How do I register to vote?

To register to vote in California, you must be:

- A United States citizen and a resident of California;
- 18 years old or older on Election Day;
- Not currently in state or federal prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony; and
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.

If you are eligible, you can register to vote or update your registration online at registertovote.ca.gov. If you would like to fill out a physical form, voter registration applications can be found at post offices and libraries.

Re register to vote if you move, change your name, or change your political party preference.

Can I pre-register to vote in California?

Yes, to pre register to vote in California, you must:

- Be 16 or 17 years old; and
- Meet all of the other eligibility requirements to vote.

After pre registering, you will automatically be registered to vote on your 18th birthday. Go to registertovote.ca.gov to pre register to vote.

What if I had to leave my residence because of a natural disaster?

For this election only, all active registered voters will receive their ballots in the mail. Your voter registration record should reflect your current residence and mailing address.

If your move is temporary and you intend to return to your residence in the future, you can continue to use your residence address for voter registration purposes. However, if mail delivery to your residence is disrupted, please provide your elections official with a mailing address at which you can receive mail by either completing a voter registration form (registertovote.ca.gov) or the one time Vote by Mail Ballot Application (elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/vote_by_mail/pdf/vote_by_mail_application.pdf), or you can request a Remote Accessible Vote by Mail (RAVBM) ballot from your elections official.

If your move is permanent, you can update your California residence by re registering to vote. You can re register online (registertovote.ca.gov) or by submitting a paper voter registration application. You can also update your residence address by sending a signed letter to your current county elections official, informing them of your move and providing them with your date of birth and current address.

What if I need to check my voter registration status?

To check your voter registration status including political party you can use the “My Voter Status” tool at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov. You can also call our Voter Hotline at 1 800 345 VOTE (8683) for your status.

What if I miss the voter registration deadline?

If you miss the deadline to register to vote 15 days before an election, you still have an opportunity to register and vote. You can go to your county election office, vote center, or polling place on or before Election Day to complete the conditional voter registration process (often referred to as “Same Day Voter Registration”). You will have to fill out a voter registration card and a ballot. Once county elections officials complete the regular voter registration verification process, your ballot will be processed.
and your vote will be counted. Contact your county elections official for more information or visit vote.ca.gov.

What if I need to check my voter registration status?
To check your voter registration status, you can use the “My Voter Status” tool at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov or call our Voter Hotline at 1 800 345 VOTE (8683).

How do I vote for president?
For the November 3, 2020, General Election, all California voters will receive the same ballot with all of the presidential candidates.

What if I need voter information in a different language?
Voter information is available in 10 languages. Visit www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting california.

When will I receive my voter guide?
Registered voters will receive, by mail, their nonpartisan State Voter Information Guide from the Secretary of State’s office a few weeks before Election Day. The State Voter Information Guide will also be available online at voterguide.sos.ca.gov. County elections offices will also mail a county voter information guide to voters. County voter guides will include information about ballot measures, candidates, and voting rights.

When will I receive my ballot?
For the November 3, 2020, General Election, all active registered California voters will receive their ballot in the mail, if they have registered before the voter registration deadline. County elections officials will mail most ballots by October 5, 2020.

Can I track where my vote-by-mail ballot is?
Yes! Where’s My Ballot? is a new way for voters to track and receive notifications on the status of their vote by mail ballot, every step of the way. Sign up at WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov to receive an automatic email, SMS (text), or voice call notifications about your ballot.

What if I need a replacement ballot or need an emergency ballot?
If you failed to receive vote by mail ballot or you have lost or destroyed your original vote by mail ballot, the timeframe to request a vote by mail ballot has passed, or you are unable to vote in person at the polls, you may apply in writing for a late vote by mail ballot. This application will need to be provided in person to the county elections official by you or your representative. The late vote by mail ballot application can be found at elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/vote by mail/pdf/late vote by mail application.pdf.

