check your voter registration? Go to <https://www.vote.org>

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 8, 2022.

REGISTERING TO VOTE

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

The voter application form can be found [here](#)¹

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.

You can register online through the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles: [MV Electronic Voter Registration Application](#)

INFORMATION NEEDED FOR REGISTRATION



IN PERSON

- The final four digits 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

- The final four digits 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)
- An email address



REGISTRATION DEADLINES FOR GENERAL ELECTION

MAIL REGISTRATION October 14	Applications must be postmarked no later than October 14, 2022 and received by October 19, 2022.
IN PERSON REGISTRATION October 7	You may register at your local board of elections on any business day throughout the year but, to be eligible to vote in the General Election, your application must be received no later than October 14, 2022.
CHANGE OF ADDRESS October 19	Notices of change of address from registered voters received by October 19, 2022 by a county board of elections must be processed and entered in the records in time for the General Election.

1) <https://on.ny.gov/2XMGPBt>

2) <https://voterreg.dmv.ny.gov/motorvoter>

ABSENTEE VOTING*

Absentee Ballot information and application:

<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 the five boroughs, on Election Day.
- Unable to appear at the polls due to temporary or permanent illness or disability (temporary illness includes being unable to appear due to risk of contracting or spreading Covid-19.)
- Unable to appear because you are the primary caregiver of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled.
- A resident or patient of a Veterans Health Administration Hospital.
- In jail or prison for any reason other than a felony conviction. This includes anyone who is awaiting grand jury action, awaiting trial, or serving a sentence for a misdemeanor.

Applications requesting to receive an absentee ballot by mail must be received by the board of elections in your county no later than 15 days before the election. For absentee ballots to be received in-person, applications must be received by your board no later than the day before the election.



ABSENTEE BALLOT DEADLINES

October 24	Last day for board of elections to receive absentee ballot application by letter, telefax, or through the absentee request portal.
November 7	Last day to apply IN-PERSON for absentee ballot.
November 8	Last day to postmark ballot. Must be received by the local board of elections no later than Nov. 15th. Military Voter Ballots must be received no later than Nov. 21st.
November 8	Last day to deliver ballot IN-PERSON to the local board of elections or to any poll site in your county.

MAILING CONSIDERATIONS: When mailing your completed ballot, the USPS recommends that voters allow enough time for ballots to be returned to the Board, which is generally 7 days ahead of the general election. Voters who mail in their ballots on Election Day must be aware of the posted collection times on collection boxes and at the Postal Service's retail facilities. Ballots entered after the last posted collection time will not be postmarked until the following business day.

Issues Impacting Women

Equal Pay



Women earn 82 cents for every dollar men earn.¹

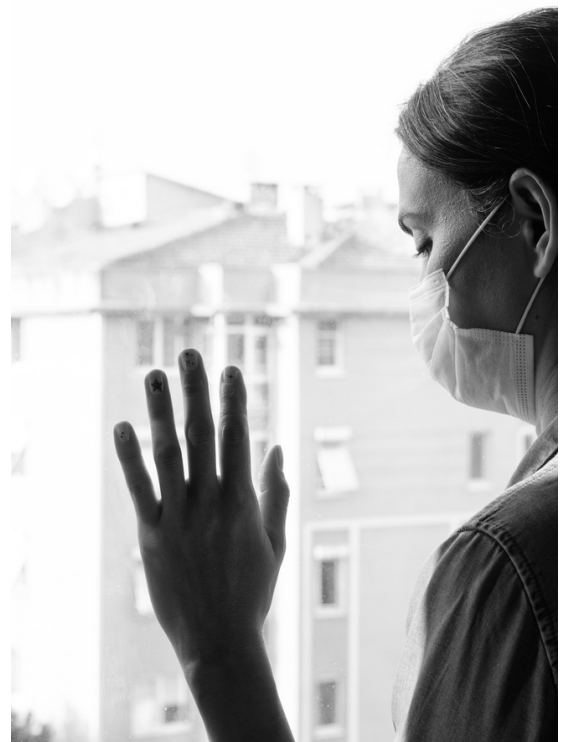
Lack of Participation in Politics

More women are increasingly disengaging with politics even as they see the stakes rising, according to a new poll from the Women & Politics Institute at American University and the Barbara Lee Family Foundation.²



