INTRODUCTION

As the world changes drastically around us, it is more important than ever to make our voices heard at the polls on November 4th.

The hope inspired by the revolutions that swept across the Arab world four years ago has turned into a desperate and urgent fear of violent extremists threatening the entire region. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict saw yet another cycle of failed negotiations coupled with tragedy and violence; now a just resolution appears further away than it has been in decades. The wars in Iraq and Syria continue to tear apart whole societies and fundamentally redefine the role of the global community.

At home, our government has yet to achieve the right balance between protecting our national security and preserving our civil liberties. We have seen countless accounts of alarming, intrusive surveillance programs targeting our community that violate our constitutionally guaranteed rights as equal citizens. Hard won momentum pushing forward immigration reform stalled and another session of congress will end without enacting much needed reform of our immigration system.

The coming election will have to address all these questions and more, and your vote will shape the direction of this country for decades to come. Our community has been a part of the national conversation on these issues and it is critical that we get to the ballot box in November. We have compiled this Voter Guide to help you educate yourself before going to the polls. It contains important information about the voting process in your state and contact information for parties and candidates.

As our community of nearly 4 million Arab Americans continues to grow both in size and in political prominence, we remain focused and committed to the empowerment of our community and the betterment of our nation. For many, that begins at the ballot box. Use this guide, share it, and Yalla Vote!
Overview

In November, New York will hold elections for the twenty-seven representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives and for the Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller of New York. According to the latest US Census Bureau Data New York is home to nearly 150,000 Arab Americans. However, we estimate that due to undercounting New York actually boasts a vibrant Arab American community numbering over 449,000.

In a closer than anticipated primary race, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo secured a re-nomination along with his running mate, former U.S. Representative Kathy Hochul, in the lieutenant governor’s race. The closer than expected Democratic primary was due to several factors, most notably the federal investigation into how Cuomo handled the disbanding of an anti-corruption commission earlier this year. Other prominent issues in the lead up to November include the fallout from NYPD brutality against Eric Garner, who died as a result of a policeman’s chokehold, as well as ongoing questionable practices by law enforcement including profiling, counterterrorism tactics, and discriminatory surveillance practices against Arab Americans and American Muslims. A significant victory for community activists came this past April, when the NYPD appointed its first-ever inspector general.

In August, Governor Cuomo made a controversial trip to Israel, his first international trip as governor, in what the Wall Street Journal called an attempt “at showing solidarity with Israel in its conflict with Hamas.” His trip sidelined many of New York’s Arab American constituents and prompted a critical letter from Riyad Mansour, the ambassador to the U.N. of Palestinian’s permanent observer mission. Cuomo is not anticipating a serious challenge from his challenger, Republican candidate Rob Astorino.

Eight district elections are considered toss-ups. In district 18 Democratic incumbent Dan Maffei is not anticipating a serious challenge from his challenger, Republican candidate Sean Maloney who has a slight lead on Republican incumbent Michael Grimm. Maloney has a slight lead on Republican incumbent Dan Maffei, leads Democrat Martha Mitchell, and State Senator Thomas W. Libous was re-nominated for the State Senate seat in the 52nd District.

Other close races are in district 19 where Republican incumbent W. Libous was re-nominated for the State Senate seat in the 52nd District.

New York’s competitive races have not come cheap. Sean Eldridge in district 19 has put up $1.34 million for his campaign and Nan Hayworth has added over $606,000 of personal contributions and loans for her race. Democrat Aaron Woolf in district 21 has personally contributed more than $400,000 to his race.

Two Arab Americans are up for reelection in New York. Having successfully won a close primary, Congressman Richard Hanna is expected to hold on to the District 22 seat, and State Senator Thomas W. Libous was re-nominated for the State Senate seat in the 52nd District.

State Election Information

Elections

General Election Tuesday, November 4th, 2014

In New York City and the counties of Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Putnam, and Erie, polls are OPEN at 6AM and CLOSE at 9 PM

In all other counties polls are OPEN at 12 PM and CLOSE at 9 PM

Resource: New York State Board of Elections
40 North Pearl Street, Suite 5
Albany, NY 12207-2729
Local: (518) 474-6220
Toll free: 1-800-533-8683 (TDD)
www.elections.ny.gov
info@elections.state.ny.us

Deadlines

Registration Deadlines to Vote

Voter Registration Applications must be received by a board of elections no later than October 15th or delivered in person by Friday, October 10th.

Absentee Registration Deadlines

The application to receive a ballot must be postmarked by Wednesday, October 28th.

Absentee ballots must be received by the county board of elections by Tuesday, November 11th.

