

Why vote?

Elections are a critical element of our democracy. Casting a ballot can change the course of our nation, our state, and the communities we live in. Your vote helps elect presidents, our representatives in Congress, our state legislature, city council members, judges, and many others whose decisions have a direct impact on our daily life. Through the ballot box, you also have the power to help create new laws or repeal those you disagree with.

The right to vote has been hard-fought. Women, minorities, and non-landowners were all prohibited from voting earlier in our nation's history. In 1911, women gained the right to vote in California, nine years before women's suffrage was guaranteed in the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Just 50 years ago, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, landmark federal legislation designed to remove barriers to participation in the electoral process for African Americans and later other racial minorities. Our nation's veterans have also ensured that our democratic principles, including the right to vote, are protected.

By registering to vote and casting a ballot on Election Day you have the power to strengthen our democracy. The California Secretary of State is committed to honoring the legacy of those who have so valiantly fought for our democratic principles, including the right to vote, and have your say in many of the rights and responsibilities of voters and have your information you need in order to vote and have your say.

Can I register to vote?

- To register to vote in California, you must be:
- A United States citizen;
 - A resident of California;
 - 18 years of age or older on Election Day;
 - Not currently imprisoned or on parole for the conviction of a felony; and
 - Not found by a court to be mentally incompetent.

How do I register to vote?

You can visit RegisterToVote.ca.gov or call the Secretary of State's Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

Voter registration applications are provided at many places throughout the state:

- County elections offices or city halls
- Public libraries
- Post offices
- Department of Motor Vehicles field offices
- State and county social services offices
- State and county mental health offices
- Department of Rehabilitation offices
- Independent Living Centers
- Department of Developmental Services Regional Centers
- Board of Equalization and Franchise Tax Board district offices
- Armed Forces recruitment offices

If you have a California identification card or driver license, you must provide the number on your voter registration application. If you do not have one of those two types of identification, provide the last four digits of your social security number. If you do not have a social security number, you will be assigned a unique identification number for voting purposes only.



California General Election Handbook

November 8, 2016

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INTRODUCTION

Election Night Results Reporting

8:00 p.m. – Counties will be uploading results to the California Secretary of State.

Links: www.vote.sos.ca.gov

- County elections officials are required to submit semi-results at least every two hours after the polls close at 8:00 p.m.
- The www.vote.sos.ca.gov site is set to update every five minutes after the polls close on election night.
- Updates for the remaining ballots counted after election night will be posted to the www.vote.sos.ca.gov site by 5:00 p.m. every business day from November 10 through December 2.
- The official canvass results report starts on November 10 (E+2) and continues through December 6 (E+28) [presidential electors] and December 8 (E+30) [all other contests].

There is no greater right than the right to vote. Through voting, you help select your local, state, and national leaders, and ensure that your voice is heard.

- Alex Padilla

Voter Information Guide - General Election

Number of Copies: 13.5 million

Household Delivery: 10.8 million

Total Cost: Estimate \$14.9 million

14,101

Total number of polling locations

24,847

Total number of precincts*

9.2 m

Ballots counted on Election Night (Semi-Final Canvass)

4.5 m

Estimated ballots remaining to be processed after Election Night

39.3 m

Population of California

24.8 m

Eligible to Register to Vote in California

19.4 m

Registered voters in California

58

Counties in California

*Numbers includes all-mail precincts. There can be more than one precincts in a polling location.

WAYS TO VOTE

Vote by Mail

Request a vote-by-mail ballot by November 1.

Return by mail—must be postmarked on or before November 8 and received by your county elections office no later than November 14.

Return in person—to your county elections office or any polling place in your county before 8:00 p.m. on November 8.

Vote Early in Person

Any registered voter can go to a county elections office in person to request and receive a vote-by-mail ballot. Vote-by-mail ballots will be available by October 11 and through Election Day.

Some counties offer early voting at a few locations before Election Day. For a list of these early voting locations go to

www.sos.ca.gov/elections/upcoming-elections/general-election-november-8-2016/county-early-voting/

Vote at the Polls on Election Day

Polls are open on Election Day: November 8 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The location of your polling place is printed on the back page of the sample ballot booklet your county elections official mailed to you.

