



Red Flags in the Rolls: New York Voter List Integrity & Compliance Findings (2024–2025) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New York’s voter-registration system is failing the public.

In New York, a state with 28 Electoral College votes and frequent competitive congressional districts, the integrity of the voter-registration system carries statewide and national weight. Yet Project Civica’s review of monthly NYSVoter data (2023–2025), cross-jurisdictional matches, and forensic case studies reveals persistent structural vulnerabilities: low front-end verification, episodic and non-uniform list maintenance, untraceable voter-history changes, widespread stale/ineligible records, and deficient interstate coordination. These failures point to an apparent lack of compliance with NVRA §8 and HAVA §303, inflate registration totals, erode public trust, and risk dilution of lawful votes. This report documents the evidence and proposes targeted reforms to restore reliability and confidence.

Predominant Low-Verification Registration Channels

- Over 94.6% of registrations originate from low-verification channels (mail-in forms, agency registrations, local boards of elections, decentralized intake).
- Eligibility and citizenship are established primarily through self-attestation, without routine documentary proof or authoritative federal database verification.
- This structure increases systemic exposure to:
 - Data-entry errors and incomplete identity records
 - Identity ambiguity and weak duplicate detection
 - Absence of direct citizenship verification
- Post-registration verification only partially mitigates risks, especially where placeholder or inconsistent fields satisfy automated logic.
- Registration source serves as a critical proxy for evaluating administrative risk, data reliability, and compliance with NVRA’s uniform and accurate list-maintenance mandate.

Clustered and Infrequent List Maintenance

- Monthly FOIL extracts (January 2023 – October 2025) show highly concentrated voter-removal activity, with major purge spikes immediately following November 2022 and November 2024 federal elections.
- Largest single-month purge exceeded 400,000 records in February 2025, coinciding with:
 - Expiration of NVRA’s 90-day “quiet period”
 - Completion of the two-federal-election inactivity window

- Removal activity clusters heavily in January–February of odd-numbered years.
- Most counties show minimal or near-zero maintenance during the remainder of the NVRA cycle.
- This episodic approach raises compliance concerns under NVRA, which requires a general, uniform, and continuous program not post- federal election mass purges.
- Extended low-activity periods suggest delayed address verification, inconsistent duplicate remediation, and uneven county enforcement, undermining statewide uniformity and roll accuracy.

Apparent Evidence of Incomplete NVRA-Mandated Maintenance

- New York’s statewide rolls contain exceptionally large volumes of stale and long-term inactive registrants, including:
 - Over 1.8 million registrants who have never voted since registration
 - More than 1.01 million registrants with no voting activity in the 6+ years since registration
 - of which 698,711 have no voting history since registration in 10+ years
 - Approximately 1.87 million registrants did not vote in the last two federal cycles (peaking at 1,874,101 in October 2025)
- These groups represent approximately 13–15% of the total statewide voter file (13–14 million active and inactive records).
- Large concentrations of long-term non-voters generate systemic risks, including:
 - Inflated registration totals
 - Distorted turnout metrics
 - Increased administrative costs
 - Erosion of public confidence
 - Elevated exposure to unlawful voting
 - Impairment of legally protected civil rights

Out-of-State Movers and Interstate Conflicts

- 520,835 registrants filed USPS NCOA notices indicating out-of-state relocation before the 2024 general election, yet remained Active or Inactive on NYSVoter.
- 23,298 of these voted in New York after the reported relocation.
- Cross-state comparisons identified substantial dual-registration concerns:
 - 81,000+ NY–NJ duplicates
 - 12,454 NY–Florida duplicates
 - At least 800 confirmed double votes in 2024 federal contests across the two state pairs requiring investigation
- NVRA permits NCOA-triggered maintenance but requires timely notice and structured follow-up. Large retained volumes indicate maintenance deficiencies in cross state duplicates and enforcement.