How to Register

To register to vote in the state of New York, you must:

• be a United States citizen;
• be 18 years old by December 31 of the year in which you file this form (note: you must be 18 years old by the date of the general, primary or other election in which you want to vote);
• live at your present address at least 30 days before an election;
• be a United States citizen;
• not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court;
• not claim the right to vote elsewhere.

You can register to vote may be obtained in the following ways:

• In person at your local Board of Elections Office
• Download the Voter Registration Application online at www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html. You can either submit your registration online or mail it to your local county elections office.
• Call the Phone Bank at 1-800-FOR-VOTE and you will be sent a postage-paid registration form in the mail.
• You may also obtain Registration Forms from libraries, Post Offices, and most state of New York government agencies.

Once you have completed the application in blue or black ink, return it in person or by mail to Board of Elections in the City of New York.
STATE ELECTION INFORMATION

**ABSENTEE VOTING**
In the state of New York you may vote by mail if you meet one of the following qualifications:

- Absent from your county or, if a resident of New York City absent from said city, on Election Day.
- Unable to appear at the polls due to temporary or permanent illness or disability; or because you are the primary care giver of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled.
- A patient or inmate in a Veterans’ Administration Hospital.
- Detained in jail awaiting Grand Jury action or confined in prison after conviction for an offense other than a felony.

Applications to vote by absentee ballot are available at your county board of elections, or online at [www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html](http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html). Upon completion, your Absentee Ballot Application Form must be mailed to your county board no later October 28, 2014 or delivered in person before November 3rd.

Once you receive your Absentee Ballot, the completed ballot must be postmarked on or before November 3rd, or must be delivered in person by your designate before the close of polls on Election Day.

**EARLY VOTING**
While some states allow early in-person voting, New York does not. You are able to apply for an absentee ballot if you are unable to make it to the polls on Election Day.

**AT THE POLLS**

**ID Requirements**
Photo identification is not required to vote in the state of New York unless you did not provide identification with your voter registration form, in which case you will be asked for it the first time you vote. Acceptable forms of ID are:

- Current and Valid Photo ID
- Current Utility Bill
- Bank Statement
- Government Check or Paycheck
- Government Document that shows name and address.

**Campaigning at the Polls**
No one can electioneer within the polling place, or in any public street within a one hundred foot radial measured from the entrances designated by the inspectors of election. No political banners, buttons, poster, or placard shall be allowed in or upon the polling place within a one hundred foot radial.

**Registration for Groups with Special Needs**
The poll workers can assist the illiterate. Those who cannot speak English can be helped by a relative who can interpret for him or her. New York City also hires poll workers for language interpretation.

**Working at the Polls**

**Poll Watchers**
To ensure fair and honest elections, New York State law provides for appointing Poll Watchers to observe voting at the polls. Poll Watchers are designated by candidates, political parties, or independent organizations which have candidates on the ballot and/or political committees.

The role of the Poll Watcher is to observe elections at the polling sites on behalf of a particular candidate, political party or organization and where they observe irregularities, report these observations to the Elections Inspector, the Police Officer and/or the Board of Elections.

The Poll Watcher may:
- Examine poll books as long as they don’t interfere with inspectors or election proceedings.
- Observe the closing of the polls and the canvass.
- Challenge individual voters on the basis of signature authenticity, residence, multiple voting, qualification to vote, and electioneering.

Poll Watchers may not electioneer in any manner, which includes soliciting votes or distributing, wearing or carrying political literature, posters, banners or buttons or displaying refreshments showing a candidate or party’s name. Poll Watchers may not accompany a voter to the booth.

**Poll Workers**
Applications to be a poll worker can be found online at [www.vote.nyc.ny.us/pollworkers.html](http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/pollworkers.html).

The finished applications must be mailed, faxed, or personally delivered to the Board of Elections office in the borough of the poll worker’s residence. These addresses are also listed at the bottom of the applications.

**NEW YORK STATE DIRECTORY**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair: Edward F. Cox</th>
<th>Chair: David Paterson</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>315 State Street</td>
<td>118a Fulton Street, Box #410</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albany, NY 12210</td>
<td>New York, NY 10038</td>
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<tr>
<td>(518) 462-2601</td>
<td>(212) 725-8825</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.nygop.org">www.nygop.org</a></td>
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**STATE CONTACT INFORMATION**
Rob Astorino is the Republican candidate running against the incumbent, Governor Cuomo. Astorino started out his career in radio, working his way up to becoming station manager and then program director of the Catholic Channel on Sirius-XM Satellite Radio and later launching ESPN Radio in New York. Astorino was elected as a member of the Mount Pleasant Board of Education and later served as a councilman for 12 years on the Mount Pleasant Town Board. Rob was elected to the Westchester County Board of Legislators in 2003 and in 2009 ran and won the race for County Executive.

