



Office of the New York Attorney General Letitia James

New York voters, know your rights to language assistance



You have the right to have someone help you cast your ballot

If you need help voting because you are blind, disabled, or have difficulty reading or writing in English, you can bring someone to your poll site to help you.

This person:

- **can be** a minor, family member, friend, or someone else
- **does not have to be** a U.S. citizen or registered voter
- **cannot be** your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your union

If you do not have anyone to help you, two poll workers from different political parties, or a designated interpreter, can assist you.

Your voting helper can assist you throughout the entire voting process, including inside the voting booth. They may have to swear an oath that they will not improperly influence you.

Your polling place may need to provide certain language access resources

The New York Voting Rights Act and federal law require some boards of elections, counties, cities, towns, villages, and school districts to provide assistance for those who do not speak or read English well.

These requirements include:

- ensuring **all voting materials and election information** that are available in English are available in the required languages to help voters register, learn election information details, and vote
- providing translated **written materials**, including ballots, voter-registration forms, and other written information including about absentee and mail voting
- providing **oral language assistance**, such as through interpreters or bilingual poll workers

Questions about language assistance

Contact the Office of the New York Attorney General

votinglanguage@ag.ny.gov

Voting resources



ag.ny.gov/voting-rights

Contact your local board of elections to learn whether it provides language assistance



Local board of elections

View the list of counties, cities, towns, and villages that must provide these resources, under federal and state laws



Federal laws



State laws