

New York on Offense

The Path Forward to Strengthen Our Elections

New York’s elections follow a rigorous system of checks and balances that ensures every election is free, fair, and secure. In recent years, however, we’ve seen bad actors exploit weaknesses in state law — fueling misinformation, legal battles, and spurious attempts to overturn the will of the voters.

This factsheet outlines two commonsense policy solutions that New York lawmakers and election administrators can consider to close those gaps — before and after Election Day. For a deeper dive into the national context and proven solutions, see our full report, “[States on Offense: The Path Forward to Strengthen Our Elections.](#)” For more information, please [contact us](#).

This resource is strictly nonpartisan and for educational use only. It is 501(c)(3) compliant and is not intended for any partisan, political, or electioneering activities.

New York Elections By the Numbers

Registered Voters: 13,153,553¹

Voter Turnout (Registered Voters %): 2022 [49 %] 2024 [68 %]²

Voting Methods (Election Day/Early In-Person/Mail %): 2022: 72%/20%/7%; 2024: 51%;36%;10%³

Recent Attempts to Exploit Election Vulnerabilities:

- [Rockland County Lawsuit Seeks Hand Recount, New Election following 2024](#)
- [Hudson Valley Town Challenges State Voting Rights Act](#)

¹ “NYSVoter Enrollment by County, Party Affiliation and Status; Voters Registered as of February 10, 2025”; N.Y. State Bd. of Elections website; accessed at <https://elections.ny.gov/enrollment-county> on Sept. 3, 2025.

² 2022 EAVS Report, p. 6, Appendix A: Descriptive Tables, Overview Table 1: 2022 EAVS at a Glance; 2024 EAVS Report, p. 6, Appendix A: Descriptive Tables, Executive Summary Table 1: 2024 EAVS at a Glance.

³ *Id.*

Two Fixes for Stronger New York Elections

1	Protect eligible voters from harassment or wrongful disenfranchisement by strengthening safeguards for voter challenges.
2	Limit frivolous post-election challenges by clarifying standards and deadlines for raising and responding to voter challenges.

Fix #1: Strengthen Safeguards for Voter Challenges

Lawmakers can raise the evidentiary threshold needed to initiate and sustain a challenge. They can also ensure all challenged voters can contest the claim and verify their eligibility.

New York law broadly empowers voters, poll watchers, and election inspectors to challenge the eligibility of any voter if they have a “reason to suspect” that the voter may not be eligible. These challenges can occur near or even on Election Day, often leaving eligible voters with little recourse to verify their eligibility to ensure their ballots are counted. For early and absentee voters, the law offers no opportunity for voters to contest a challenge.

Fix #2: Clarify Standards and Deadlines for Post-Election Challenges

Lawmakers can address these vulnerabilities by setting clear, limited grounds for post-election challenges, requiring reliable evidence before votes can be rejected, and establishing clear deadlines for courts to resolve disputes.

Current law permits post-election litigation for a wide range of reasons, with few limits on the grounds or evidence required to initiate it. Deadlines for resolving these cases are unclear, allowing disputes to drag on for months after Election Day and eroding public confidence in the process.

Secure Democracy Foundation is a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization building stronger elections, state by state. Our work is state-focused, informed by election policy insights from a national perspective, and realized by seizing common ground.