

Let's Make A Difference in the 2021 Mayoral Election!

In 2021, the Partnership will organize a Voter Education/Civic Engagement Campaign to help our member companies inform and motivate their employees to register and vote in the New York City municipal primary elections on June 22. This campaign will officially launch in early January, with an initial focus on the February 14 deadline for registered voters to declare a party affiliation if they wish to vote in the primary.

Between January and June, we will provide nonpartisan information and tools to help employers carry out the following:

1. Notify all employees who are NYC residents about the election timetable and the importance of registering, declaring a party affiliation and voting.
2. Demonstrate that voting in local elections is a company priority by giving employees time off to vote. New York state law requires that employers allow two hours of paid time off to vote, if an employee requires it.
3. Enlist the company's business resource/affinity groups in reaching out to employees with information and programming, aimed at voter education.
4. Notify employees of the opportunity to participate in webinars organized by the Partnership to introduce candidates. The Partnership is working with the national nonprofit Civic Alliance, which will provide voter education on topics such as ranked choice voting.

Help "Get Out the Vote" in June with signage, email reminders and social media. Partnership member companies employ about a million New Yorkers. Our 2019 Employee Survey showed that most do not regularly vote in local elections.

- Asked why they don't vote, employees told us they don't think their vote makes a difference and they do not know/like any of the candidates.
- Only 55% of the city's registered voters voted in the 2020 presidential election.
- Since 1993, when turnout for the general election was just over 50%, New York City has seen a consistent fall off in voter participation in local elections.
- Just 16% of registered voters participated in the 2013 mayoral primary (22% of registered Democrats; 12% of registered Republicans). In a city of 8.4 million, Bill de Blasio received 282,344 votes, winning the primary by a margin of 101,503 votes.

New York City primary elections will be held on June 22, 2021, when the next mayor, comptroller and most of the City Council will be on the ballot. There are some new factors that New Yorkers need to be made aware of:

- For the first time, New York will have ranked choice voting, which means you can vote for up to five candidates for any office, ranking them in order of preference. Candidates with the fewest votes are eliminated and their votes are assigned to the second choice on those ballots, until one candidate has more than 50% of all votes cast and is the winner.
- Voting will be more convenient because of “early voting,” which means that select poll sites will be open for a 10-day period before election day.
- Depending on the status of COVID-19, there may be a universal option of mail-in, absentee voting.

New York has “closed” primaries, so registered voters cannot vote in June unless their registration includes a party affiliation; you can only vote for candidates in the party with which you are affiliated.

Declaring Party Affiliation: There are over 5.6 million registered voters in the city. One million declare no party affiliation and therefore are not eligible to vote in the primaries.

- February 14 is the last day when registered voters may declare or change party affiliation before the June 22 primary. You can do this online at ny.gov/vote

Registering to Vote: There are another one million potentially eligible New Yorkers not currently registered to vote. In order to vote in the primaries, you must register and declare a party affiliation.

- May 28 is the last day you can register and be eligible to vote in the June primary. (October 8 is the deadline for the November general election.) You can do this online at ny.gov/vote

Key Dates

February 14	Last day to declare or change party affiliation for June 22 primary
May 28	Voter registration deadline for June 22 primary
June 22	New York City municipal primary election
October 8	Voter registration deadline for November 2 general election
November 2	General election

Register to vote, declare or change party affiliation at ny.gov/vote

**If we work together to encourage civic engagement and get out the vote,
we can make a difference!**