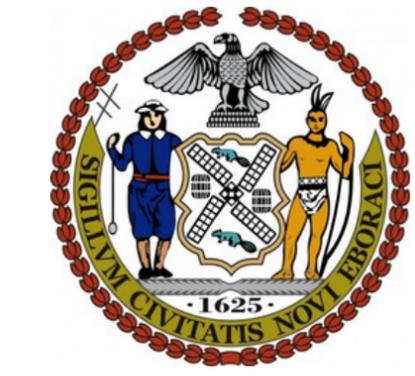




New York Election 2017

#GoVote

INTRODUCTION



New York State has 19,745,289 people living in it, and 8,537,673 of that population belongs to New York City. The numbers have been steadily increasing, which is not a surprise because New York State has a rich history of different immigrants coming to achieve the American Dream. Moreover, to give more credence to New York being a place for immigrants, the United States has become a global country by being a founding father of the United Nations, for it chooses to be a part of the decision-making mechanism of the United Nations (the Security Council). So, it is pivotal to vote in every election because your vote does not only affect day-to-day life; your vote can also impact countless lives around the world.

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IMPORTANT DATES:

These are must know dates as you scroll or flip through this document because voting registration has an end date.

Registration and voting

**Last day to register for the primaries
August 18**

**Primary votes are collected
September 12**

**Last day to register for the generals
October 23**

**General votes are collected
Nov. 7**

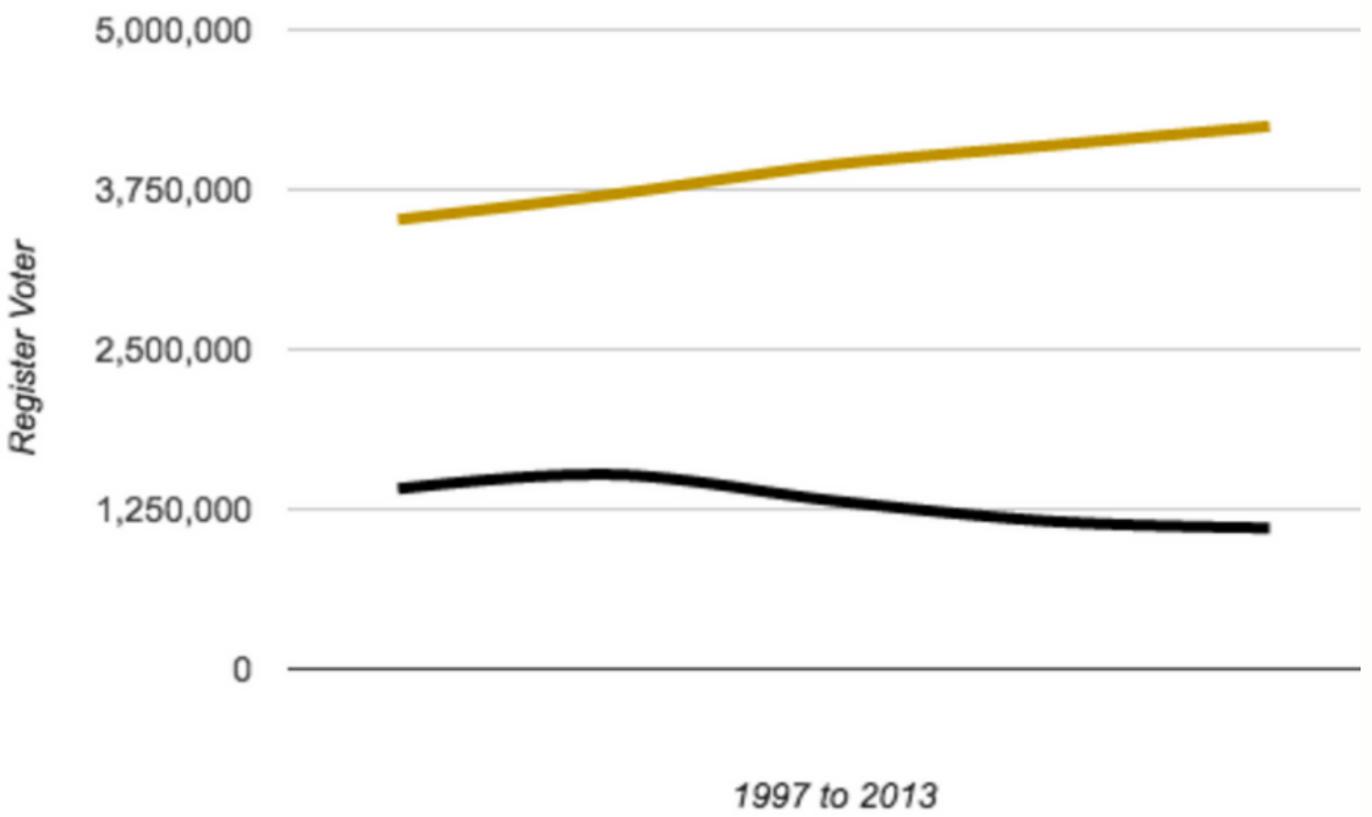


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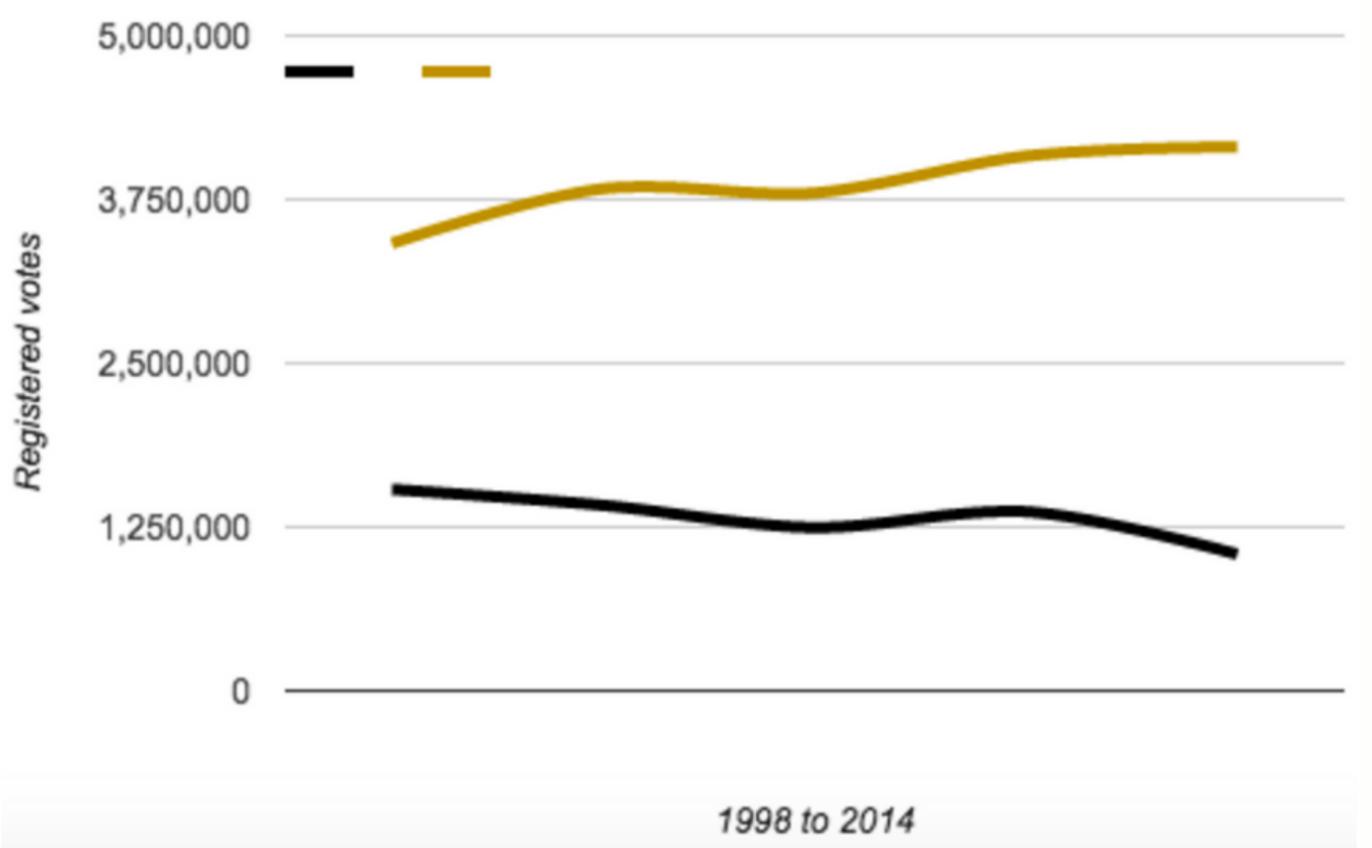
IMPORTANT STATISTICS TO KNOW:

