

HELP DEMOCRATS PROTECT THE VOTE!

What is the New York Democratic Lawyers Council?

The New York Democratic Lawyers Council (@NYDLC) is a coalition of lawyers and advocates from all walks of life dedicated to protecting fundamental voting rights. NYDLC works directly with candidates, grassroots groups, local parties, and the board of elections to ensure that all eligible persons can register to vote easily; vote conveniently without intimidation; and have their votes counted accurately by open and reliable voting systems.

What is Voter Protection?

Voter protection begins well before Election Day with voter registration. We help address: *Who is eligible to vote? How does one register, update, and verify registration status? When are the registration deadlines? What if voters are inactive or purged? Have polling places been changed? Have affected voters been notified?*

The next and most critical phase is preparing for Election Day, a civil rights race against the clock. Working with campaigns and local organizers, NYDLC works with campaigns to protect the rights of voters (and candidates) by helping to structure and build election monitoring field programs that guard against and rapidly respond to pernicious election manipulations and the most prevalent logistical issues that can disenfranchise eligible voters. By identifying potential threats ahead of time and deploying trained observers, campaigns create the capacity during the critical "last mile of GOTV" to ensure that eligible voters are not blocked from participating in our democracy on New York's single Election Day.

Thousands of lost votes! Each election, voters who intend to cast a ballot are unable to do so because of procedural hurdles or small manipulations that can have outsized aggregate impact. This may result from pernicious voter challenges, last minute poll site changes, late openings, broken ballot scanners, problems with the registration list/check in process, the long lines that can result from the above, and other pitfalls that suppress the vote. In a close contest, lost votes can be outcome determinative. Trained observers can identify, escalate, and work to resolve these issues in real time.

Help Protect the Vote in the 2018 Midterm Elections!

One does not need to be an attorney to participate in voter protection. To serve *inside* a poll site, NYS law requires a 'Watcher' to be a registered voter of the county they are serving. For non-residents, there are key roles for *outside* 'Observers' as well. NYDLC would like to partner with local organizers to host general interest meetings, schedule trainings, empower communities and recruit Election Day voter protection monitors. **Do you know local attorneys, community leaders, and other activists who may be interested? Please put us in touch.** You can also access our voter protection materials and resources at www.nydcl.org or reach NYDLC at 866-NYDLC-01 or by email at info@nydcl.org.