

## COMMON PROBLEMS ON ELECTION DAY

### What if I'm not on the voter list at my polling site?

First, ask the poll worker to check the list again and confirm you are at the right polling place for your address. If you are at the wrong location, try to go to the right polling place. You can look up your polling place at [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov), or text Vote to GOVOTE (468683), or call (866) OUR-VOTE (687-8683).

If you can't get to the correct polling site, ask for a provisional ballot. Your vote will be counted after elections officials have confirmed that you are registered to vote and that you did not vote elsewhere in that election.

### What if I find out I'm not registered to vote?

You can still register and vote on Election Day or any early voting day. Election Day Registration is available at all voting locations across California.

### What if I didn't get my ballot in the mail?

If you are a vote-by-mail voter, and you did not get your ballot in the mail, go to your polling place or your county elections office on Election Day and tell them you did not get your ballot. You can vote a provisional ballot that will be counted after they check to make sure you didn't send in the mail ballot. You can look up your polling place at [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov), or text Vote to GOVOTE (468683), or call (866) OUR-VOTE (687-8683).

### What if someone challenges my right to vote?

If anyone challenges your right to vote, including a poll worker, immediately call (866) OUR-VOTE (687-8683).

### What if someone tries to intimidate or harass me?

Tell a poll worker right away. If the poll worker is the problem or cannot help you, call (866) OUR-VOTE (687-8683).

### What if I am in line when the polls close?

You have the right to vote as long as you are in line by 8 p.m. Don't leave without voting.

## CALIFORNIA IS NOT A VOTER ID STATE

### You do NOT need photo identification to vote in California.

The ONLY time you need to show any documents before voting is if you registered online or by mail AND you did not include your driver's license, state ID or Social Security number AND it is your first time voting. In those circumstances, the first time you vote you need to bring a document showing your name and address. There are more than 30 types of acceptable documents, including a military or student ID, a utility bill, or a check from the government.

For a list of the more than 30 acceptable forms of identification, contact your county elections office or go to:

[sos.ca.gov/administration/regulations/current-regulations/elections/help-america-vote-act-identification-standards](https://sos.ca.gov/administration/regulations/current-regulations/elections/help-america-vote-act-identification-standards)

**If you have been denied the right to vote or you see election misconduct, call one of the hotline numbers below or contact the ACLU at [votingrights@acluca.org](mailto:votingrights@acluca.org).**

#### Election Protection Hotlines:

(866) OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)

(888) VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682)

#### Disability Rights CA Voter Hotline:

(888) 569-7955

#### California Secretary of State

#### Voter Information Hotlines:

English: (800) 345-VOTE (8683)

Spanish: (800) 232-VOTA (8682)

Chinese: (800) 339-2857

Hindi: (888) 345-2692

Japanese: (888) 339-2865

Khmer: (888) 345-4917

Korean: (866) 575-1558

Tagalog / Filipino: (800) 339-2957

Thai: (855) 345-3933

Vietnamese: (800) 339-8163

TTY/TDD: (800)833-8683

#### Need to check your registration status?

Go to [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov)

#### Need to find your polling place?

Text Vote to GOVOTE (468683)

or go to [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov)

#### Need to contact your county elections official?

[sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices)



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CALIFORNIA VOTERS

**WHO CAN VOTE**

**HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE**

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**VOTER HOTLINE NUMBERS**

**ACLU**

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
FOUNDATION

Northern  
California

## WHO CAN VOTE

### Who can vote in California?

**You must register if you want to vote.**

You can register to vote if you are:

- a U.S. citizen;
- a resident of California;
- will be 18 years or older on Election Day;
- not currently serving a state or federal prison sentence for a felony conviction; and
- not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.

If you are 16 or 17 years old, you can pre-register to vote if you meet the other eligibility requirements. When you turn 18, you will automatically be registered and can vote.

### Can I vote if I have a criminal conviction?

Usually. **The only time you can't vote because of a criminal conviction is if you are currently serving a state or federal prison sentence.** And once you've completed your sentence, your right to vote is automatically reinstated. You just have to register to vote.

A misdemeanor conviction never affects your right to vote.

And, if you are currently on probation, parole, mandatory supervision, post-release community supervision, or serving a county jail sentence under Realignment for a felony conviction, you can vote. For more information on voting with a criminal conviction, go to: [letmevoteca.org](http://letmevoteca.org)

### Can I vote if I am under conservatorship?

You can vote unless a judge specifically rules that you cannot express your desire to vote. If a court said you cannot vote, it is possible they made a mistake, and you may be able to get your right to vote back. For more information, call Disability Rights California at (888) 569-7955.

