



Tuesday's Tip

information provided by Adriance Memorial Library to make your life a little bit easier

Election Time Websites

September 4, 2012

With the Republican National Convention just over and the Democratic Convention just beginning—and Election Day just two months away! -- it's time to check out a few sites that might help our patrons (and ourselves) make better sense of the election process.

Below are some sites to help us make voting decisions –such as voting records, and also a few fact-checking places to make sure that distortions are identified so we have the best chance of making informed choices. There are also the nuts and bolts of how and where to vote in our area.

General information for ALL parties: --Even some you've never heard of before!!



(Includes detailed voting records for candidates' previous/ current political office, if applicable)

The screenshot shows two browser windows. The left window displays the Project Vote Smart homepage, which includes a search bar, navigation tabs for 'ELECTIONS & CANDIDATES', 'GOVERNMENT & OFFICIALS', and 'ISSUES', and a 'DONATE NOW' button. A prominent banner for 'VOTE EASY' describes 'The Voter's Self-Defense System' as providing biographies, voting records, issue positions, ratings, speeches, and campaign finance information for all politicians. The right window shows a detailed voting record for Representative Paul Ryan, including a table of his votes on various bills.

Bill	Y/N	Roll Call	Issue	Y/N
HR 1000	Y	100-10	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1001	Y	100-11	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1002	Y	100-12	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1003	Y	100-13	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1004	Y	100-14	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1005	Y	100-15	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1006	Y	100-16	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1007	Y	100-17	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1008	Y	100-18	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1009	Y	100-19	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1010	Y	100-20	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1011	Y	100-21	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1012	Y	100-22	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1013	Y	100-23	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1014	Y	100-24	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1015	Y	100-25	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1016	Y	100-26	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1017	Y	100-27	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1018	Y	100-28	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1019	Y	100-29	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1020	Y	100-30	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1021	Y	100-31	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1022	Y	100-32	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1023	Y	100-33	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1024	Y	100-34	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1025	Y	100-35	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1026	Y	100-36	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1027	Y	100-37	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1028	Y	100-38	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1029	Y	100-39	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y
HR 1030	Y	100-40	Small Business Jobs Act of 2010	Y



This Site contains lots of polling information and historical election data as well as details on the Electoral College.

The screenshot shows the 270 to WIN website for New York. At the top, there is a banner for "RELIEF FOR MIDDLE CLASS EXPIRING" with a "SIGN THE PETITION" button. Below this, the site displays "New York" with a map of the state and "ELECTORAL VOTES 29". A "2012 ELECTION" section shows Mitt Romney as the winner. Below that, there are four pie charts for "2012 POLL 4 (Obama vs. Romney)" from Siena College, Quinnipiac, Siena College, and Siena College, with percentages of 13%, 13%, 8%, and 8% respectively. A "POPULAR VOTE" section shows four pie charts for "2008 Actual", "2004 Actual", "2000 Actual", and "1996 Actual" with percentages of 9%, 9%, 9%, and 14% respectively. At the bottom, there is an "ABOUT NEW YORK" section with a "2010 Census Reapportionment" notice and a "STATE POPULATION BY COUNTY" table.

COUNTY	POPULATION	PERCENT
Albany	100,000	1.2%
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Albany	100,000	1.2%
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How & Where Do I Vote?

General Voter Information in New York State (Registering, Absentee Ballots, etc.)



[New York State Board of Elections](#)

Clickable [NYS County Map](#) to find local Election Boards and contacts for polling places



This site contains detailed tutorials on the voting machines and how they work. There is a video on how to vote using the [Imagecast machines](#) used in all MHLs service area counties.

Fact-Checking: At this time of deep political divides in our country, and the rhetoric that goes with most campaigning, it's important to seek and find facts as much as we can.

Of course to parse the validity of political e-mail blasts there's old reliable Snopes.com (TT 12/8/11), but here are two that really do keep all candidates in line by pointing out distortions, misrepresentations and even plain old lies in what they say both about themselves and their rivals... No party is spared investigation.



Partisan Viewpoint:

And finally, for those needing a right or left perspective, or who want to check out the 'other side', there are many blogs, and sadly even some propaganda mills, but two good places to find intelligent discussions are:

For a Conservative Viewpoint:

For a Liberal Viewpoint:

