

# New York's Closed Primary Could Cause Problems for Bernie Sanders

## New York Democratic Presidential Primary



### Timing

- In New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland Orange, Putnam and Erie counties open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Everywhere else polls are open from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### Delegates

- The Democrats have 247 pledged delegates allocated proportionally based on statewide results, as well as 44 super delegates, who are free to support any candidate.

### What to Watch For

- As for the Democrats, New York's strict closed-primary system could be the biggest obstacle to Bernie Sanders.
- Voters who were registered with a different party had to switch to the Democrats by October in order to vote in the party's primary.
- New Yorkers who had never cast a ballot before could still register as Democrats by March 25.
- Sanders has relied heavily on independent and first-time voters thus far, so he will need to perform well in the less-populated rural areas up-state.
- The candidates have also battled fiercely in Brooklyn, home to voting blocs that have boosted both—white liberals (Sanders) and racial minorities (Clinton).
- The former secretary of State is poised to post strong numbers across New York City and the surrounding suburbs.

Source: Adam Wollner, "New York Primary Cheat Sheet," *National Journal*, April 18, 2016.