**8 Election Protection FAQ’s for NY Voters:**

To contact Election Protection, call **1-866-our-vote**. This is the number voters should contact if they encounter challenges at the polls. For more information, visit [866ourvote.org](http://www.866ourvote.org)

 **It is 9:00 p.m. and my precinct is closed or closing and they will not let me vote.**

Any eligible voter on line or in the polling place at 9:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote. Immediately contact a Captain, who should call the local County Election Official. You can find contact information at http://www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBoards.html. **N.Y. Elec. Law § 8-104(5)**.

**I am a first-time voter who registered by mail. What identification do I need to bring with me in order to vote?**

If you did not provide identification at registration and have not previously voted, you need to bring one of the following forms of ID: driver’s license, non-driver photo ID card, other current and valid photo identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows your name and address. **N.Y. Elec. Law § 8-302(2-a)(a)**.

**I have been offered an affidavit (provisional) ballot. What should I do?**

Affidavit (provisional) ballots are a LAST resort. Affidavit (provisional) ballots will be counted only if the poll workers can later verify that the individual who cast the affidavit (provisional) ballot is registered to vote in the applicable election and lives at an address within the district. If the voter has registered on time, is eligible and is in the correct polling place, direct the voter to ask the poll worker to call the county clerk and confirm his or her registration. If the voter still is not on the rolls, let them know that the voter can vote by affidavit (provisional) ballot. But remember, for the reasons stated above, voting by affidavit (provisional) ballots is a LAST resort.

**I have been approached by candidates or others at the polls.**

All poll monitors must stay at least 100 feet from the entrance to the polling place; they can solicit you if they comply with this rule. If they are violating the 100-foot requirement, contact a Captain, let them know the extent of the problem and work with them to assess whether calling an election official is necessary. **N.Y. Elec. Law § 8-104(1).**

**There are people at the polls trying to intimidate voters.**

Contact a Captain immediately. An attorney may be dispatched to the polling place. If the voter agrees, put them on hold while you contact a Captain so they can send an attorney to the location immediately. Then, gather as much information from the voter as possible. ***See* N.Y. Elec. Law §§ 3-402, 17-150, 17-154**.

**My vote has been challenged. Can I still vote?**

Yes. Depending on the basis for the challenge, you will be allowed to vote by regular ballot if you: (1) take “The preliminary oath” promising to tell the truth with regards to your qualifications as a voter, and (2) answer questions posed by the inspector pertaining to the challenge. The inspector may also require you to take a second oath pertaining to the specific basis for the challenge, such as “The Conviction Oath” discussed in Question 4 above. If you take the oath(s) as instructed by the inspector, however, you will be allowed to vote by regular ballot. If you refuse, you will not be allowed to vote. **N.Y. Elec. Law § 8-504.**

**I am a college student, can I vote where I go to school?**

College students may register and vote where they go to school provided that they consider in *bona fide* that location their voting residence. Students must be held to the SAME eligibility requirements as any other voter in the jurisdiction. If a student has been turned away at the polls, ascertain if they have fulfilled all of the registration requirements and that they have registered on time for this election (by 25 days before the election). If so, contact the Captain to dispatch an attorney to the location and/or contact the appropriate election official. **N.Y. Elec. Law §§ 1-104(22), 5-102.**

**What if I make a mistake or “spoil” my paper ballot while voting?**

Prior to submitting a ballot, if a voter makes a mistake in completing the ballot or wishes to change his/her ballot choices, the voter may obtain and complete a new ballot. The voter has a right to a replacement ballot upon return of the original ballot. **N.Y. Elec. Law § 7–106(5).**