41% of women say they're more tuned out from politics — a 12-point increase compared to polling conducted last year. The figure was higher for women of color (49%) and women under 40 (55%).²

The pandemic set women's labor force participation back more than 30 years.



Unfortunately, the pandemic stalled gains made toward closing the pay gap, and layoffs and a lack of child care have forced many women out of the workforce entirely. In February 2022, women's labor force participation rate was 58% – below pre-pandemic rates. And women of color and those working in low-wage occupations have been the most impacted.

1) <https://blog.dol.gov/2021/03/19/5-facts-about-the-state-of-the-gender-pay-gap>

2) <https://19thnews.org/2022/03/2022-elections-women-political-fatigue/>

3) https://www.businessinsider.com/charts-employment-economic-situation-of-women-2022-2?utm_source=copy-link&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=topbar

Issues Impacting Women

Leadership Roles in Politics



The number of women who have served in Congress to date.¹



California has sent more women to Congress than any other state -- a total of 47 to date.¹



New York is next with 31 women to date.



Vermont is the only state that has never sent a woman to either the house or Senate.¹



3.2% of all members of Congress to date have been women.¹

Women still only have three quarters of the legal rights afforded to men.²

Globally, women still have only three quarters of the legal rights afforded to men -- an aggregate score of 76.5 out of a possible 100, which denotes complete legal parity. However, despite the disproportionate effect on women's lives and livelihood from the global pandemic, 23 countries reformed their laws in 2021 to take much-needed steps towards advancing women's economic inclusion, according to the report.



1) <https://cawp.rutgers.edu/facts/levels-office/congress/women-us-congress-2022>

2) <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/03/01/nearly-2-4-billion-women-globally-don-t-have-same-economic-rights-as-men>



MAKE AN EDUCATED VOTE

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2022.



KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

When voters talk about candidate research, they are referring to the activity voters undertake in deciding who they will support and ultimately vote for. Candidate research is the process of researching a candidate to develop a full understanding of their experience, voting records, position on issues, and more. Knowing the issues that will directly impact you and the women in your community are crucial.

- Check out https://ballotpedia.org/Sample_Ballot_Lookup



QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What do you think are the most pressing women's rights and gender equality issues domestically and internationally, and how concretely, will you address them?
- What will you do to ensure women receive equal pay for equal work? What are your plans for ensuring women and other traditionally underrepresented groups are vibrant parts of your administration?
- What steps will you take to "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"?
- How will you concretely work to lower rates of violence against women and girls?
- How will you create a safer environment for reporting sexual assault and harassment, as well as better access to justice for survivors?
- How will you support a comprehensive response to violence against Indigenous women and girls—including an inquiry and action plan? How will you make sure the voices of Indigenous women and girls are at the heart of this process?
- How will you address women's income and employment inequality, particularly women from racialized communities?



Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

Every registered U.S. voter gets ONE vote -- regardless of gender expression, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or marital status. Women's votes help to place more attention on issues that directly impact women, girls, and their community.

Voting is not only your civic duty, but an equal opportunity for your voice to be heard and to hold those who are elected accountable. Your opinions matter. **GET OUT AND VOTE!**



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

Learn more at
www.wnywomensfoundation.org



WNY Women's Foundation
742 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209
716-217-9056

wnywfdn@wnywfdn.org

 [@WNYWomensFndn](https://www.facebook.com/WNYWomensFndn)
 [@wnywomensfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/wnywomensfoundation)
 [WNY Women's Foundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/WNY-Women's-Foundation)
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