

County Legislator Ben Boykin Knock on Every Door Voter Registration Process

April 19, 2017



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To view presentation go to <http://westchesterlegislators.com/district-5.html>

County Government

- County Executive (CE), elected every 4 years
- County Board of Legislators, elected every 2 years (co-equal branch of government with CE)
- Seventeen County Legislators each representing about 54,000 people
- Commissioners, Department Heads
- 4,221 employees
- Volunteers who serve on various Boards and Commissions

Role of County Government

- Serve as the regional government between federal/state agencies and local municipalities
- Provide vital and essential services to Westchester County residents
- Provide safety and security and emergency protective measures
- Serve as the social safety net for those in need

Role of County Government (con't)

- Protect drinking water, air quality, manage wastewater treatment
- Manage transportation – bus mass transit, regional airport
- Work with businesses, local municipalities and state agencies to create jobs and improve regional economy
- Serve as the administrative arm of NY State for mandated services and advocate for mandate relief

Role of Board of Legislators

- Legislative, policy-making branch of Westchester County
- Co-equal branch with County Executive
- Approve budgets and spending
 - 12 votes for issuance of bonds
 - 9 votes for other items
 - 12 votes to override County Executive's veto
- Levy County taxes
- Approve appointments of County Executive
- Pass laws, acts and resolutions
- Serve constituents

Ben Boykin Committees

- Chairman, Public Safety & Social Services (PSSS)
- Co-chair, Minority Affairs Task Force
- Member :
 - Appointments, Vice-Chairman
 - Budget & Appropriations, Vice-Chairman
 - Environment & Health
 - Infrastructure
 - Legislation

PSSS Committee Oversight

- Oversight for 45% of Departments included in County's Operating Budget
- Areas of Responsibility:
 - Public Safety Department
 - Corrections Department
 - Emergency Services Department
 - Probation Department
 - Social Services Department
 - Mental Health Department
 - Youth Bureau
 - Human Rights Commission

The Budget Process

- Full year involvement
- Budgets for subsequent year submitted in October for Capital Budget and November for Operating and Special Districts Budgets
- Board of Legislators (BOL) reviews Budgets in November and December
- Public Hearings held in November and December
- BoL can add and delete items after the review process
- Budgets must be approved by BOL and signed by County Executive (CE) on or before December 27 including any override of CE vetoes

2017 Budgets

- Operating, Capital and Special Districts Budgets
- Operating Budget, \$1.81 billion; approved by vote of 10 to 7
- Capital Budget of \$303 million and Special Districts Budget approved by same margin
- I voted against all of the 2017 Budgets

Operating Budget Issues

- \$1.81 billion, a \$9 million increase from 2016
- No increase in County property tax levy of \$548.4 million
- No property tax increase in seven years
- 2017 Operating Budget is not balanced and is not sustainable
- No financial flexibility in budget

Get Involved and Vote

- Register to vote in NY Elections
- Primary Elections in September
- General Election
 - Always first Tuesday in November
 - EXCEPT**
 - When first Tuesday is November 1; General Election is second Tuesday in November
 - General Election in 2017 is Tuesday, November 7

Requirements to Register to Vote in NY Elections

- Be a US citizen (or born in Puerto Rico, Guam, or Virgin Islands)
- Be 18 years old by the date of the election in order to vote
- **Not** be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction
- **Not** be adjudged incompetent by a court
- **Not** claim the right to vote elsewhere

How to Register to Vote

- Pick up New York State Voter Registration Form at Board of Elections
- Register to vote online at the Department of Motor Vehicles website

<https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/electronic-voter-registration-application>

- Download Voter Registration Form for Board of Elections at <http://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/register-to-vote>
- Must register in person, by mail or online 25 days prior to election to vote

How to Register to Vote (con't)

- Fill out the NY State Voter Registration Form
- Choose a Political party to register in:
 - Democratic party
 - Republican party
 - Conservative party
 - Green party
 - Working Families party
 - Independence party
 - Women's Equality party
 - Reform party
 - Other _____

How to Register to Vote (con't)

- You can choose not to register in a Political party
 - You are a **NON (Independent)** registered voter; not affiliated with any Political party
- Confusion between **Independence party** voter and **Independent (NON)** voter
 - **Independence** is a Political party and has a line on the ballot
 - **Independent** is not a member of any Political party **(NON)**
 - People register in the **Independence party** thinking they are registering as an **Independent voter (NON)**
- To vote in a Primary Election, you must be registered in the Political party having the Primary; **Independent voters (NON)** cannot vote in a Primary Election but can vote in the General Election