Can I vote by mail?
Any registered voter can vote by mail in California. You can register to vote by mail by:

- Registering to vote at registertovote.ca.gov;
- Filling out the vote by mail ballot application in your county Voter Information Guide;
- Going to www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter registration/vote mail/; or
- Contacting your county elections office.

Your completed application must arrive at your county elections office at least seven days before Election Day.

How can I return my vote-by-mail ballot?
Instead of going to the polls on Election Day, you may vote using the vote by mail ballot that will be sent to you. After you have voted, insert your ballot in the envelope provided, making sure you seal, sign and complete all required information on the envelope. You may return your voted ballot by:

- Voting Safe by mailing it to your county elections official (must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by your county elections office no later than 17 days after Election Day);
- Dropping your ballot into one of your county’s ballot drop boxes, or at a ballot drop off location, ballot drop box, or a polling location anywhere in the state
- Going into a polling location (don’t forget to wear your face covering); and
- Asking someone to return your ballot for you, as long as they do not get paid on a per ballot basis.

Should I be worried about delays in the mail?
For up to date information on the USPS, you can go to www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter registration/vote mail/usps frequently asked questions faqs/
Can I track the status of my ballot once I vote?

Yes! You can go to “My Voter Status” to track the status of your ballot at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov.

How early can I vote?

Your county may offer early voting locations before Election Day. For a list go to vote.ca.gov. For the November 3, 2020, General Election, vote by mail ballots will be mailed to every active Californian voter on or before October 5, 2020. To ensure your vote by mail ballot is counted, it must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by your county election office no later than 17 days after Election Day.

What is the Voter’s Choice Act?

This modernized election model makes voting easier by sending every registered voter their ballot by mail and then giving them the option to return their ballot by mail, to any ballot drop box in the county, or at any vote center in the county convenient to them for at least 11 days up to and including Election Day. To find out if your county will use the Voter’s Choice Act in 2020 you can visit voterschoice.sos.ca.gov.

How do I find my polling place or vote center?

- Check the back of your county voter information guide for your polling place, vote centers, or ballot drop off locations
- Contact your county elections office
- Call our Voter Hotline at 1 800 345- VOTE (8683) or visit voterstatus.sos.ca.gov
- Text ‘VOTE’ to ‘GOVOTE’ (468 683)

Do I have the right to vote if my name is not on the voter list at the polling place?

Even if your name is not on the voter rolls at your polling place, you have the right to cast a provisional ballot. If you are not registered or need to update your voter registration, you can complete the "Same Day Voter Registration” process at the polling place. Your provisional ballot will be counted once the county elections official has confirmed that you are a registered voter and you did not already vote in that election. You can find out if your provisional ballot was counted and, if it was not counted, the reason why at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov.

Is my vote secure?

Yes, California exceeds Federal requirements for election security. Every vote must be cast on a paper ballot or have a voter verified paper audit trail. Voting equipment used to cast and count ballots must be certified for use in California and kept offline. Elections officials conduct post election audits, including a manual tally of a sample of ballots, after every election to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the vote count. Voters can find official, trusted election information as well as learn more about our election security safeguards, and cybersecurity efforts at vote.ca.gov.

How can I get up-to-the minute election results?

- Statewide election vote counts can be found at electionresults.sos.ca.gov
- Follow us on Twitter @CASOSvote
- Sign up for E updates at https://goo.gl/BB7zb4

NOVEMBER 3 | GENERAL ELECTION

Counties to Send Vote by Mail Ballots .................Oct 5
Vote by Mail Ballot Drop Boxes Open ..................Oct 6
Register to Vote........................................................Oct 19
4 Day Early Voting Locations Open ......................Oct31
Same Day Voter Registration....................Oct 20 Nov 3
Request a vote by mail ballot................................Oct 27
Return vote by mail ballot........................................Nov 3
VBM ballots postmarked by Election
must be received by.............................................Nov 20

*Polls are open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Election Day