

HIGHROAD FELLOWSHIP REPORTS

VOTING 101

July 2018

Gayathri Jai

BSILR '19, from Poughkeepsie, NY

2018 High Road Fellow

With the WNY Women's Foundation



ILR Buffalo Co-Lab

The ILR Buffalo Co-Lab advances an equitable economy and democratic community, collaboratively integrating scholarly and practical understanding to strengthen civic action.

Since 1946, Cornell ILR has played a vital role in Western New York, working in partnership with businesses, unions, government, education and community organizations to build an economy that works for all.

High Road Fellowships were launched in 2009, in collaboration with community-based think-tank Partnership for the Public Good. They connect Cornell undergraduates with practitioners and creative community leaders who are driving change in the local economy.

Fellows are in Buffalo, NY for eight weeks in the summer, working on projects through their host organization.





WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION
Transforming Our Community by Investing in Women and Girls

VOTING 101

Why Vote?

In 2016, New York State had the second lowest voter turnout in the country—only 19.7% of eligible voters cast a ballot in the last presidential primary. Voting is a way to get your voice heard on issues that will affect women and families in YOUR community.

Who Can Vote in NYS?

You are eligible to vote if you are...

- ✓ US Citizen (or born in Puerto Rico, Guam, or U.S. Virgin Islands)
- ✓ Be 18 years old by December 31st of the year that you register. You must be 18 years old by the date of the election in order to vote.
- ✓ Resident of this state and the county, city or village for at least 30 days before the election
- ✓ Not claim the right to vote elsewhere

OCT. 12
NYS VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

NOV. 6
ELECTION DAY

How to Register?

You must register to vote in New York at your current address at least 25 days before the next election to be eligible to vote.

You need to fill out and submit a voter registration form.

You can register **online**, by mail, or in person at your local DMV or local board of Elections, or call 1-800-FOR-VOTE hotline to request a mailed voter application. You may also download the form at <http://www.elections.state.ny.us/>.

Online Resources

[NYS Felon Voting Rights](#)

[Voter's Bill of Rights](#)

[2018 WNY Women's Foundation Voter Guide](#)

[Voting Qualifications](#)

[Voting Registration Form \(English\)](#)

[Voting Registration Form \(Spanish\)](#)

[Voter Registration Deadlines](#)

[Absentee Voting Information](#)

[Rock the Vote](#)

[Write the Rules](#)

[Vote 411](#)

[Learn About Your Candidates](#)

[Get Voting Reminders](#)

[League of Women Voters](#)

[League of Women Voters Buffalo/Niagara](#)

Get Informed: Learn about the candidates and policies that will affect women and families in your community at www.wnywomensfoundation/voterguide.com (TENTATIVE)



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION
Transforming Our Community by Investing in Women and Girls

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

League of Women Voters:
1-866-LWVNYS1

League of Women Voters
Buffalo/Niagara: 716-986-4898

Erie County Board of
Elections: 716-858-8891

New York State Board of
Elections (Public
Information): 518-474-1953

How to Check Your Registration Status?

1. Am I registered to vote? You can check your status at <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/> OR call your local Board of Elections.
2. Check if you are registered accurately at your CURRENT address at <https://www.vote.org/am-i-registered-to-vote/>
2. Remember the deadline to register is October 12th

How to Vote?

1. The NYS primary election will be held on Thursday, September 13, 2018. The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 6th 2018.
3. Find your polling location at <https://www.headcount.org/find-your-polling-place/>
4. During general elections, polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. New York DOES NOT have early voting.
5. Learn about your state and local candidates at <https://lwvny-vote.civengine.com/>

How to get an Absentee Ballot?

If you will be away from your county on Election Day or are unable to make it to the polls due to illness or physical disability, you can request an absentee ballot. Your ballot must be post marked on or before Nov. 6th.

1. Find an absentee ballot application at your local board of elections:
<https://www.elections.ny.gov/countyboards.html>

OR download an English or Spanish form online:
<https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html>

2. Once completed, applications must be mailed to your county board no later than 7 days before the election OR delivered in person no later than November 5th.
3. If you are unable to pick up your ballot, you have the right to designate someone to pick up and deliver the ballot for you.

How Can I Volunteer as a Poll Worker?

You are eligible to volunteer (and get paid!) if you registered to vote, and are a resident of the county in which you will be working.

Apply through your county's Board of Elections!

Get Informed: Learn about the candidates and policies that will affect women and families in your community at www.wnywomensfoundation/voterguide.com (TENTATIVE)