

# THE SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZERS' GUIDE TO INFORMED VOTING

---

## QUICK VOTER GUIDE

---

### What election?

- 2018 Midterm Elections

### Who can vote?

- Each state has their own requirements, but in general the voter must be 18-years-old, a citizen, and not a convicted felon
- To register in NYC, you must turn 18 by December 31st, 2018
- To vote in the Midterms, you must be registered by Oct. 17th, 2018
- If your name is not listed at you designated polling place and you are registered, you have the right to vote by affidavit ballot (a separate paper ballot that allows you to vote if your name is not listed)

### When do I vote?

- Voting takes place on or before Nov. 6th, 2018 (6am-9pm)
- Absentee ballots must be mailed in by Oct. 30th

### Where do I vote?

- Only at your address's designated polling place. Check online or look out for a letter in the mail with your polling place address
- College students can either vote at their permanent home address or at their college address (interesting option if you are going to college in a swing-state)

### What do I need to vote?

- First time voters who didn't give ID information when registering, may be asked to show ID when voting (driver's license, SSN, or bank statement)
- Either way, bring some form of ID just in case!

---

HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR VOTING INFORMATION:

[www.rockthevote.org](http://www.rockthevote.org) | [www.votesaveamerica.com](http://www.votesaveamerica.com) | [www.nyc.pollsitelocator.com](http://www.nyc.pollsitelocator.com)  
[www.ballotpedia.org](http://www.ballotpedia.org) | [www.vote.org](http://www.vote.org) | [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org) | [www.whosontheballot.org](http://www.whosontheballot.org) |  
[www.ontheissues.org/states/ny.htm](http://www.ontheissues.org/states/ny.htm)

# WHO'S ON THE BALLOT?

---

## Senator (state-wide vote):



**KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND (D-I)** is one of New York's two democratic senators and is up for reelection in November. She was first elected in 2009. Gillibrand's top priorities are rebuilding the American economy, fighting for higher paying jobs, advocating for more small businesses across New York, and gun reform. Gillibrand is a strong critic of Trump. Gillibrand is on special committees for age rights, agriculture, armed services, and the environment. In February, Gillibrand said she would no longer accept corporate PAC donations. She was rumored to be running for President in 2020, but recently said she wouldn't be running and will serve her full 6 year term.



**CHELE FARLEY (R)** is running against Gillibrand for New York's second senatorial seat. Farley's issues are 'putting New York first', the opioid epidemic, standing with Israel, and reworking NY's infrastructure. Farley is running on a more moderate platform than most Republicans and she criticized the newly passed Republican tax plan. Farley was using Gillibrand's potential Presidential run as leverage in her campaign. According to 538, an election forecasting site, Farley has less than a 1% chance of being elected.

---

## Attorney General (state-wide vote): *state's chief legal officer, responsible for upholding state law, advising state government on legal matters, and often plays large role in law enforcement.*



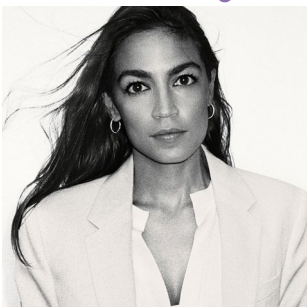
**LETITIA "TISH" JAMES (D)**, currently New York City Public Advocate, is running for the position of Attorney General. James served on the New York City Council from 2003-2013, until elected as Public Advocate, becoming the first woman of color to hold Citywide office in New York City. As Public Advocate, James serves as an advocate and lawyer for the City's most vulnerable and disenfranchised communities. James' main issues are fighting 'zombie homes', protecting clean water, opioid abuse, gun reform, and protecting immigrants. James strongly opposes President Trump and his policies. If elected, Letitia James will be the first black Attorney General.



**KEITH H. WOFFORD (R)** is a bankruptcy lawyer from the working class neighborhoods of Buffalo, NY. Wofford has never held an elected office and feels he will be able to bring a fresh eye to politics and won't be tied up in corruption. Wofford is supporter of President Trump, but says he does not agree with him on everything. Wofford is running on supporting economic growth, tackling corruption, and ending the opioid epidemic. If Wofford wins he will be the first black Attorney General, as well.