Duplicate, Missing, and Irregular Records

- Widespread data-quality failures undermine verification and compliance, including:
 - 125,210 unresolved in-state duplicates
 - 220 duplicate statewide voter IDs (SBOEIDs)

- 26,834 records lacking valid residential addresses
- 72,482 voters recorded as voting after purge dates
- 3,087 irregular or invalid birthdates impairing data quality

Voter-History Integrity Failures — Suffolk County Case Study

- 43 registrants confirmed deceased prior to November 2022 General Election appeared as having voted.
- In September 2024, their 2022 voting entries had disappeared from NYSVoter without audit logs, preservation records, or explanation.
- Serious concerns are raised under HAVA auditability requirements and federal/state record-retention laws (52 U.S.C. § 20701, NY Election Law § 3-222).

Placeholder Birthdate (January 1) Anomalies and Citizenship Risk Indicators

- Over 107,000 registrants list January 1 as DOB - a 55%+ statistical overrepresentation.
- Presidential-year spikes show persistent, active use of placeholder dates.
- January 1 is a standard USCIS placeholder for immigrants/refugees lacking documented birthdates.
- Combined with no routine citizenship verification, this weakens identity matching and raises substantial risk of non-citizen registrations.

Identity-Verification Weaknesses and Systemic Compliance Risks

- New York does not routinely verify citizenship using federal databases (e.g., DHS SAVE, USCIS).
- HAVA verification focuses only on name, DOB, SSN matching, not citizenship confirmation.
- Acceptance of placeholder DOBs allows questionable records to pass checks.
- When combined with high self-attestation reliance, large stale populations, inconsistent maintenance, and weak auditability, these gaps create systemic vulnerabilities not isolated errors.
- Deficiencies impair ability to demonstrate compliance with NVRA Accuracy/uniformity/auditability and HAVA database integrity mandates.

Statewide Voter Registration Trends by Party Affiliation in New York (2024–2025)

- New York's voter registration system experiences intense, predictable enrollment churn driven by the statutory February 14 party-change deadline under Election Law § 5-304,
- This deadline concentrates administrative workload, straining county–state synchronization, increasing risks of processing delays, record mismatches, and auditability gaps during the period of documented post- federal election mass purges. The long-term surge in Blank/No Party enrollment (now ~25–27% and the second-largest bloc) reflects structural disengagement in the current democratic framework. One contributing factor may be mistrust in the election process.

Conclusion:

New York's voter-registration system is failing to deliver accurate, current, and lawfully maintained rolls. The cumulative effect is a significantly inflated voter file that is inconsistently updated and vulnerable to administrative error and unlawful activity. Locally, this directly dilutes the votes of legitimate citizens, skews participation metrics, creates administrative chaos, and erodes public trust in elections. With 28 Electoral College votes and multiple swing congressional districts, systemic inflation, unverified entries, and untraceable changes in New York's voter rolls can distort statewide results, influence presidential outcomes, tip control of the U.S. House, and undermine confidence in federal elections. At its core, dilution of lawful votes through

inflated or unverified rolls impairs the civil rights of eligible citizens to equal representation, a consequence that extends far beyond New York.

Core Reform Recommendations: Modernizing NVRA & HAVA Compliance

- Mandate continuous, automated voter-roll maintenance statewide, replacing episodic post-election purges, and require uniform data fields and list-maintenance standards across all counties to ensure compliance with NVRA § 8.
- Require routine cross-checks with authoritative federal and state databases, including NCOA, SSA Death Master File, interstate DMV systems, corrections records, and DHS/USCIS databases, with enforceable timelines for verification and removal.
- Implement strong identity and citizenship verification at registration, requiring:
 - Documentary proof of identity and U.S. citizenship, or
 - Secure verification through federal databases (e.g., DHS SAVE), while providing free state-issued ID alternatives to ensure access.
- Eliminate acceptance of placeholder or default identity data, including default DOBs (e.g., January 1), and require validated residential address verification.
- Strengthen HAVA database integrity requirements, mandating immutable audit logs, permanent voter-history preservation, and independent audit capability with records publicly available to ensure traceability, transparency, and statutory compliance.
- Mandate public, standardized monthly reporting of voter-roll activity, including additions, inactivations, removals, and corrections, to enable independent oversight and public accountability.
- Condition state and federal election funding on verified compliance, with automatic enforcement mechanisms and penalties for persistent noncompliance.