You can also find your polling place:

By calling (800) 345-VOTE (8683)

Online at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place

By texting Vote to GOVOTE (468683)

Provisional Ballot

If your name is not on the voter list at your polling place, you have the right to vote a provisional ballot.

What is a provisional ballot?

A provisional ballot is a regular ballot that is placed in a special envelope prior to being put in the ballot box.

Who casts a provisional ballot?

Provisional ballots are ballots cast by voters who:

- Believe they are registered to vote even though their names are not on the official voter registration list at the polling place.
- Vote by mail but did not receive their ballot or do not have their ballot with them, and instead want to vote at a polling place.

What happens after you cast a provisional ballot?

Your provisional ballot will be counted after elections officials have confirmed that you are registered to vote in that county and you did not already vote in that election. You may vote a provisional ballot at any polling place in the county in which you are registered to vote, however, only the elections contests you are eligible to vote for will be counted.

Depending on the volume of these types of ballots, it takes up to 30 days (28 days for presidential electors and 30 days for all other contests) for county elections officials to verify voter records and determine if ballots have been cast by eligible voters.

How can you check the status of your provisional ballot?

Every voter who casts a provisional ballot has the right to find out from their county elections official if the ballot was counted and, if not, the reason why it was not counted.

KEY DATES AND EVENTS

General Election

September 24 – Deadline to send military and overseas ballots

September 27 – National Voter Registration Day

September 29 – Voter Information Guide Residential Delivery Begins (through October 18)

October 10 – Vote-By-Mail mailing period begins

October 24 – Deadline to update voter registration or register by mail, online, or in person

November 1 – Last day to request Vote-By-Mail ballot via mail application

November 8 – General Election

November 10 – Official Canvas begins (through December 6 [presidential electors] and December 8 [all other contests])

December 16 – Last day for Secretary of State to certify General Election results

Outreach Events

September 19 – High School Voter Education Weeks (through September 30)

October 11 – California Student Mock Election

GENERAL ELECTION FAQs

Ballot Measures

There are two ways a measure can be placed on the ballot.

- The Legislature has the ability to place constitutional amendments, bond measures, advisory questions, and proposed changes in law on the ballot.
- Any California voter can put an initiative or a referendum on the ballot by following the “How to Qualify an Initiative” process.

A statewide ballot measure can be approved by a majority vote of the people. Certain local ballot measures require approval by a 55% or a two-thirds vote of the electorate.

What is an advisory question?

Proposition 59 is an advisory question. Advisory votes are non-binding. The results will not change the law.

You are advising the Legislature to use their authority to propose and ratify an amendment to the federal Constitution overturning the United States Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*.

Yes – you are asking your elected officials to use their constitutional authority to seek increased regulation of campaign spending and contributions.

No – you would not be asking your elected officials to seek increased regulation of campaign spending and contributions.

What is a legislative initiative amendment?

Proposition 58 is a legislative initiative amendment. A legislative initiative amendment is an amendment to a law that was previously enacted through the initiative process and must be placed on the ballot for a vote of the people before taking effect.

What is a referendum?

Proposition 67 is a referendum. [The referendum process](#) is the power of the people to approve or reject new laws

passed by the Legislature before they take effect (with the exception of urgency statutes, statutes calling elections, and statutes providing for tax levies or appropriations for usual, current state expenses) through signed petitions. Proponents of the referendum ask for a “no” vote, which stops the new law from going into effect. Opponents of the referendum, who want the law to go into effect as is, ask for a “yes” vote. The law will be enacted unless voters cast more “no” votes than “yes” votes on the referendum.

www.sos.ca.gov/elections/upcoming-elections/general-election-november-8-2016/

Information Guide

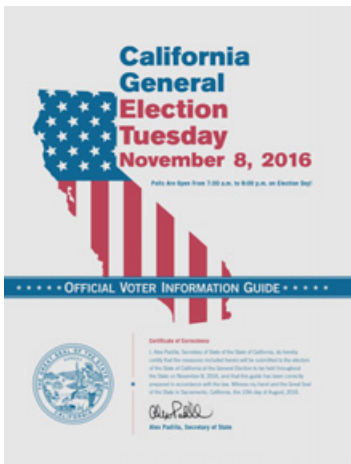
What state issues will be on the ballot?

