



Topic: ELECTION SECURITY

Release: October 31, 2022

Have you ever wondered how New York State Elections are secured? In an effort to combat a rise in public mistrust around election security and reliability, the League of Women Voters of New York and Tompkins County in collaboration with the Brennan Center for Justice are working to explain how our elections are conducted and the steps used to ensure election security. We hope to provide greater insight into the securing of votes and reinforce public trust in our elections and election officials. Our election workforce, made up of ordinary people from our community, makes sure every election runs smoothly and everyone's vote is counted. Although we may know who won an election within a few hours, results are not official until the vote is certified by the election office.

#### Election Equipment

- Voting machines approved by the New York State Board of Elections are barred from connecting to the internet. Election Law § 7–20
- Election personnel collect vote counts from each machine and report the results to election headquarters. Ballots cast in person are tabulated at the polling place where they were cast. Absentee ballots are collected at a central location for ballot tabulation. Election Law § 9–102, § 9-209

#### Election Workers

- Almost all processes and procedures require that bipartisan teams of trained election personnel are involved. These officials have taken an oath to uphold state election laws and protect the security of the election. Election Law § 3–300, § 3- 400, § 3-414,
- Representatives of political parties or candidates, organizations, and sometimes even members of the general public, are allowed to observe and monitor election activities. Election Law § 5–206, § 7-207, § 9–211

#### Voter Registration

- Voter registration ensures only those meeting state eligibility requirements are able to vote, and helps keep track of who has cast a ballot. Election Law § 8–302
- To register to vote in NYS you must be a citizen of the U.S., 18 years of age or older, and be a resident of the district for at least 30 days. Election Law § 5–102

## Voting

- Voters who do not appear on the registration list can cast a provisional or affidavit ballot. Election Law § 5–204
- Poll workers verify that every in-person voter is eligible to vote before giving them a ballot. Absentee ballots are only sent to registered voters who have requested them. NYS verifies voter eligibility again when collecting absentee ballots. Election Law § 8–302, § 8–400, § 8- 402, § 9–209

***If you have an issue at the polls DO NOT leave without voting!***

***Call the Attorney General hotline: 866-390-2992***

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization committed to defending democracy and empowering voters by bringing you the most up to date information available on National, State and Local Elections and issues of concern to voters.

LWV believes everyone should play an active part in government and vote in all elections whether local, State or National. Our Democracy depends on it.