These charts show that there was a success in getting people registered to vote (potential/gold), yet a small percentage actually voted in the local elections (actual/black).

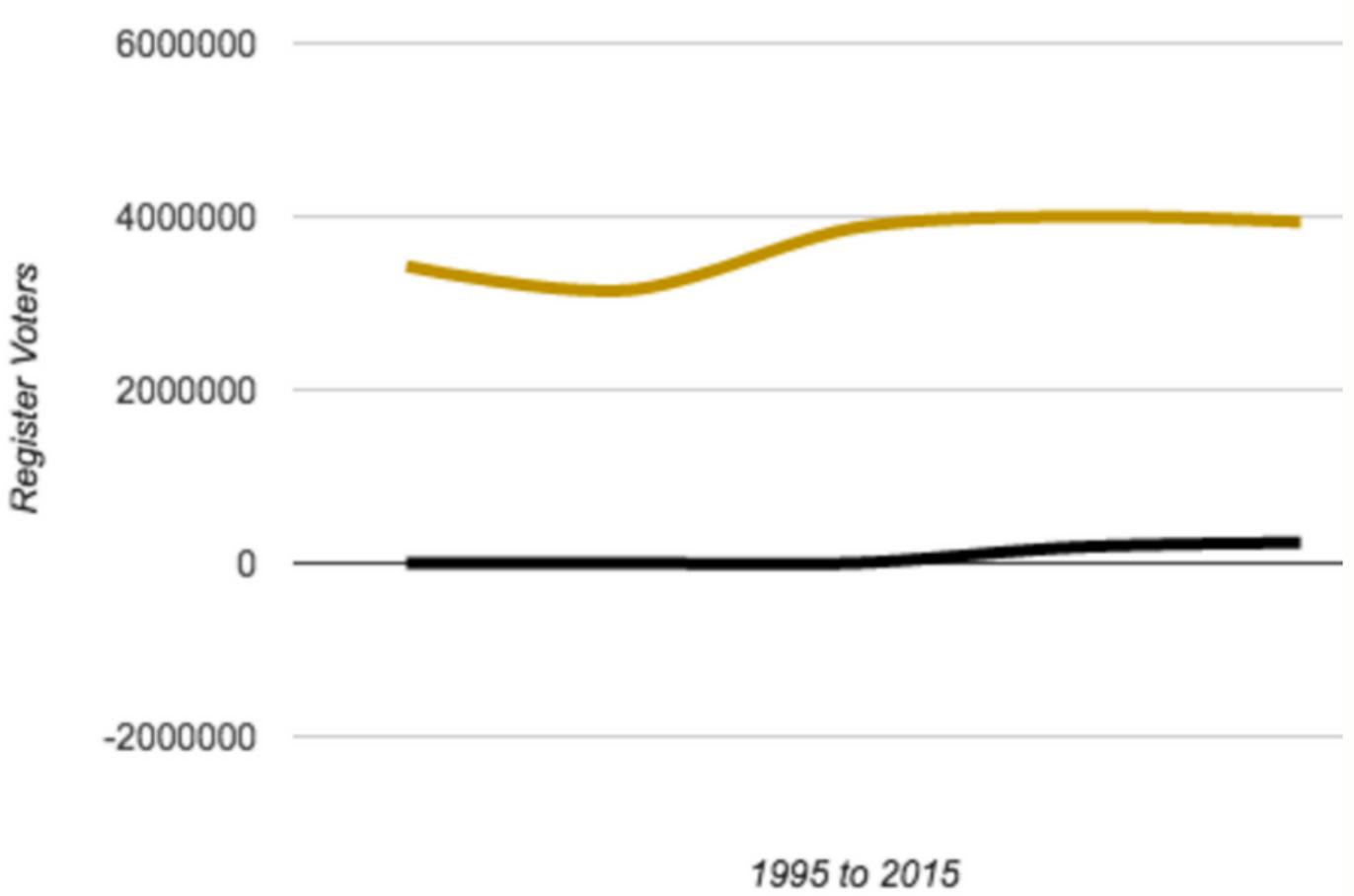
Mayor: Potential (G) against Actual (B)