There are fourteen citizen generated initiatives and one citizen generated referendum on the General Election Ballot. This is in addition to an advisory question and a constitutional amendment placed on the ballot by the Legislature. Information on all seventeen measures can be found in the Voter Information Guide.

Who writes the arguments for and against the ballot measures that are printed in the Secretary of State’s official Voter Information Guide?

The Secretary of State’s office does not write ballot arguments. Arguments for and against ballot measures are provided by proponents and opponents of the ballot measures. According to law, ballot argument language cannot be changed in any way unless a court orders it to be changed.

If multiple arguments are submitted for or against a measure, the law requires first priority to be given to arguments written by legislators in the case of legislative measures, and arguments written by the proponents of an initiative or referendum in the case of an initiative or referendum. Subsequent priority for all measures goes to bona fide associations of citizens and then to individual voters.



www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov/

List of Measures with Ballot Titles

Proposition 51

School Bonds. Funding for K–12 School and Community College Facilities. Initiative Statute.

Authorizes \$9 billion in general obligation bonds for new construction and modernization of K–12 public school facilities; charter schools and vocational education facilities; and California Community Colleges facilities.

Proposition 52

Medi-Cal Hospital Fee Program. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

Extends indefinitely an existing statute that imposes fees on hospitals to fund Medi-Cal health care services, care for uninsured patients, and children's health coverage.

Proposition 53

Revenue Bonds. Statewide Voter Approval. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

Requires statewide voter approval before any revenue bonds can be issued or sold by the state for certain projects if the bond amount exceeds \$2 billion.

Legislature. Legislation and Proceedings. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

Prohibits Legislature from passing any bill unless published on Internet for 72 hours before vote. Requires Legislature to record its proceedings and post on Internet. Authorizes use of recordings.

Proposition 55

Tax Extension to Fund Education and Healthcare. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

Extends by twelve years the temporary personal income tax increases enacted in 2012 on earnings over \$250,000, with revenues allocated to K–12 schools, California Community Colleges, and, in certain years, healthcare.

Proposition 56

Cigarette Tax to Fund Healthcare, Tobacco Use Prevention, Research, and Law Enforcement. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

Increases cigarette tax by \$2.00 per pack, with equivalent increase on other tobacco products and electronic cigarettes containing nicotine.

Proposition 57

Criminal Sentences. Parole. Juvenile Criminal Proceedings and Sentencing. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

Allows parole consideration for nonviolent felons. Authorizes sentence credits for rehabilitation, good behavior, and education. Provides juvenile court judge decides whether juvenile will be prosecuted as adult.

Proposition 58

English Proficiency. Multilingual Education. Initiative Statute.

Preserves requirement that public schools ensure students obtain English language proficiency. Requires school districts to solicit parent/community input in developing language acquisition programs. Requires instruction to ensure English acquisition as rapidly and effectively as possible. Authorizes school districts to establish dual-language immersion programs for both native and non-native English speakers.

Proposition 59

Corporations. Political Spending. Federal Constitutional Protections. Legislative Advisory Question.

Asks whether California's elected officials should use their authority to propose and ratify an amendment to the federal Constitution overturning the United States

Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. *Citizens United* ruled that laws placing certain limits on political spending by corporations and unions are unconstitutional.

Proposition 60

Adult Films. Condoms. Health Requirements. Initiative Statute.

Requires adult film performers to use condoms during filming of sexual intercourse. Requires producers to pay for performer vaccinations, testing, and medical examinations. Requires producers to post condom requirement at film sites.

Proposition 61

State Prescription Drug Purchases. Pricing Standards. Initiative Statute.

Prohibits state from buying any prescription drug from a drug manufacturer at price over lowest price paid for the drug by United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Exempts managed care programs funded through Medi-Cal.

Proposition 62

Death Penalty. Initiative Statute.

Repeals death penalty and replaces it with life imprisonment without possibility of parole. Applies retroactively to existing death sentences. Increases the portion of life inmates' wages that may be applied to victim restitution.

Proposition 63

Firearms. Ammunition Sales. Initiative Statute.

Requires background check and Department of Justice authorization to purchase ammunition. Prohibits possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines. Establishes procedures for enforcing laws prohibiting firearm possession by specified persons. Requires Department of Justice's participation in federal National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Proposition 64

Marijuana Legalization. Initiative Statute.

