

## What's At Stake?

**YOUR RIGHTS**

**YOUR COMMUNITY**

**YOUR FUTURE**

**YOUR VOICE**

It is for all these reasons that we ask you to vote in local, state and federal elections.

**Your vote  
is your  
voice.**



**Use your  
voice on  
Nov. 7.**

More than 50 different international and national unions are represented in the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. With 50 chapters nationwide and one in Ontario, Canada, CBTU is maximizing the strength and influence of black workers in unions and empowering their communities. One of every five black workers (20 percent) belongs to a union, and black union members earn 40 percent more than do non-union black workers. In the political arena, CBTU has leveraged the vast resources of unions to mobilize black voters to influence public policy at every level of government. For more information, visit [www.cbtu.org](http://www.cbtu.org); send us an email at [cbtu1@hotmail.com](mailto:cbtu1@hotmail.com); or write us at CBTU National Office, P.O. Box 66268, Washington, DC 20035.



New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) represents more than 600,000 professionals in education, human services and health care. Our Social Justice agenda promotes equal access to society's opportunities, thereby empowering people to have choices and control over their own destiny. The premise behind this agenda is that a socially just world affords individuals and groups fair treatment and an impartial share of society's benefits. To learn more about NYSUT, go to [www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org).



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## The Importance of Voting

For some time now American citizens, including millions of New Yorkers, have been failing to participate in one of our most important franchises — voting! In the 2014 elections, New York State ranked 47th in the nation in voter turnout (28.8 percent), with some estimates of participation by communities of color at about 10 percent.

**This is not good. In fact, for communities of color, this trend is socially, economically and morally disastrous.**

The black/white racial gap in voter participation has changed dramatically since the enactment of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. Yet, people of color remain the “least advantaged group in America in terms of policy outcomes,” according to the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

**Please help our community’s voice be heard by voting on Nov. 7.**



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## Voting Requirements

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- ★ Be a U.S. citizen;
- ★ Be at least 18 years old in the year you file a voter registration form;
- ★ Live at your present address at least 30 days prior to election;
- ★ Not currently serving prison time for a felony or on parole;
- ★ Not be adjudged mentally unfit by a court;
- ★ Not claim the right to vote elsewhere.

To find your polling location, please call the NYS Board of Elections at 518-474-1953 or 800-367-8683, or visit [www.elections.ny.gov](http://www.elections.ny.gov).

**Come out to vote on Nov. 7!**

### DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ 17-year-olds within six months of their 18th birthday are allowed to register to vote in New York State. (They cannot vote until they are 18). Source: NYS Election Law Sec. 5-102



## New York State Voter Information

To be eligible to vote in the 2017 general election on Nov. 7, your county Board of Elections must have (in person or post-marked) your completed voter registration form, or application for an absentee ballot, by Oct. 31, 2017.

To download a voter registration form, to find out where your local county Board of Elections office is, or to learn where you vote, visit [www.elections.ny.gov](http://www.elections.ny.gov) or call 800-367-8683.



Can I register and vote in New York State if I have a criminal record? YES, if you are on probation, had your prison sentence suspended, served your prison sentence and have been released, or were discharged from parole.

For more information about felony disenfranchisement, visit the New York Civil Liberties Union website at [www.nyclu.org/vote](http://www.nyclu.org/vote).

**“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”**

**— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**