

How CALIFORNIA Ensures Safe and Secure Voting



Whether you cast your ballot by mail or in person, early or on Election Day, your vote counts. Here's how elections work in California to make sure that your vote is kept safe and secure and is counted with integrity.

1

Register to VOTE



It's never too late to register to vote in California!

You can register online, by mail, or in person.

If registering online or by mail, the deadline to register is October 21, 2024. Same day voter registration is available through Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

For more information: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration>

2

Decide How to Vote



VOTE BY MAIL: County elections officials will begin mailing vote-by mail ballots no later than October 7, 2024. Vote-by mail ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by November 12, 2024. Drop boxes are available in your area. Read more here: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/>

VOTE EARLY IN PERSON (EARLY VOTING): Vote early at your county office or an alternate early voting site. Early voting starts on October 7, 2024. Find more information about early voting and identify your early voting site: <https://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov/>

VOTE IN PERSON ON ELECTION DAY: Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

4

Reporting



On Election Night, California's 58 county elections officials transmit unofficial election results to the California Secretary of State's Office no more than two hours after they begin tallying votes after polls close. The unofficial election results are posted to both county and the Secretary of State's websites. Reporting continues on Election Night until all precincts have been reported. Be patient for results and know news media reports are only projections and not final results.

3

Ballots are Counted



After ballots are cast, county elections officials count ballots after verifying the validity of ballots by reviewing the envelope for completion. Observers may be present during all aspects of the election process. Starting at 8 p.m. on Election Night, reporting begins on vote-by mail ballots received prior to Election Day and on ballots voted at voting locations. Ballots continue to be counted until certification.

5

Canvass and Certification



County elections officials continue to count vote-by mail, provisional, and other ballots up to 28 days after Election Day. During this period known as the canvass, that is also open to the public, county elections officials count every eligible ballot cast. County elections officials must complete the canvass, canvass tasks, certify the results, submit results to the board of supervisors, and submit certified results to the Secretary of State. Lastly, the Secretary of State compiles results from all 58 counties and certifies statewide results in the Statement of the Vote.

6

Meeting of the Electoral College



California's slate of electors meets on December 17, 2024 to send their certified votes for president and vice president to Congress.