Governor: Potential (G) against Actual (B)



Judicial: Potential (R) against Actual (B)



FUNCTIONS OF STATE GOVERNMENT:

Understanding what you are voting for is the first step. the State Government can be split into 3 different sections:

- Legislative Branch
- Executive Branch
- Judicial Branch

LEGISLATURE BRANCH

The Legislative branch has two functions
To manage the budget (legislature)
To manage the legal affairs (the Senate) of the state.



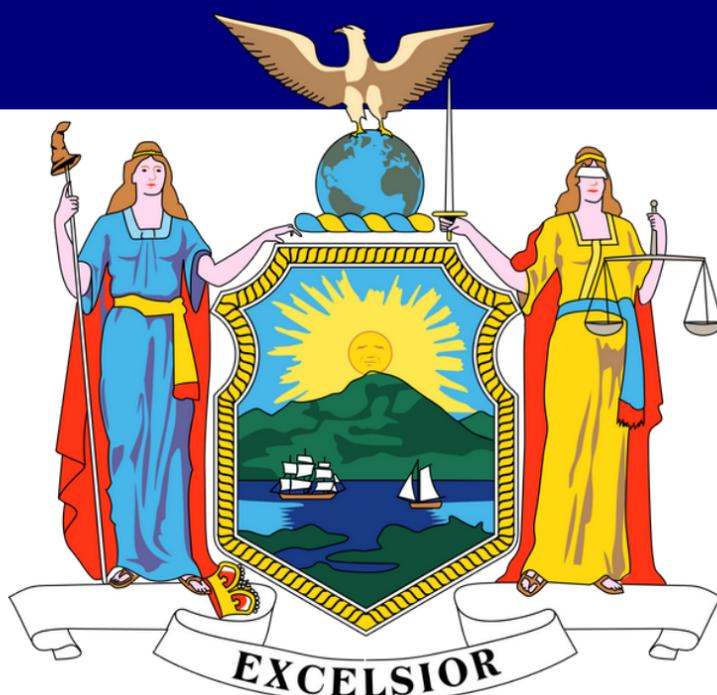
EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- The Executive Branch ensures that the day-to-day functioning of the state government is operating effectively.



JUDICIAL BRANCH

- Judicial Branch keeps the government functioning within legal parameters & helps the people be represented in front of the law.





LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

LEGISLATURE

- Appropriation of funds for the operation of state government and its agencies and for aid to local governments
- Defines acts or omissions that constitute crimes and the setting of penalties
- Promotes public welfare, including that of the State's indigent, mentally ill and unemployed
- Correction, clarification, amendment or repeal of laws that are outdated or confusing

THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY.

