

NYS SECOND HOMEOWNERS: VOTE WHERE IT COUNTS

Maybe you feel your vote is wasted at your primary residence, where election results are so lopsided. Wouldn't you like to vote where the vote you cast can have a real effect? Wouldn't you like your vote to have an impact on the question of whether or not gas drilling corporations will be able to degrade the value – monetary and otherwise – of your weekend/retirement home.

New York State law is clear—citizens with second homes have the right to choose where they want to vote. Residents do not have to vote where they maintain their primary residence.*

Second homeowners have a major stake in Chenango County, but most have no say in how their tax dollars are being spent, or in the decisions that will affect the future of this region for years to come.

Voter registration forms should be used as a change of address form. Notices of change of address from registered voters received at least 20 days before a special, primary or general election by a county board of elections must be processed and entered in the records in time for that election.

There are several ways to change your address for purposes of voting where it counts:

- You can call **1-800-FOR-VOTE** hotline to request a voter registration form be mailed to you
- Voter registration forms are available at most post offices.
- Voter Registration forms can be downloaded at <http://www.elections.state.ny.us/NYSBOE/download/voting/voteform.pdf>
- Voter registration forms can be filled in online at http://www.elections.state.ny.us/NYSBOE/download/voting/voteform_enterable.pdf

Completed forms must be mailed to:
Chenango County Board of Elections
5 Court St
Norwich NY 13815

How to fill in the voter registration form:

◆ *Enter your Chenango County address on line 7 and your preferred mailing address on line 8.*

◆ *If you have occupied your second home for a total of 30 days, you are legally entitled to sign the Affidavit in the lower right hand corner. (The days of occupancy do not have to have been consecutive.)*

◆ *If you want to receive an absentee ballot, make sure you check the box on line 14..*

SECOND HOME VOTING: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. if I register to vote in Chenango County, can I also vote where I maintain my primary residence?

No. You can choose where you want to vote, but you can only vote in one location.

2. If I register to vote in Chenango County, do I have to contact my old election board?

No. If you complete your new registration form, the Chenango County Board of Elections will do the rest.

3. If I register to vote in Chenango County, can my landlord use that as evidence that my country home is actually my primary residence?

Because New York State permits voters to register at their second homes, voter registration is not proof of primary residence. That said, tenants in rent-controlled or rent-stabilized apartments or lofts need to consider their particular circumstances when deciding where to register.

4. If I register to vote in Chenango County, will I be called for jury duty in Chenango County?

New York State relies on information from five state agencies to generate lists of potential jurors: the DMV, the Department of Labor, the Department of Social Services, the Board of Elections and the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance. That means New Yorkers with two homes could conceivably be called for jury duty in either location based on information provided by different state agencies. That does not mean second homeowners are liable to serve more often than others, because jury duty in one jurisdiction is credited as service by other jurisdictions.

Citizens called for jury duty in Chenango County may call in the day before they are scheduled to appear to see if they are needed. After five days of "telephone service" potential jurors who are not seated are excused and do not have to serve for another six years.

**QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? PROBLEMS REGISTERING?
OUR VOTING RIGHTS PARTNERS WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

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Vote Where It Counts

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*In 1983 the New York State Court of Appeals affirmed a woman's right to vote in Huntington, Long Island even though she lived elsewhere five days a week.

Ferguson v. McNab, 60 N.Y.2d 598 N.Y. (1983)

*In 2007 the State Supreme Court ordered the Delaware County Board of Elections to reinstate eight weekend homeowners who had been stricken from the voting rolls.

Judge Kevin M. Dowd said "The bottom line is...election officials are to establish that the prospective voters address is a real one and not a sham, and then to look at the expressed wishes of the voter."

*Wilkie et al v. the Delaware County Board of Elections, (No. 504004)
(NYS Sup. Ct App. 3d, Oct. 23, 2008).*