According to his website, Rob Astorino stands for:

• Developing an economic agenda that is pro-growth and pro-jobs
• Reforming New York’s tax code and regulatory system
• Cutting spending
• Lowering property taxes
• Approving natural gas exploration
• Ending Governor Cuomo’s Common Core education strategy
• Eliminating corruption

Andrew Cuomo is the current Governor of New York who will be seeking reelection in November. In the early 1990s, Cuomo was appointed to be the Assistant U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Community Planning and Development. He became the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in 1997. Before assuming gubernatorial office in January 2011, Cuomo served for four years as the Attorney General of New York.

According to his website, Andrew Cuomo stands for:

• Focusing on economic development and job creation
• Marriage equality
• Sensible gun control
• Affordable housing
• Innovative public education
• Growing clean energy industries
• Lowering New York’s carbon footprint
### U.S. House of Representatives Races

#### U.S. House, NY 1st District
- **Incumbent**: Tim Bishop (D)
  - 137 Hampton Road
  - Southampton, NY 11968
  - (202) 225-3826
  - www.timbishop.house.gov
  - www.bishopforcongress.com
- **Challenger**: Lee Zeldin (R)
  - 47 Flintrock Drive
  - Shirley, NY 11967
  - (631) 467-2483
  - www.zeldinforcongress.com

#### U.S. House, NY 2nd District
- **Incumbent**: Peter T. King (R)
  - 1003 Park Boulevard
  - Massapequa Park, NY 11762
  - (516) 541-4225
  - www.peteking.com
- **Challenger**: Patricia M. Maher (D)
  - 73 Ireland, Place #195
  - Amityville, NY 11701
  - www.patriciamaher.com

#### U.S. House, NY 3rd District
- **Incumbent**: Steve Israel (D)
  - 534 Broad Hollow Road, Ste 302
  - Melville, NY 11747
  - (631) 777-7391
  - www.israel.house.gov
- **Challenger**: Grant Lally (R)
  - 734 Franklin Ave, Ste 2806
  - Garden City, NY 11530
  - (516) 307-9055
  - www.grantlallyforcongress.com

#### U.S. House, NY 4th District
- **Challenger**: Kathleen M. Rice (D)
  - 311 Nassau Boulevard South
  - Garden City South, NY 11530
  - (516) 307-9820
  - www.kathleenrice.com
- **Challenger**: Bruce Blakeman (R)
  - 108 South Franklin Ave
  - Valley Stream, NY 11580
  - www.bruceblakeman.com

#### U.S. House, NY 5th District
- **Incumbent**: Gregory Meeks (D)
  - 153-01 Jamaica Avenue, Suite 535
  - Jamaica, NY 11432
  - (718) 883-9800
  - www.congressmangregorymeeks.com

#### U.S. House, NY 6th District
- **Incumbent**: Grace Meng (D)
  - 118-35 Queens Boulevard, Suite 1610
  - Forest Hills, NY 11375
  - (718) 445-786
  - www.gracefornewyork.com

#### U.S. House, NY 7th District
- **Incumbent**: Nydia Velazquez (D)
  - 266 Broadway, Ste 201
  - Brooklyn, NY 11211
  - (718) 599-3658
  - www.velazquez.house.gov
- **Challenger**: Jose Luis Fernandez (R)
  - www.joselfernandez.com

#### U.S. House, NY 8th District
- **Incumbent**: Hakeem Jeffries (D)
  - 1424 Fulton St.
  - Brooklyn, NY 11216
  - (646) 926-1738
  - www.hakeemjeffries.com
- **Challenger**: Alan Bellone (C)
  - *Information is currently unavailable*
### U.S. House of Representatives Races

#### U.S. House, NY 9th District

**Incumbent**  
Yvette Clarke (D)  
123 Linden Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11226  
(718) 287-1142  
www.clarke.house.gov  
www.voteyvette.com

**Challenger**  
Daniel Cavanagh (C)  
*Information is currently unavailable*

#### U.S. House, NY 10th District

**Incumbent**  
Jerrold Nadler (D)  
131 Varick St, Ste 1017  
New York, NY 10013  
(212) 352-0370  
www.nadler.house.gov  
www.jerrynadler.com

**Challenger**  
Ross Brady (C)  
*Information is currently unavailable*

#### U.S. House, NY 11th District

**Incumbent**  
Michael Grimm (R)  
7308 13th Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11228  
(718) 630-5277  
www.grimm.house.gov  
www.grimmforcongress.com