The Petitioning Process

- Starts on June 6, 2017 – first day to get signatures
- Ends in July; Signatures on Petitions are subject to challenge and must meet all requirements to be valid and accepted by Board of Elections; Petitions must be filed at Board of Elections between July 10 and July 13.
- Must get good signatures(date, signature of voter, address of voter and Town/City of voter residing in your District) from members of the Political party whose endorsement you are seeking to qualify to be on the ballot for that party
- Only members of the Political party can get good signatures for that Political party (Registered Democrats can only carry Democratic petitions); however
- A **notary public**, registered in one Political party, can get good signatures of another Political party
- For County Legislator, 500 good signatures of registered Democrats in each District are required to get on the Democratic line
- The chart on the following page shows the number of good signatures required for each Political party for County Legislator in each District

The Petitioning Process (con't)

Westchester County Board of Elections
 REQUIRED SIGNATURES FOR PETITIONS - 2016

County Legislative Districts

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS	DEM	REP	CON	GRE	WOR	IND	WEP	REF	INDEPENDENT (5% GOVN)
LD-1	500	424	37	3	7	80	1	0	759
LD-2	500	500	19	4	3	76	1	0	849
LD-3	500	500	28	3	3	71	1	1	853
LD-4	500	500	28	4	4	82	1	1	959
LD-5	500	443	17	3	4	63	1	0	828
LD-6	500	373	46	3	3	74	1	1	549
LD-7	500	500	16	4	3	73	1	0	788
LD-8	500	230	13	3	4	56	1	0	607
LD-9	500	359	20	6	6	68	1	0	791
LD-10	500	473	22	3	4	63	1	0	746
LD-11	500	354	17	3	5	54	1	0	546
LD-12	500	364	14	3	4	60	0	1	792
LD-13	500	75	7	1	5	28	1	0	463
LD-14	500	322	41	2	5	54	1	1	512
LD-15	500	500	53	2	4	69	1	0	702
LD-16	500	188	25	2	9	43	1	0	468
LD-17	500	106	14	2	7	34	1	1	265

How to Vote

- In person at your designated voting poll on election day
(NO EARLY VOTING CURRENTLY IN NY)
- By absentee ballot

2017 Voting Dates

- Primary Election – Tuesday, September 12, 2017
- General Election – Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Test Your Knowledge

- Facts:
 - Tuesday, November 7, 2017 is General Election Day
 - Westchester County Board of Elections - 25 Quarropas Street, White Plains, NY 10601
 - Jack Jones and Jake Jones are twins, born in New York on 6/30/1999
 - Nellie Rich, born in New York on 11/15/1999

Test Your Knowledge (con't)

1. Can Jack and Jake register to vote in NY in 2017 assuming they meet all voting requirements?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
2. Jack Jones registered to vote at the Board of Elections on Friday, October 13, 2017. Can he vote in the General Election on Tuesday, November 7, 2017?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Maybe
 - Don't know

Test Your Knowledge (con't)

3. Jake Jones was out of town and mailed his voter registration form to the Westchester County Board of Elections on October 13, 2017 and the form was received and date stamped at the Board of Elections on October 18, 2017. Can he vote in the General Election on Tuesday, November 7, 2017?
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
4. Same facts as in item 3 except that the form was received by the Westchester County Board of Elections and date stamped at the Board of Elections on October 19, 2017. Can he vote in the General Election on Tuesday, November 7, 2017?
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know

Test Your Knowledge (con't)

5. Nellie Rich was born on 11/15/1999. Can she register to vote in NY during 2017?
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't Know
6. Nellie Rich registered to vote on August 15, 2017. Can she vote in the General Election on Tuesday, November 7, 2017?
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know

Test Your Knowledge (con't)

Answers

- No 1 – **Yes**; Both Jack and Jake will be 18 years old by the General Election Day on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.
- No 2 – **Yes**; The last day to register in NY to vote in the General Election is Friday, October 13. You must register 25 days prior to the election day.
- No 3 – **Yes**; If you mail in your NY State Voter Registration Form, it **must** be received at the Board of Elections on or before the close of business on October 18, 2017.
- No 4 – **No**; If you mail in your NY State Voter Registration Form, it **must** be received at the Board of Elections on or before the close of business on October 18, 2017. The Board of Elections did not receive the NY State Voter Registration Form by the due date.
- No 5 – **Yes**; You can register to vote in NY State if you turn 18 on or by December 31.
- No 6 – **No**; To vote in the General Election (or any election), you must be 18 years of age on or by the election date.

Turn Words and Actions into Votes

- Get involved and stay involved
 - Attend and speak at public hearings at County meetings and in your municipalities
 - Write letters, emails and sign petitions advocating your positions
 - Talk with your County Legislator(s) and State and local elected officials
- Encourage your family, friends and neighbors to register to vote
- Participate in Knock on Every Door Campaigns – 4/30/2017 and other dates
- Make sure you **vote** on Election Day
- You can find your voting place by going to
<http://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/register-to-vote>
scroll down to bottom of page and click on

Finding Polling Place

or call (914) 995-2000 or (914) 995-5700

Questions and Answers

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