- An important weapon in the legislative process is the override of a Governor's veto
- The Legislature can approve a law despite a veto by the Governor with the support of two-thirds of the membership in each house. However, the most common lawmaking practice is compromise among the Senate, the Assembly, and the Governor
- Confirms the Governor's appointment of non-elected state officials and court judges

OTHER ROLES

- Lieutenant Governor is the Senate's President
In this largely ceremonial capacity, the Lieutenant Governor presides over the Senate during the legislative session and has a rarely used casting vote to break ties in measures before the house
- Temporary President is the ranking Senator of the majority political party in the house -- the Majority Leader
 - Guide the business of the Senate
 - Appoint Senate committees
 - Name Senate employees and perform or delegate to another Senator the duties of the President during the Lieutenant Governor's absence from the Senate Chamber



EXECUTIVE BRANCH

GOVERNOR

- Required by the Constitution to submit a yearly State Budget to the Legislature, in which he makes recommendations for legislation and proposes funding appropriations for departments and programs
- Veto legislative bills with which he disagrees
- Convene the Legislature for special sessions
- Appoint and, under certain conditions
- Remove non-elected state officers
- Grant reprieves, commutations and pardons

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

- Serves as President of the State Senate, and assumes the governorship in case of impeachment, resignation, absence or death of the Governor

COMPTROLLER

- Chief fiscal officer of the state and serves as the administrative head of the Department of Audit and Control

ATTORNEY GENERAL

- Responsible for the prosecution of all actions for or against the State, has control of the legal affairs of state officers and departments and serves as the head of the Department of Law



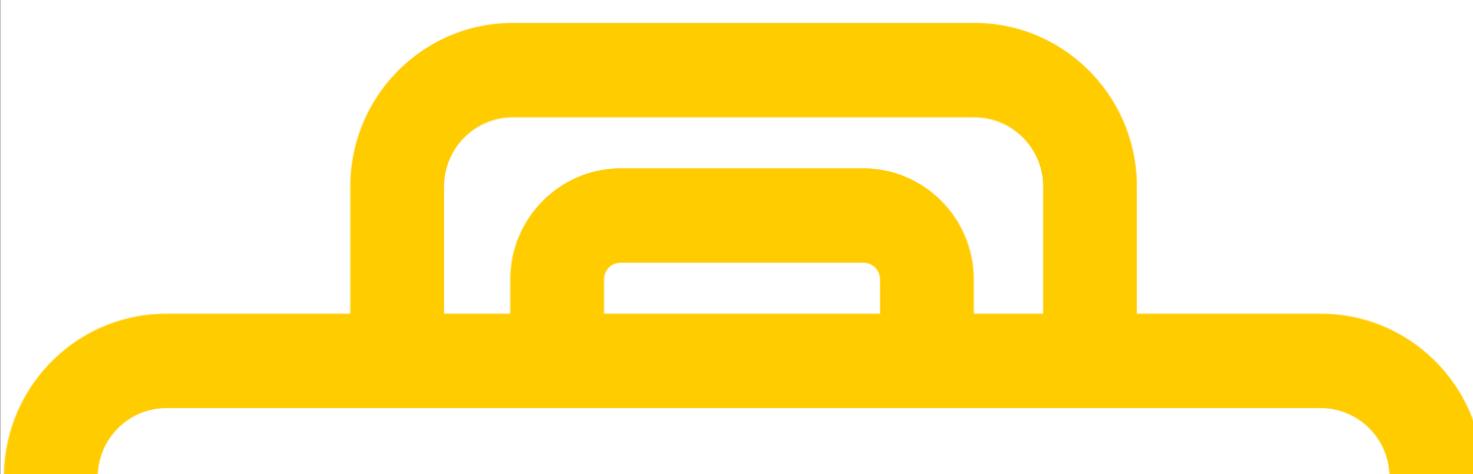
JUDICIAL BRANCH

STRUCTURE

The judicial system consists of full-time and part-time judges and nonjudicial employees

Three main classifications of courts in the State

- The Appellate Courts
- Trial Courts of Superior Jurisdiction
- Trial Courts of Lesser Jurisdiction



CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

- Responsible for the prosecution of all actions for or against the state
- Has control of the legal affairs of state officers and departments
- Serves as the head of the Department of Law



COURT

- The Judicial Branch serves as the enforcement body for the bills that are passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. It is the duty of the court to determine the practical application and to decide the constitutionality of laws that are already in effect. This is often a complex and challenging task, but the court system is organized to best meet the varied legal needs of all the State's citizens
- The Judicial Branch serves as the enforcement body for the bills that are passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor

FUNCTIONS OF NYC GOVERNMENT:



New York City's government is more confusing than a tourist trying to understand the subway system, so we broke down the roles.

