

# Ballot to Voice

Trace the steps from registration to informed participation.

**12.G3b** “The right to vote, a cornerstone of democracy, is the most direct way for citizens to participate in the government. A citizen must register to vote, and may register as a party member or select the status of independent.”

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline how voting supports participation. Circle New York registration steps and party-enrollment choices.

### From Registration to a Ballot

- ① Voting lets eligible citizens help select officials and decide measures placed on their ballots. Representatives make laws, executives administer them, and some local proposals go directly to voters. Voting does not guarantee a preferred result. It gives participants a role in public decisions alongside other activities such as attending meetings or contacting officials. Learning about candidates and proposals helps voters use that role thoughtfully.
- ② In New York, eligible voters must register. Registration records identifying and eligibility information on voter rolls; it does not cast a ballot. Applicants should consult official election sources for eligibility, deadlines, and approved application methods. Registered voters can verify their status, address, polling location, and available voting options. Rules differ across states, so a New York procedure should not be assumed universal. Changes of address or enrollment may require action under separate rules.
- ③ New York registration allows enrollment in a recognized political party or choosing not to enroll in any party. A voter seeking no affiliation should select the no-party option rather than assume a party's name means independent status. Enrollment matters for New York's closed party primaries: voters generally must be enrolled in that party under the applicable rules. No-party voters remain eligible for general elections if otherwise qualified. Party enrollment does not bind anyone's general-election choices. Check official enrollment deadlines rather than assuming they match registration deadlines.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** How does casting a ballot connect an individual citizen to representative government?

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**2** What does registration accomplish in New York, and how does it differ from voting?

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**3** What three registration details should a person check well before an election?

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**4** How does New York party enrollment affect primary participation and general-election choices?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

For a fictional eligible New York voter, write three sentences: name a registration check, explain party or no-party enrollment without naming a preference of your own, and describe preparation for voting.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline how voting supports participation. Circle New York registration steps and party-enrollment choices. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                      | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How does casting a ballot connect an individual citizen to representative government?         | <b>It lets the citizen help choose officials and decide ballot measures that affect public decisions.</b>                                                                                        |
| 2 | What does registration accomplish in New York, and how does it differ from voting?            | <b>It records identifying and eligibility information on voter rolls. Registering does not itself cast a ballot.</b>                                                                             |
| 3 | What three registration details should a person check well before an election?                | <b>Registration deadlines, eligibility rules, and ways to submit an application.</b>                                                                                                             |
| 4 | How does New York party enrollment affect primary participation and general-election choices? | <b>Voters generally must be enrolled in the party to vote in its primary. No-party voters can vote in general elections if qualified, and enrollment does not bind general-election choices.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

The voter would verify eligibility, deadlines, and an approved registration method through official sources. They would compare party enrollment and no-party status, including the effect on primary participation. They would research candidates and proposals and confirm voting arrangements.

Accept accurate New York-specific explanations. Do not equate no-party enrollment with a party whose name sounds independent. The fictional response should include registration, enrollment implications, and informed preparation; no personal political disclosure is required.