

Columbia County Board of Elections

New York State Voter's Bill of Rights

As a registered voter, you have the RIGHT TO:

VOTE: The right to vote includes voting for candidates and questions on the ballot and having sufficient time to vote.

HAVE YOUR VOTES COUNT: Vote on a voting system that is in working condition and that will allow votes to be accurately cast.

SECRECY IN VOTING: Secrecy in voting will be preserved for all elections.

FREEDOM IN VOTING: Cast your vote, free from coercion or intimidation by elections officers or any other person.

PERMANENT REGISTRATION: Once registered to vote, you continue to remain qualified to vote from an address within your county or city.

ACCESSIBLE ELECTIONS: Non-discriminatory equal access to the election system for all voters, including the elderly, disabled, alternative-language minorities, and military and overseas citizens, as required by Federal and State laws.

ASSISTANCE IN VOTING: You may request assistance to vote because of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write.

INSTRUCTION IN VOTING: You can view a sample ballot in your polling place prior to voting, and before entering the machine, you may also request help in how to operate the machine.

ABSENTEE VOTING: If you will be out of your county of residence on election day, or are unable to go to your polling place due to illness or physical disability, you may cast an absentee ballot.

AFFIDAVIT VOTING: Whenever your name does not appear in the poll ledger or the voter registration or enrollment list, or you do not provide identification when required, you will be offered an affidavit ballot.

FIRST TIME VOTER? Instructions on how to vote are available on the sample ballot posted in the polling place. If you need additional help, prior to signing in, ask the poll inspectors.

CASTING A VOTE ON A PAPER BALLOT? Review your ballot to be sure you have cast your votes as you intended. Be sure to vote for the number of candidates permitted for each office on your ballot. If you make a mistake on your ballot, return it to the inspectors and you will be given another.

PROBLEMS? Federal and state laws prohibit acts of fraud and misrepresentation on voting. When you encounter problems in voting, contact your local county board or the State Board of Elections.

To contact the Columbia County Board of Elections:

Call 1-518-828-3115

Or write to the board at 401 State Street, Hudson, New York 12534

To contact the NEW YORK STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS:

Call 1-518-474-6221

Or write to the board at 40 Steuben Street, Albany, New York 12207-2108