---

## New York Congressional District 14 Representative (parts of the Bronx and Queens):

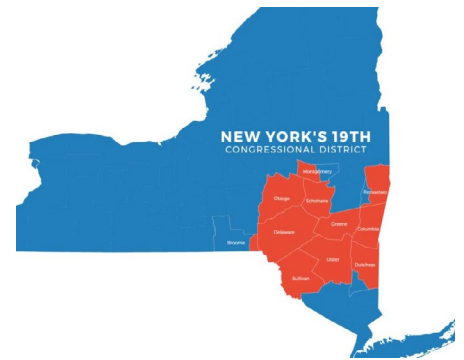


**ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ (DS)** won the Democratic primary in NY-14, defeating the incumbent Congressman, Joe Crowley. Ocasio-Cortez is representative of the wave of very progressive Democrats running across the country. Identifying as a Democratic-Socialist, Ocasio-Cortez's policies tend to align with young New Yorker's views. As a woman of color, Ocasio-Cortez will represent NY-14, majority non-white, much more adequately than Crowley, a white man. Her Bernie Sanders-esque policy ideas such as Medicare for all, the abolishment of ICE, and housing rights, have inspired thousands across the country. Ocasio-Cortez is running against **Anthony Pappas (R)** and 538 predicts Ocasio-Cortez has a 99.9% chance of winning.

# WHO'S ON THE BALLOT? CONT.

## New York Congressional District 19 \*2018 Battleground Election\*:

NY-19 consists of New York's Hudson Valley and Catskill regions. The incumbent, **John Faso (R)** is being challenged by **Antonio Delgado (D)**. This race has received a lot of media attention because of Faso's racially charged campaign and advertisement tactics. NY-19 is home to many NYC resident's second home, sparking the campaign Smart Vote NY which is asking NYC residents to vote in their second home's district, NY-19. By voting in these districts, which are mostly red or purple, voter's votes will have a much larger impact than a vote in NYC's districts. So, if you have a house in NY-19, register you and your parents there to have your voices heard!



**JOHN FASO (R-I)** has been Representative for NY-19 since 2016. His main running points are combating the opioid epidemic, treating Lyme disease, and supporting the local economy. Faso is strong critic of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), feeling that health care should not be federalized and that the ACA is unfordable for many. Faso opposes public funding for abortion services. He is a supporter of President Trump, and was recently endorsed by Trump. Faso has used racist rhetoric in his recent campaign ads and has called Delgado 'unfit' for office because of his short rapping career over a decade ago. Faso faces a serious challenge in Nov.



**ANTONIO DELGADO (D)** is a NY lawyer and has never held an elected office before. Delgado is fighting for universal health care, a fair tax code for middle and working class Americans, and restoring the American Dream. Delgado has been endorsed by many politicians including Obama. He is running a very transparent campaign and hopes to change the dynamic between elected officials and their constituents. Delgado is very strong critic of Trump and Faso. His short rap career over a decade ago has labeled him as a 'big city rapper' by many GOP members. If elected, Delgado will be the first non-white Representative for NY-19. Delgado hasn't taken any money from corporate PACs and has raised nearly \$7M in donations.

## New York Congressional District 10 Representative (West and Lower Manhattan, parts of BK):



**JERROLD NADLER (D-I)** is the representative for NY-10. Nadler has been involved in politics since the early 1970s and has represented NY-10 since the early 1990s. Nadler is also the Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee. Nadler has strongly fought for gun reform, LGBTQ+ rights, racial justice, and is leading the fight for more federal funding for the subway system. He is also a strong opposer of President Trump and all his policies. Nadler also made a guest appearance at last years student walkout for gun safety on April 20th, 2018. As Ranking Member, Nadler would lead Trump's impeachment, if it were to happen.



**NAOMI LEVIN (R)** is the Republican candidate for NY-10 House Representative. Levin is the daughter of two Soviet Union refugees. Levin is a practicing software engineer and has never held an elected office before. If elected, Levin wants to 'prevent Iran from becoming an even greater menace', let parents have more say in their children's education, and make out of pocket medical costs tax deductible. Levin believes she will bring a fresh eye to politics as a millennial. Levin says she 'defends President Trump sometimes'.

