

How to Find Information on Elections and Voters

by Christine Bruzzese

Voter Information. The City Record published *List of Enrolled Voters* from 1883 to 1974/75. Volumes are organized by borough and Assembly District. Listings within the volumes are by address. The names of all registered voters at a particular address are provided. Holdings in the City Hall Library are from 1965/66 to 1974/75. Earlier volumes can be retrieved from offsite. Requestors are asked to be specific about year and volume needed. Requests are processed within 1-2 weeks. The Municipal Archives also maintains a collection of voter registration cards. Requests can be made to Archives staff in person or by e-mail. These materials are kept offsite and the collection is not comprehensive. Another City Records publication is the *Official Canvass*. Organized by borough, this report offers detailed statistics on election results in each Assembly District in the borough. Holdings are from 1884 to 1970 but are not complete.

Voter Guides. Citizens Union publishes the *Voters Directory*. Usually there are two issues a year, one for the primary and one for the general election. The City Hall Library maintains a collection of these from 1953 to present. Background information on candidates, maps of Senate and Assembly Districts related information can be found here. New York City Campaign Finance Board also prepares *Voters Guides* for primary and general elections. Each Guide is organized by borough and includes candidate information, schedule

of debates, information for voters and descriptions of the functions and activities of the Campaign Finance Board. Holdings are from 2001 to present. Spanish and Chinese language versions may be available.

Election Results. New York City Board of Elections has prepared *Annual Reports* since 1912. These reports offer results for general elections for New York City offices, state and federal offices that effect New York such as State Senator and Presidential election results. Statistics on registered voters, voter turn out, and related indicators are presented, too. Accomplishments and goals of the Board of Elections are also summarized. Please note that from 1970 to 1987, no report was published. The latest available is 2002. Vertical files include articles and other clippings with election results and statistics back to the 1960's. The files on politics may also be helpful. Other sources such as *New York State Red Book* and *Encyclopedia of New York City* may also contain election results. Biographical clippings on candidates and elected officials are useful sources, too.

Websites. The Board of Elections website is at www.vote.nyc.ny.us. Maps, publications, voter registration information and election results are featured here. Campaign Finance Board at www.nycefb.info includes voter guides, press releases and financial disclosure requirements for candidates.