

WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

VOTER EDUCATION GUIDE

www.wnywomensfoundation.org

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EACH WOMAN TO LEARN, EARN, LEAD, AND THRIVE



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

2023 Voter Education Guide

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

**Our vote is a powerful tool for shaping the future.
Don't miss the opportunity to make your voice
heard. Get out and vote for a better tomorrow!**



This guide will offer information related to voting rights, voter registration, how and where to find the candidates, important dates relating to voting in 2023, and what issues are impacting women that you should determine candidate positions on.



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 7, 2023



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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!



7 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.

8 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.

10 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 7, 2023.

Know your rights: [New York State Voting Rights](#) ¹

Know your district: [Elected Officials and District Map](#) ²

Find your polling place: [Poll Search Site](#) 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 7, 2022) from 6 a.m.- 9 p.m.

You can also vote in person **early**. In both Erie and Niagara counties, from Saturday, October 28 to Sunday, November 5, 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/>



REGISTERING TO VOTE

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

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](#) ²

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

<p>MAIL REGISTRATION October 28</p>	<p>Applications must be received by a board of elections no later than October 28, 2023 to be eligible to vote in the General Election.</p>
<p>IN PERSON REGISTRATION October 28</p>	<p>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 28, 2023.</p>
<p>CHANGE OF ADDRESS October 23</p>	<p>Notices of change of address from registered voters received by October 23, 2023 by a county board of elections must be processed and entered in the records in time for the General Election.</p>

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

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



ABSENTEE VOTING

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

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.
- 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

Online Application Due October 23	Last day for board of elections to RECEIVE application or letter of application by mail or online portal for general election ballot.
In-Person Application Due November 6	Last day to apply IN-PERSON for absentee ballot.
Last Mail Postage Date November 7	Last day to postmark ballot. Must be received by the local board of elections no later than Nov. 14th. Military Voter Ballots must be received no later than Nov. 20th.
Last In-Person Submission Date November 7	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 84 cents for every dollar men earn.

Child Care Crisis

After becoming a mother, women often make less money than their already labored wage before in a phenomenon called the Motherhood Penalty. This makes childcare more expensive and inaccessible to families, especially single women of color.



The Western New York gendered pay gap has **INCREASED** by 4% since 2019.¹



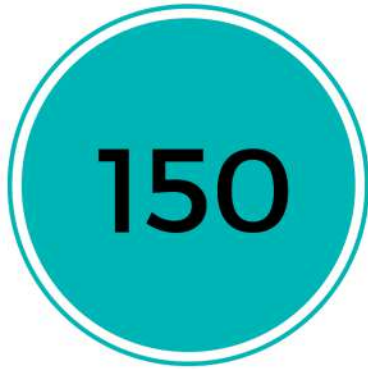
Childcare providers are often underfunded and understaffed. Because of the lack of investment, many places in New York have less childcare available than there is a need for it. Further funding will allow providers to properly compensate workers and expand facilities and programs to meet demand.²

1) <https://www.wbfo.org/2023-03-08/the-gender-pay-gap-has-increased-by-4-in-erie-county-since-2019>

2) <https://www.nysenate.gov/sites/default/files/childcarefourreport.pdf>

Issues Impacting Women

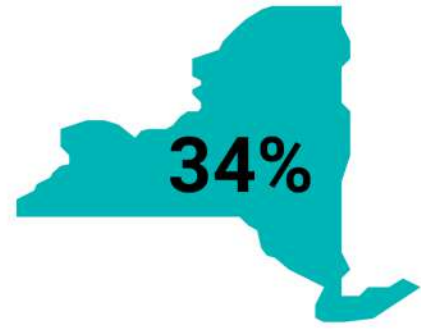
Leadership Roles in Politics



Currently serving congresswomen; only 28% of the 535 seats.¹



12 of the 50 national governors are Women, one of them being New York's own.¹



Only 34% of the New York State legislature is made up of women.²

Reproductive Healthcare

While New York offers abortive care for non-viable pregnancies and for the health preservation of the pregnant person, still many barriers to accessibility exist.

Healthcare accessibility, in general, is an issue, disproportionately affecting lower-income black and brown individuals.

An influx of people from parts of the nation that restrict abortion access means increased wait times and strains healthcare services.

Fake clinics and anti-abortion protesters in the region spread fear and misinformation those seeking healthcare.³

Understanding which candidate will prioritize safe and accessible healthcare is crucial to ensuring bodily autonomy is protected and uplifted.

1) <https://cawp.rutgers.edu/facts/current-numbers>

2) <https://cawp.rutgers.edu/facts/state-state-information/new-york>

3) <https://www.protruthny.org/get-the-truth/>

What's on the ballot?

2023 BALLOT MEASURES

Proposal 1:

Small City School Districts Debt

This proposed amendment would remove the special constitutional debt limitation that is currently placed on small city school districts. If passed, these school districts will be treated the same as all other districts. ¹

Proposal 2:

Renewal of Sewer Debt Exclusion

As per our constitution, every ten years, citizens must approve the authority of counties, cities, towns, and villages to remove their constitutional debt limits for the construction of sewage facilities. ¹



2024 BALLOT MEASURE

The New York State Equal Rights Amendment will be on the ballot in 2024. It will officially outlaw the discrimination of all women, pregnant New Yorkers, LGBTQIA+ people, those with disabilities, older adults, and people from different countries and cultures. This will protect reproductive freedom and move towards equal pay for all. The ERA will ensure the **strongest** legal protections for all New Yorkers.

1) <https://www.elections.ny.gov/2023BallotProposals.html>

2) <https://www.nyclu.org/en/press-releases/equal-rights-amendment-advances-new-york-voters-november-2024>



MAKE AN EDUCATED VOTE

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, 2023.



KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

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

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



TAKE INTO ACCOUNT

Local officials are always looking to better the community, but it is you who knows your community best. Each candidate has different values and perspectives on what to change and uphold within your community. Which one best reflects the vision you have for your community?

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?



VOTE!

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

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 communities.

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 opportunities for each woman to
learn, earn, lead, and thrive.**

Learn more at: www.wnywomensfoundation.org



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

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