MAYOR

- Appoints various positions in the city's government
- Proposes the city's budget
- Signs into law or vetoes bills proposed by the city council
- Responsible for the effectiveness and integrity of the city's government

PUBLIC ADVOCATE

- Fills the mayor's role if the mayor dies, is impeached or resigns
- Acts as the ombudsman for the people of the city to the city government
- Investigates citizens' complaints about city services and makes proposals to address any issues found
- Participates in New York City Council discussions
- Holds hearings on matters related to his or her jurisdiction
- Sits on several of the city's committees and boards, including the City Audit Committee and the Commission of Public Information and Communication

CITY COMPTROLLER

- Audits a number of agencies
- Reports on the city's financial health
- Manages the city debt
- Offers advice on city operations
- Manages fiscal policies and financial transactions that occur in the city

BOROUGH PRESIDENT

- Appoints members to community boards
- Promotes the long-term welfare of the boroughs
- Advises the mayor on matters within the borough
- Introduces legislation to the city council
- Manages the district attorneys of the Borough

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

- Responsible for criminal investigations
- Criminal prosecution in their respective county

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

- The council's 51 members are representatives from each of the city's council districts
- Propose, evaluate and adopt new local laws
- Investigates and discusses matters related to the city's property affairs and government
- Must approve the city budget
- Speaker of the city council
 - Sets the agenda and presides over meetings

ÆFOCUS NOTES

New York has one of the most corrupt governments, but what does one suspect with some of the lowest voter turnouts. Yes, voting is time-consuming and burdensome, but what value does one place on that time spent?

How does one measure the worth of time waiting in line for a vote?

Well, that answer is simple. The roles and functions do not just affect your everyday habits, it does much more. Government officials make laws that you oblige by and affect those around you. So, time spent in line is worth the wait to vote because everyone's day-to-day tasks depend on these people. Moreover, how about what is the point of using it when no one else does it? It should not be a matter of "Why should I do it when no one else does it?" It should be why is nobody else doing this. Voting is the most pivotal part of your life. Every time you slip a paper into a box or punch those buttons on a machine, each one is a victory for democracy.

Eventually, the more citizens engage and hold their officials accountable for their decisions, they more likely they will listen because their job is determined by our satisfaction. Therefore, it is important to find groups that you feel are aligned with your views, because it will help you be more aware of what is occurring around you. Also, always do independent research for your own benefit.

A representative democracy will not represent the people if no one is there to hold them accountable. In unity, the people become strong, whereas when we are dispersed, we are at our weakest.

COMMENTARY:

Yes, New York has more corrupt officials than any other state

<http://www.politifact.com/new-york/statements/2016/sep/19/elaine-phillips/new-york-has-been-most-corrupt-state-decades/>

Congratulations, New York, You're #1 in Corruption

<http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/05/how-new-york-became-most-corrupt-state-in-america-117652>

Corruption in New York: A Brief History

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/20/nyregion/corruption-in-new-york-a-history.html>

RESOURCES:

Wikipedia of American Politics

https://ballotpedia.org/Main_Page

A New York newspaper

<http://cityandstateny.com/>

New York City Campaign Finance Boards

<http://www.nyccfb.info/>

A site to track who is spending where

<http://www.politicalmoneyline.com/>

NYC Board of Elections

<http://vote.nyc.ny.us/html/home/home.shtml>

"The untold want by life and land
ne'er granted, Now voyager sail thou
forth to seek and find"

Walt Whitman in THE UNTOLD WANT



SOURCES

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<http://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/law/2017PoliticalCalendar.pdf>

<http://vote.nyc.ny.us/downloads/pdf/documents/boe/AnnualReports/BOEAnnualReport15.pdf>

<https://www.nysenate.gov/branches-government-new-york-state>

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