

# AAUW-NYS GOTV Counterpart Newsletter Get Out The Vote!



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## Late Breaking Pre-Election News!

Hurricane Sandy prompts state elections officials to extend absentee ballot deadlines

The NY State Board of Elections has extended the deadline for mail application for an absentee ballot for this year's election due to the disruption caused by Hurricane Sandy.

The board approved a resolution extending the deadline "for an absentee ballot by mail shall be extended from no later than seven (7) days before the November 6, 2012 General Election to no later than four (4) days before the November 6, 2012, General Election."

They also extended the date by which a mailed absentee ballot must be received to be counted. The postmark must be no later than Nov. 5, but the receipt date is now by Nov. 19, an extension of six days.

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### Your Polling Place & Reporting Problems:

If you live in an area that sustained heavy damage from Hurricane Sandy, we recommend that you contact your local elections officials to find out about any changes and to confirm your polling place.

**Common Cause** and its allies will operate the 1-886-OUR-VOTE hotline to assist voters in finding their polling location, verifying their registration status, notifying state and local election officials of voter intimidation and deceptive practices, and more.

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## AAUW Action Fund Voter Guides

We wanted to let you know that we have posted a blog entry on AAUW Dialog explaining the process for researching and compiling the AAUW Action Fund voter guides for the 2012 election. The blog entry is available at <http://blog-aauw.org/2012/11/01/aauw-voter-guides-a-trusted-messenger/>

The AAUW Action Fund released, as we have since 1994, a set of voter guides designed to help inform voters before they go to the polls. These guides are nonpartisan and allow voters to compare the positions of candidates in key Senate and House races on issues important for women and girls such as health care, college affordability, and pay equity.

AAUW and the Action Fund do not endorse any candidate or political party, and do not tell voters who to vote for. All our voter guides are thoroughly researched and updated continuously based on public statements, voting records, and campaign position papers. All campaigns were contacted through both email and phone to review the voter guides. The blog entry explains that process in more detail.

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## NYCLU Launches Let Me Vote

The NY Civil Liberties Union has launched Let Me Vote — an online voting rights guide that provides all the information you need to cast your ballot on Election Day. The guide will arm you with all of the information you need to overcome any obstacles at the polls.

Anyone denied the right to vote should call our national voter protection hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA to contact an attorney who can help them find a solution. We will also send teams of volunteers to targeted polling places across the state to assist voters who encounter obstacles.

There's much more at stake next Tuesday than who occupies the White House. New Yorkers also will decide who represents them in Congress and the State Legislature. It's critical that you exercise your right to vote.

To access the guide, please visit [www.nyclu.org/vote](http://www.nyclu.org/vote). Contact them at [vote@nyclu.org](mailto:vote@nyclu.org) with any voting-related questions.

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## Getting Out The Vote!

Here is fabulous idea for a branch – one or two volunteers will be enough for most small, community hospitals!

### **Volunteers help hospital patients vote**

More than 25 volunteers at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles are helping patients obtain absentee ballots so they can vote, hospital officials say. Allison Rotter,

volunteer services manager at Cedars-Sinai, says often patients end up in the hospital unexpectedly, or have been ill and may not have had time to obtain an absentee ballot. The volunteers will visit hundreds of patient rooms to ensure any registered voter can exercise their right to vote. The volunteers will visit hundreds of patients next Monday -- the day before Election Day -- with necessary applications needed for absentee balloting. The volunteers will then bring the forms to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder and wait for ballots. The volunteers will distribute the ballots to patients on Election Day, collect them and deliver them to the nearest polling place for counting, Rotter says. [http://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2012/10/30/Volunteers-help-hospital-patients-vote/UPI-74681351574756/](http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2012/10/30/Volunteers-help-hospital-patients-vote/UPI-74681351574756/)

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Check out Lilly Ledbetter on the Halloween Edition of The Colbert Report!  
<http://www.colbertnation.com/full-episodes/wed-october-31-2012-lilly-ledbetter>

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