Legalizes marijuana under state law, for use by adults 21 or older. Imposes state taxes on sales and cultivation. Provides for industry licensing and establishes standards for marijuana products. Allows local regulation and taxation.

Proposition 65

Carryout Bags. Charges. Initiative Statute.

Redirects money collected by grocery and certain other retail stores through mandated sale of carryout bags. Requires stores to deposit bag sale proceeds into a special fund to support specified environmental projects.

Proposition 66

Death Penalty. Procedures. Initiative Statute.

Changes procedures governing state court challenges to death sentences. Designates superior court for initial petitions and limits successive petitions. Requires appointed attorneys who take noncapital appeals to accept death penalty appeals. Exempts prison officials from existing regulation process for developing execution methods.

Proposition 67

Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags. Referendum.

A "Yes" vote approves, and a "No" vote rejects, a statute that prohibits grocery and other stores from providing customers single-use plastic or paper carryout bags but permits sale of recycled paper bags and reusable bags.



www.quickguidetoprops.sos.ca.gov/propositions/2016-11-08

Is It Required to Vote on Every Contest or Proposition on The Ballot?

No, it is not required to vote on every contest or proposition on your ballot. Your ballot will not be invalidated if you do not vote on every contest or every proposition.

Can a voter change their vote after they cast their ballot?

Polling Place Voters: Voters who vote a ballot at the polling place are entitled to a replacement ballot if they make a mistake on their ballot. They must surrender the original ballot to a poll worker who will void it and issue a new one. Once a ballot has been placed in the ballot box, it is considered cast and cannot be changed.

Vote-By-Mail Voters: If a vote-by-mail voter makes a mistake before their ballot has been cast, the voter can surrender their vote-by-mail ballot at the polls (or at their county elections office on or before Election Day) and receive another ballot. If the voter does not have their vote-by-mail ballot to return, the voter will be issued a provisional ballot.

A vote-by-mail ballot is considered cast once it is mailed to or dropped off with the elections official, dropped off at a polling place, or placed in a drop box. Once a vote-by-mail ballot is cast, a voter cannot change their vote or request a new ballot.

What is the deadline to submit a vote-by-mail ballot?

In Person: A voter may personally deliver their vote-by-mail ballot to a polling place or a drop box by the close of polls on November 8.

By Mail: A voter's vote-by mail ballot must be postmarked on or before November 8 and received by their county elections office no later than November 14.

About Candidates

President of the United States

Unlike in most elections, the person who becomes President is not necessarily the candidate who wins the most votes on Election Day. Instead, the election of the President of the United States is a two-step process. First, voters cast ballots on Election Day in each state. In nearly every state, the candidate who gets the most votes wins the "electoral votes" for that state, and gets that number of voters (or "electors") in the "Electoral College."

Second, the "electors" from each of the 50 states gather in December and they vote for President. The person who receives a majority of votes from the "Electoral College" becomes President.

How does the Electoral College work?

Under the "Electoral College" system, each state is assigned a certain number of "votes." There are a total of 538 electoral votes, and the number of votes each state receives is proportional to its size --- the bigger the state's population the more "votes" it gets. The formula for determining the number of votes for each state is simple: each state gets two votes for its two US Senators, and then one more additional vote for each member it has in the House of Representatives. For California, this means we get 55 votes (2 senators and 53 members of the House of Representatives) --- the most of any state.

www.sos.ca.gov/elections/electoral-college

How is a general election different from a primary election in California? Why are two people with the same political party preference sometimes running against each other?

California conducts top-two primaries for constitutional, congressional, and legislative offices. In a June top-two primary all candidates for an office are listed on the same ballot and anyone can vote for any candidate, regardless of political party preference. Only the two candidates who receive the most votes (also known as the top two vote-getters) in each constitutional, congressional, and legislative contest move on to the November general election. The top-two primary does not apply to the contest for United States President and, therefore, there are party-specific ballots for a June primary.

In a November general election in California, there are no party specific ballots. For constitutional, congressional, and legislative office contests, the top two vote-getters from the primary (or three if there was a tie for second place) will appear on the ballot. For United States President and local office contests, there may be more than two candidates on the ballot.