### What if I can't sign my name?

You can make a mark or use a signature stamp. If you make a mark, you just need someone 18 years of age or over to hand write your name next to the mark and to sign their own name as a witness. For more information on using a signature stamp, go to: [disabilityrightscs.org/system/files?file=attachments/547301.pdf](http://disabilityrightscs.org/system/files?file=attachments/547301.pdf)

### What if I'm a student who is not living at home?

You can register to vote at your current school address or at your permanent residence, such as your parent's address. But if you decide to register at your permanent residence, don't forget to request a vote-by-mail ballot so your ballot gets to you.

### What if I'm homeless?

You don't need a home address to register. Just identify two cross streets where you usually stay on the map provided at the bottom of the voter registration form.

## HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

### How do I register to vote?

- Register to vote online at: [registertovote.ca.gov](http://registertovote.ca.gov)
- Get a paper registration application at the post office, DMV, or your county elections office.
- Call (800) 345-VOTE (8683) and get a form mailed to you.

### What's the registration deadline?

The voter registration deadline is 15 days before an election. If you miss the registration deadline, you can still register and vote on Election Day or any early voting day. Election Day Registration is available at all voting locations across California.

**If you miss the registration deadline, you can still register and vote in the 15 days leading up to and on Election Day by going to your county elections office.** Some counties will have additional sites where people can register and vote on the same day. To find out where same day registration is available in your county, contact your county elections office:

[sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/](http://sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/)  
[county-elections-offices](http://county-elections-offices)

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[county-elections-offices](http://county-elections-offices)

### How do I know if I'm registered?

You should get a postcard from your county elections office confirming your registration within 4 weeks of registering. If you are unsure if you are registered to vote, you can look up your voter registration status at: [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](http://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov)

### What if I move?

Sometimes your voter registration address will be updated when you move if your county elections official gets a notification of your change of address. But it's always a good idea to check your registration status before the 15-day voter registration deadline to make sure your address was updated. You can check your registration status at: [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](http://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov)

If you move within the same county and your voter registration address does not get updated, you can go to the polling site for your new address and update your registration and vote. If you moved to a new county and your address was not updated, you can re-register to vote and vote on the same day by going to your county elections office or another site in your county that offers same day registration.

### How do I become a permanent vote-by-mail voter?

To become a permanent vote-by-mail voter, check the box on the voter registration application for permanent vote-by-mail when you register to vote. You will get your ballot in the mail about a month before every election.

If you are already registered to vote and want to vote by mail, just complete the vote-by-mail application included in the sample ballot you get in the mail a month before Election Day. You can also call your county elections office:

[sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/](http://sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/)  
[county-elections-offices](http://county-elections-offices)

## HOW TO VOTE

### Vote by Mail

If you signed up to get your ballot in the mail, you can:

**Mail your ballot** – just make sure it is postmarked on or before Election Day.

**Drop your ballot of at any polling place in your county by 8 p.m. on Election Day.** Some counties have drop boxes and early voting centers where you can drop your ballot before Election Day. Those are listed in the voting information you get with your ballot or ask your county elections office about locations.

**Remember to put your ballot in the special envelope, seal it, and sign it! And it's ok to give your sealed and signed ballot envelope to someone else to return for you.**

### Vote Early in Person

You can vote early at your county elections office. Some counties offer early voting at other locations. Contact your county elections office to find out about early voting options in your county.

### Vote at the Polls on Election Day

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. You have the right to vote if you are in line or inside your polling place by 8 p.m.

Your polling place is listed on the sample ballot you get in the mail. You can also look up your polling place at: [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](http://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov) or text Vote to GOVOTE (468683).

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** All voters in Madera, Napa, Nevada, Sacramento, and San Mateo Counties will be mailed ballots. These counties will offer expanded early voting and in person Election Day voting at vote centers. Voters will not have their previous neighborhood polling place. For more information, go to: [voterschoice.org](http://voterschoice.org)

### Can I get a ballot in another language?

Depending upon your county, ballots may be available in other languages. Call your county elections office to find out what languages are available in your county.

If a ballot is not available in your language, you may bring an interpreter with you to the polls (as long as they are not your employer or labor union officer).

### What if I have a disability and need help voting?

You have the right to vote on an accessible voting machine, and you have the right to select up to two people (including a poll worker) to help you in the booth as long as they are not your employer or labor union officer.

You have the right to vote in private. You should be instructed on how to use the voting equipment prior to entering the booth. If you need further instructions or assistance, ask a poll worker for help. They are required to help you.

### What if my polling place is not physically accessible?

If your polling place is not accessible, poll workers are required to offer you curbside voting by bringing materials outside to you.