As a member of the CUNY community, please exercise your civic responsibility and let your voice be heard in this November’s state-wide elections.
A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR REGISTERING TO VOTE

WHO CAN REGISTER?
In order to be eligible to register to vote you must be:

- A U.S. citizen by birth (anyone born in the United States or its territories, including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and certain Panamanians are U.S. citizens); or
- At least 18 years old and a New York resident for at least 25 days prior to:
  - September 14, 2010 (primary) – November 2, 2010 (general election)
  - Not currently serving time (in jail, on work release, on parole) for a felony conviction.
  - You must be registered by:
    - August 20, 2010 (primary) – October 8, 2010 (general election)
- You need to register to vote if:
  - You have changed your address since the last time you voted or registered to vote;
  - You wish to change your party affiliation; and/or
  - You have changed your name since last voting.
- The last day to hand-deliver or postmark a voter registration form to the Board of Elections in order to vote in the September 14, 2010 primary election is August 20, 2010. The corresponding deadline to register for the November 2, 2010 general election is October 8, 2010. The American Heritage Dictionary defines “voting” as the formal expression of a preference for a candidate for office or for a proposed resolution of an issue.

Voting is the foundation upon which our democracy rests. The vote is our voice and it should be used loudly and regularly. Use your voice. Vote!

POLITICAL PARTIES
Enrolling in a political party is optional. However, if you wish to vote in a political party’s primary elections, you must enroll in that political party. If you switch political parties, you cannot vote in your new party’s primary until after the first general election after your switch. Thus, if you switch party affiliation before the 2010 general election, you may vote in your new party’s primary in 2011. However, if you switch after the 2010 general election, you cannot vote in your “new” party’s primary until 2012.

HOW DO I REGISTER?
Registering to vote is easy to do.
The City University of New York makes voter registration forms available to all CUNY students when they register for classes. Ask about voter registration and the collection of application forms at your campus.
You can also obtain a form, fill it out and mail it in yourself. You don’t even need a stamp. It’s as simple as that.

To get your voter registration form by mail or via the internet, or for more information about voting, please call or visit the following websites:

- THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
  www.cuny.edu/vote
- THE NEW YORK CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
  (212) VOTE-NYC
- THE VOTER ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
  (212) 788-8384; www.nyc.gov/voter
- THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
  (212) 725-3541; www.lwnyc.org
- CITIZENS UNION
  (212) 227-0342; www.citizensunion.org

CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION
You will receive an official postcard from the Board of Elections in the mail indicating your election district, polling place and schedule for voting. You will also be sent a Voter’s Identification Card. If either card is not received within two weeks of registering, call the Board of Elections hot line at (212) VOTE-NYC.

HOW TO OBTAIN AN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION
If you cannot get to your poll site on Election Day you may qualify to vote by absentee ballot. You can vote by absentee ballot if you are temporarily or permanently ill/disabled, or if you are out of town on Election Day for business, vacation, school or similar circumstances. Please be advised that there are separate applications for both the primary and general elections. For the primary election, an absentee ballot application must be requested by 9/7/10 and returned by 9/13/10. For the general election, an absentee ballot application must be requested by 10/26/10 and returned by 11/1/10. To obtain an absentee-ballot application, check the box in the upper left-hand corner of the voter registration form, or call the VOTER ASSISTANCE COMMISSION (VAC) at (212) 788-8384 or the Board of Elections at (212) VOTE-NYC.

NEW YORK’S NEW POLL SITE VOTING SYSTEM
Starting with the Fall 2010 election cycle, New York City will be using a new poll site voting system. This change is part of the New York City’s compliance with the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). The lever machines will be replaced with two modern machines, an optical scanner to read marked paper ballots and tally results and an AutoMark ballot marking device, which allows any voter, including voters with disabilities, to mark a paper ballot privately and independently by using either its touch screen, Braille-enhanced keypad, sip & puff device or rocker paddle. Voters of the latter device may view the ballot on an adjustable screen or may listen to the ballot over headphones in multiple languages. New York’s new voting system will be simple and easy to use and will ensure that your vote counts.