**Challenger**  
Domenic Recchia (D)  
7321 15th Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11228  
(718) 336-3441  
www.recciaforcongress.com

#### U.S. House, NY 12th District

**Incumbent**  
Carolyn Maloney (D)  
24 East 93rd Street, Suite 4B  
New York, NY 10128  
(212) 987-5516  
www.maloney.house.gov  
www.carolynmaloney.com

**Challenger**  
Nick Di Iorio (R)  
P.O. Box 3193  
New York, NY 10163

#### U.S. House, NY 13th District

**Incumbent**  
Charles Rangel (D)  
163 West 125th Street, Ste 737  
New York, NY 10027  
(212) 663-3900  
www.charlerangel.org  
www.rangel.house.gov

#### U.S. House, NY 14th District

**Incumbent**  
Joseph Crowley (D)  
84-56 Grand Avenue  
Elmhurst, NY 11373  
(202) 225-3965  
www.crowley.house.gov  
www.crowleyforcongress.com

#### U.S. House, NY 15th District

**Incumbent**  
Jose E. Serrano (D)  
1231 Lafayette Ave, 4th Floor  
Bronx, NY 10474  
(718) 620-0084  
www.serrano.house.gov

#### U.S. House, NY 16th District

**Incumbent**  
Eliot Engel (D)  
3655 Johnson Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10463  
(718) 796-9700  
www.engel.house.gov
### U.S. House of Representatives Races

#### U.S. House, NY 17th District

**Incumbent**
Nita Lowey (D)

188 East Post Road, Suite 305
White Plains, NY 10605
(914) 683-3275

www.lowey.house.gov
www.loweyforcongress.com

**Challenger**
Chris Day (C)

P.O. Box 87
New City, NY 10956
(845) 232-0801

info@voteforday.com
www.voteforday.com

#### U.S. House, NY 18th District

**Incumbent**
Sean Maloney (D)

123 Grand Street, 2nd Floor
Newburgh, NY 12550
(845) 361-1259

seanmaloney.house.gov
www.seanmaloney.com

**Challenger**
Nan Hayworth (R)

55 Brookside Avenue
Chester, NY 10918
(845) 765-3227

www.nanhayworth.com

#### U.S. House, NY 19th District

**Incumbent**
Chris Patrick Gibson (R)

72 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 541-3232

www.gibson.house.gov
www.chrisgibsonforcongress.com

**Challenger**
Sean Eldridge (D)

P.O. Box 4113
Kingston, NY 12402
(845) 853-8121

www.seaneldridge.com

#### U.S. House, NY 20th District

**Incumbent**
Paul Tonko (D)

2463 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5076

www.tonko.house.gov
www.paultonko.com

**Challenger**
Jim Fischer (R)

123 Saratoga Road, Box 410
Glenville, NY 12302

www.fischerforcongress.com

#### U.S. House, NY 21st District

**Challenger**
Elise Stefanik (R)

P.O. Box 500
Glen Falls, NY 12801
(518) 336-5232

www.eliseforcongress.com

**Challenger**
Aaron Woolf (D)

24 Margaret Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
(518) 225-2332

www.woolfforcongress.com

#### U.S. House, NY 22nd District

**Incumbent**
Richard L. Hanna (R)

P.O. Box 118
Utica, NY 13503
(315) 624-9440

www.hanna.house.gov
www.richardhannaforcongress.com

#### U.S. House, NY 23rd District

**Incumbent**
Tom Reed (R)

89 W. Market Street
Corning, NY 14830
(607) 654-7566

www.reed.house.gov
www.home-tomreed.nationbuilder.com

**Challenger**
Martha Robertson (D)

P.O. Box 54
Dryden, NY 13053
(607) 220-6538

www.marthaforny.com

#### U.S. House, NY 24th District

**Incumbent**
Dan Maffei (D)

P.O. Box 230
Syracuse, NY 13201
(315) 313-4074

www.maffei.house.gov
www.maffeiforcongress.com

**Challenger**
John Katko (R)

709 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 13204
(315) 314-5005

www.johnkatkoforcongress.com
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<tr>
<td>Incumbent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louise Slaughter (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1150 University Avenue, Building 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rochester, NY 14607</td>
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<td>(585) 697-0840</td>
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<td>3363 Buffalo Road</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Brian Higgins (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>726 Exchange Street, Ste 601</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buffalo, NY 14210</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathy Weppner (R)</td>
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<td>P.O. Box 1222</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Collins (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PO Box 386</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clarence, NY 14031</td>
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