# BALLOT MEASURES & REFERENDUMS

---

## STATE:

- **37 States will vote on 155 statewide ballot measures**
- **Election policies**- 19 states on redistricting, voting requirements, ballot access, term limits, campaign finance, ethics
- **Marijuana**- 5 states (MI, MO, ND, OK, UT)
- **Restrictions on taxes**- 6 states
- **Medicaid expansion and healthcare**- 5 states
- **Marsy's Law**- 6 states on crime victim's rights
- **Energy**- 3 states on fossil fuels and renewable energy
- **Abortion**- 3 states on abortion access and funding
- **Minimum wage**- 2 states on increases

## LOCAL:

### Q1: NY Campaign Finance City Charter Amendment

- A vote yes is in favor of amending city charter to lower the amt a candidate for city elected office can accept from private contributor BUT increase public funding to candidates and make public funds available earlier

### Q2: NY Civic Engagement City Commission Charter Amendment

- A vote yes is in favor of creating a civic engagement commission with 15 members - 8 appointed by mayor, 2 by city council speaker, and 1 by each borough president – which would create a participatory budgeting program to encourage residents to make recommendations for projects in their community AND must partner with community-based organizations and civic leaders to create involvement and language interpreters on election lead-ups

### Q3: NY Community Boards City Charter Amendment

- A vote yes is in favor of establishing term limits for community board members to max 4 consecutive full 2 year terms

---

## QUICK MIDTERM FAQs:

### NATIONAL:

- All 435 seats in the House are up for reelection in November
- House Representatives serve for a 2 year term
- Currently **235(R)** / **193 (D)** / **7 Vacant**
- There will be a "blue wave" if Republicans loose 48 House seats, 7 Senate seats, 7 gubernatorial seats, and 494 state leg. seats

### STATE:

- 6,665 positions are up for reelection in November
- 36 out of 50 State Governors are up for reelection
- New York's Governor, **Andrew Cuomo (D-I)**, is up against **Marcus Molinaro (R)**

### LOCAL:

- Secretary of State (27 up), Attorney General (30 up)
- Over \$100M has been spent this year for Attorney General campaigns (2-3x higher than ever spent)
- NY: State Legislatures: 63 State Senators up for reelection, 150 State Assembly seats up for reelection
- Comptroller (audits government operations and runs retirement system) is up for reelection in NY; **Thomas DiNapoli (D-I)** v. **Jonathan Richter (R)**



Lower NY Congressional Districts  
Upper West Side, Lower West Side,  
West Mid-town, Lower Man. are in  
District 10, Represented by Jerrold  
Nadler (D-I)



## GLOSSARY OF ELECTION/VOTING VOCAB:

- **Incumbent:** a candidate currently holding office
  - **Referendum:** a proposed new law drafted by legislators or proposal to repeal an existing law, passed to the voters to approve or reject by popular vote
  - **Absentee Ballot:** a ballot filed by a voter who cannot be physically present at their polling place on Election Day.
  - **Battleground Election:** a circumstance in which Democratic and Republican candidates both have a good chance of winning an election
  - **Permanent Address:** the place where your voter id is registered
  - **Constituent:** a voting member of a community or organization who has the power to elect an official
  - **District:** electoral divisions for the purpose of electing members
  - **Midterm Election:** midterm elections are the general elections held in November every four years, near the midpoint of a president's four-year term of office
  - **Platform:** the declared policy of a political party, group, or official
  - **Polling Place:** a building where voting takes place during an election
  - **Registered Voter:** someone who is qualified and has applied and been added to their area's voter registration system
  - **Term:** the set length of time for someone to serve in an elected office. The President and Vice President of the United States serve a four-year term. Representatives serve two years and Senators serve six years.
  - **Voter Intimidation:** an attempt by an official, individual, or group to prevent eligible people from voting or forcing them to vote a certain way.
  - **Voter Guide:** information about candidates and issues in an upcoming election
  - Visit [www.usa.gov/voting-and-election-definitions](http://www.usa.gov/voting-and-election-definitions) for more definitions
- 

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6TH, 2018 FROM 6AM-9PM**

**IF YOU CAN'T VOTE, REMIND THOSE WHO CAN**

**YOUR FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS**