



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Voting in the General Election, 2021

Presentation to NYAM

**Presenter: Laura Quigg
October 6, 2021**



The League of Women Voters of the City of New York

Neighbors helping neighbors find their voices to shape our future:

- Nonpartisan
- Membership-based (Join us!)
- Focused on informed active participation in government
- Committed to education and advocacy
- Celebrating a century!



Useful Websites for NYC Voting

NYC Board of Elections: www.vote.nyc

- Voter lookup (incl. party affiliation): www.vote.nyc/page/am-i-registered
- Poll site locator: nyc.pollsitelocator.com/
 - Use this to find all your districts & look up your elected officials

Vote411: www.vote411.org/

Who's on the Ballot <http://whosontheballot.org/>

Ballotpedia: ballotpedia.org/Main_Page

NY State Board of Elections: www.elections.ny.gov/

NYC Campaign Finance Board - <https://www.nyccfb.info/>

League of Women Voters of NYC: www.lwvnyc.org



2021 General Election: November 2, 2021

- Last day to register to vote: October 8, 2021
- Last day to apply for an absentee ballot: October 18, 2021 (postmark), November 1, 2021 (in person)
- Last day to postmark or deliver in person absentee ballot: November 1, 2021
- Early Voting Days: October 23 through 31, 2021



Who's on the Ballot?

- Mayor
- Public Advocate
- Comptroller
- Borough President
- City Council Members
- Several Judicial races

For the General Election in November, voting will be the "regular" way (Single choice, plurality voting)

Ranked-choice voting (RCV) in NYC is used only for Primary and Special Elections



Voting Options: Absentee Ballots

- Apply for an absentee ballot through the BOE
 - Deadline 10/18 by mail and 11/1 in person
 - On-line, by email or using a paper form [vote.nyc](https://vote.nyc.gov) OR call **1-866-VOTE-NYC**
- Ballots will be mailed out beginning *we don't know*
- When you receive the ballot, complete it and then *either*
 - Mail it via USPS to the BOE in your borough, postmarked by 11/1 *OR*
 - Hand deliver it to the BOE in your borough (yourself or through a trusted source) *OR*
 - Hand deliver it to a poll site in your borough during Early Voting or on Election Day (yourself or through a trusted source)



Voting Options: Early Voting

- When to vote early:
 - Any of the nine (9) scheduled days prior to each Election Day:
 - 2 weekends plus the week in between before every Election Day
OR The 10 days before every election minus the Monday before E-Day
- Early Voting poll sites differ from Election Day poll sites!
 - **Look up** your poll site and hours: nyc.pollsitelocator.com
 - Just like on Election Day, you may only vote at your designated poll site
 - Times vary by day: early morning, daytime, and evening hours all available but on different days



Important Ballot Proposals in November

Amendments to the State Constitution

1. Amends portions of Article 3 that relate to the way district lines for Congressional and state legislative offices are determined
2. Adds the **Fundamental Right to Clean Air, Clean Water, and a Healthful Environment**
3. **Eliminates an Advance Voter Registration Requirement**
4. **Authorizes No-Excuse Absentee Voting**
5. Allows NYC Civil Courts to hear and decide claims for \$50,000 or less, an increase over the current maximum of \$25,000



Proposal #3: Eliminates the advance voter registration requirement

- The NY Constitution now requires that a citizen be registered to vote at least 10 days before an election
- The proposed amendment would delete this requirement
- If this amendment is adopted, the Legislature would be authorized to enact laws permitting a citizen to register to vote < 10 days before the election
- Paves the way for same day registration



Proposal #4: Authorizes No-Excuse Absentee Voting

Eliminates the requirement that a voter provide a *reason* for voting by absentee ballot.

Currently, the absentee ballot application looks like this:

I am requesting, in good faith, an absentee ballot due to (check one reason):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> absence from county or New York City on election day | <input type="checkbox"/> resident or patient of a Veterans Health Administration Hospital |
| <input type="checkbox"/> temporary illness or physical disability | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> permanent illness or physical disability | <input type="checkbox"/> detention in jail/prison, awaiting trial, awaiting action by a grand jury, or in prison for a conviction of a crime or offense which was not a felony |
| <input type="checkbox"/> duties related to primary care of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled | |

Recently, we have been able to check off the box, “temporary illness”, when Covid is the real reason, but this provision expires at the end of this year



Proposal #4: Text of proposal

Current language:

§ 2. The legislature may, by general law, provide a manner in which, and the time and place at which, qualified voters [who, on the occurrence of any election, may be absent from the county of their residence or, if residents of the city of New York, from the city, and qualified voters who, on the occurrence of any election, may be unable to appear personally at the polling place because of illness or physical disability,] may vote and for the return and canvass of their votes.

Proposed language:

§ 2. The legislature may, by general law, provide a manner in which, and the time and place at which, qualified voters may vote and for the return and canvass of their votes in any election.



Proposal #2: The Right to Clean Air, Clean Water, and a Healthful Environment

Purpose: To protect public health and the environment by adding the right of each person to clean air and water and a healthful environment to the Bill of Rights in Article 1 of the NY Constitution

Text and new language:

Section 1. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That article I of the constitution be amended by adding a new section 19 to read as follows:

§ 19. Environmental rights. Each person shall have a right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment.



Proposal #5: Increasing the Jurisdiction of the NYC Civil Court

Purpose: To amend Article VI, Section 15 of the New York Constitution to increase the jurisdiction of the New York City Civil Court.

- The New York City Civil Court is currently limited to hearing and deciding claims for \$25,000 or less.
- The proposed amendment would allow the New York City Civil Court to hear and decide claims for \$50,000 or less.
- The NY Civil Court hears cases with value below the threshold and the NY Supreme Court hears cases with value above the threshold



Proposal #5: Increasing the Jurisdiction of the NYC Civil Court: Text

Section 1. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That subdivision b of section 15 of article VI of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

b. The court of city-wide civil jurisdiction of the city of New York shall have jurisdiction over the following classes of actions and proceedings which shall be originated in such court in the manner provided by law: actions and proceedings for the recovery of money, actions and proceedings for the recovery of chattels and actions and proceedings for the foreclosure of mechanics liens and liens on personal property where the amount sought to be recovered or the value of the property does not exceed [twenty-five] fifty thousand dollars exclusive of interest and costs, or such smaller amount as may be fixed by law; over summary proceedings to recover possession of real property and to remove tenants therefrom and over such other actions and proceedings, not within the exclusive jurisdiction of the supreme court, as may be provided by law. The court of city-wide civil jurisdiction shall further exercise such equity jurisdiction as may be provided by law and its jurisdiction to enter judgment upon a counterclaim for the recovery of money only shall be unlimited.



Few words on Redistricting

Choose your elected officials – don't let them choose you!

- Following Census2020, new district lines are being drawn this fall nationwide
- In NY State, we now have an independent redistricting commission nyirc.gov
- The NYIRC has submitted draft maps on September 15
- Hearings in NYC are in November where the public can submit testimony
- You can help make sure your community is fairly represented



Proposal #1: Amends the Apportionment and Redistricting Process

Question as it appears on the ballot:

This proposed constitutional amendment would freeze the number of state senators at 63, amend the process for the counting of the state's population, delete certain provisions that violate the United States Constitution, repeal and amend certain requirements for the appointment of the co-executive directors of the redistricting commission and amend the manner of drawing district lines for congressional and state legislative offices. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?



Parsing Amendment #1: It would:

Freeze the number of state senators at the current number of 63. Currently, under the state constitution, the number of senators was originally set at 50 and thereafter increased over time to 63.

Require that state assembly and senate district lines be based on the total population of the state, and require the state to count all residents, including non-citizens and Native Americans if the federal census fails to include them.

Provide for incarcerated people to be counted at their place of last residence, instead of at their place of incarceration, for the purpose of redistricting. This practice is already established by state statute for Senate and Assembly districts.



Parsing Amendment #1: It would:

Amend and repeal portions of the state constitutional amendment adopted by voters in 2014 that created a redistricting commission.

- Allow the redistricting commission to appoint two co-executive directors by simple majority vote, without consideration as to the party affiliation of the individual being appointed.
- Eliminate the alternative process currently in place that allows for the appointment of co-executive directors and co-deputy executive directors by the legislature should the redistricting commission fail to appoint co-executive directors, and remove the requirement that the two co-executive directors of the redistricting commission be members of different political parties.



Parsing Amendment #1: It would:

Revise the procedure for drawing and approving Congressional and state legislative districts scheduled to be first applied in 2022. The proposed amendment would alter the redistricting procedure in the following ways:

Change the redistricting map approval procedures for the redistricting commission and legislature by making changes to the voting thresholds needed to approve/adopt a plan. Under this proposal:

Approval of a plan by the redistricting commission would require at least seven votes, out of the ten commissioners, in favor thereof. There would no longer be a requirement that at least one commissioner appointed by each of the legislative leaders vote in favor of a plan in order to approve it. A plan approved by at least seven commissioners must be approved by a majority of each house of the legislature to be approved.

However, in the event that the redistricting commission votes on but does not have the seven votes needed to approve a plan, the commission is required to send the legislature the redistricting plan or plans that garnered the most votes. The legislature would be able to adopt such plan with a 60% majority. This amendment would repeal the requirement that in the event the speaker of the assembly and the temporary president of the senate are members of the same political party, approval shall require the vote in support of it's passage by at least two thirds of the members elected in each house. If the commission fails to vote on any plan or plans by the deadline, all plans, including draft plans in the commission's possession are sent to the legislature, and each house of the legislature can introduce and adopt such a plan with or without amendments.

The redistricting commission voting requirements and legislative vote thresholds for approving the commission's plan would no longer vary depending on the political affiliation of the Temporary President of the Senate and the Speaker of the Assembly.

Require the redistricting commission that draws the lines to submit its redistricting plan and implementing legislation to the Legislature two months earlier than called for under the current procedure the timeline set forth in the 2014 state constitutional amendment. (For the redistricting cycle due to proceed in 2022, the time frame would be condensed to meet election-related deadlines)





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lwvnyc.org

Democracy is not a spectator sport

VOTE LOUDERTM