1. What are the requirements of voting?

You must register to vote. To register, you must:

- be a United States Citizen
- be at least 18 years of age by the date of the election
- live at your address for at least 30 days before an election
- not be in jail or on parole for a felony conviction
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere

2. Do I have to register every year?

No. Once you register, you are permanently registered. You will only need to re-register if you change:

- your name
- address
- party affiliation (enrollment)

These changes can be made by submitting a new registration application.

3. How can I look up to see if I am registered?

Go to: http://www.canivote.org/

Submit your information and the site will confirm if you are registered and the address you are registered for.

4. Where do I go to vote (in Cortland County)?

To locate your location go to:

http://www.cortland-co.org/election/Pollfinder.pdf

5. What do I need when I go to vote?

Nothing. You are not required to show any identification. However, when you go to your polling place and go to the table designated for your election district, you will be asked your name and to sign next to a facsimile of your original signature on the alphabetized poll list. [If you do not know your election district, simply tell the volunteer your address and they will direct you to the correct election district table.]
6. Can someone help me to vote?

If you need assistance because you are disabled or have difficulty reading the ballot, federal law allows you to have a friend or relative assist you. Election employees at the polling place are also able to assist you if needed.

7. What if I arrive at my polling place and my name is not on the voter list?

If your name does not appear on the voter list and you are certain that you are a registered voter, it may be that you are registered under a former or different address and therefore another polling location. In this instance you are eligible, and guaranteed the right, to vote with an affidavit ballot. You will be required to complete and sign an oath confirming your registration information and will be given the opportunity to vote. For more information—read the New York State Voter Bill of Rights at:

http://www2.binghamton.edu/student-affairs/votebillofrights.pdf

8. How do candidates get on a ballot?

Most candidates in New York State get on the ballot by filing a petition that contains a specified number of signatures. The required number of signatures varies depending on the office the person is running for and whether or not the candidate is seeking a party nomination or is running as an independent.

9. Who can sign a petition?

You must be enrolled in the party to sign a petition for a person who is seeking that party’s nomination. You can only sign for ONE candidate for a specific elected office. Signing two or more petitions for the same elected official will invalidate your signature.

10. What does signing a petition mean?

Signing a candidate’s petition only means that you support their seeking the party’s nomination. A candidate must obtain the required number of signatures to run. Signing a petition is an important way to participate in the electoral process.

Signing a petition does not obligate you to vote for the candidate in the primary or the general election.
11. What is a primary election?

A primary is an election that takes place in advance of the general election and generally determines the official candidates for each party. It gives the political party members the opportunity to nominate their party’s candidate for elected office as well as to elect the various party officials. However, if there is no contest (more than one candidate running), there is no primary.

12. Why should I enroll in a political party?

Enrolled party members are the only people who have the option of signing a petition or voting in the primary election. In that sense, enrolled party members have the potential for more involvement in the election process. Also, just because you are registered with a certain party does not mean that you have to vote for that candidate in the general election. In November you may vote for any candidate from any party.

13. How do I register for a political party?

You can enroll in any party by indicating your preference on the voter registration form either at the same time you register to vote or by re-registering. Remember—you can only sign petitions for candidates or vote in the primary for candidates running for the party you designate.