What do party preferences mean when listed with candidates' names on the ballot? What are the qualified political parties and abbreviations of those party names?

A candidate must indicate his or her preference or lack of preference for a qualified political party. If the candidate has a qualified political party preference, that qualified political party will be indicated by the candidate's name on the ballot. If a candidate does not have a qualified political party preference, "Party Preference: None" will

be indicated by the candidate's name on the ballot. Similarly, voters who do not have a party preference are known as having "no party preference" or as "NPP" voters.

Abbreviations for the qualified political parties are:

- DEM = Democratic Party
- REP = Republican Party
- AI = American Independent Party
- GRN = Green Party
- LIB = Libertarian Party
- PF = Peace & Freedom Party

Why does one presidential candidate have more than one political party listed with their name?

For presidential candidates, the political party listed with the candidate's name indicates the party (or parties) that have nominated them. One candidate was nominated by two political parties.

Who is running for office?

[The Secretary of State's Certified List of Candidates \(PDF\)](#) includes all candidates for United States President, United States Senator, United States House of Representatives, State Senator, and State Assemblymember who are up for election. [The Certified List of Presidential Write-In Candidates \(PDF\)](#) lists all the candidates running for United States President as write-in candidates.

[County elections officials](#) provide certified lists of candidates for local contests such as mayor and sheriff.

Information about candidates for United States Senator is available in the Secretary of State's [Voter Information Guide](#). Information about candidates for United States President are only available in the online version of Secretary of State's Voter Information Guide due to the timing of the party nominations and the preparation of the Guide.

Information about candidates for United States House of Representatives, State Senator, and State Assemblymember is available through county elections offices and your county's sample ballot booklet.

About Election Results Website

Will the unofficial election results change after Election Night? When will all of the election results be final?

Yes, election results will change throughout the canvass

period as vote-by-mail ballots, provisional ballots, and other ballots are processed. Depending on the volume of these types of ballots, it may take up to 30 days (28 days for presidential electors and 30 days for all other contests) for county elections officials to verify voter records and determine if ballots have been cast by eligible voters. The frequency of updated results will vary based on the size of each county and the process each county elections office uses to tally and report votes.

County elections officials must report their final results to the Secretary of State for presidential electors by December 6 and all other offices by December 9. The Secretary of State will certify the results of the presidential electors to the Governor by December 10 and will certify the results of all other offices by December 16.

What qualifies as "a close contest" for purposes of the Secretary of State's election results website?

For people interested in watching contests with particularly tight margins, the Secretary of State's website includes a "close contest" feature. As election results come in, this page will list all contests in which there is less than a two percent difference between first and second place for candidates or between "yes" and "no" votes for ballot measures. Election results will change throughout the 30-day canvass period (28 days for presidential electors and 30 days for all other contests) as vote-by-mail ballots, provisional ballots, and other ballots are tallied.

On Election Night: Why have some counties not reported any results immediately after the polls close?

State law requires county elections officials to send their first batch of results to the Secretary of State's office no more than two hours after they begin tallying votes after polls close on Election Day. Each of the 58 county elections offices processes ballots differently, and the distances poll workers must travel from polling places to county offices vary greatly. County elections officials continue to report results periodically on Election Night until all precinct vote totals have been reported. County elections officials will continue to count ballots for up to 30 days (28 days for presidential electors and 30 days for all other contests) after Election Day.

On Election Night: Why do some counties show no precincts have reported, yet some votes have been counted?

The first election results are typically ballots received before Election Day. Military and overseas voters may cast

ballots up to 60 days before Election Day and vote-by-mail voters may begin voting 29 days before Election Day. County elections officials may begin opening vote-by-mail ballot envelopes up to ten business days before Election Day, but those results cannot be accessed or shared with the public until all polls close on Election Day.

Many county elections officials choose to tally and report these early voted ballots before results come in from precincts, which are sometimes far away from county headquarters. Early voted ballots simply appear as raw vote totals because, in this initial stage, the ballots are not attributed to individual precincts.

On Election Night: Why do some contests show a high percentage of precincts reporting, yet the number of votes continues to change?

Some counties will show an entire precinct as having reported even if only one ballot from that precinct has been counted. This is why the website specifically notes the data is from precincts “partially reporting.”

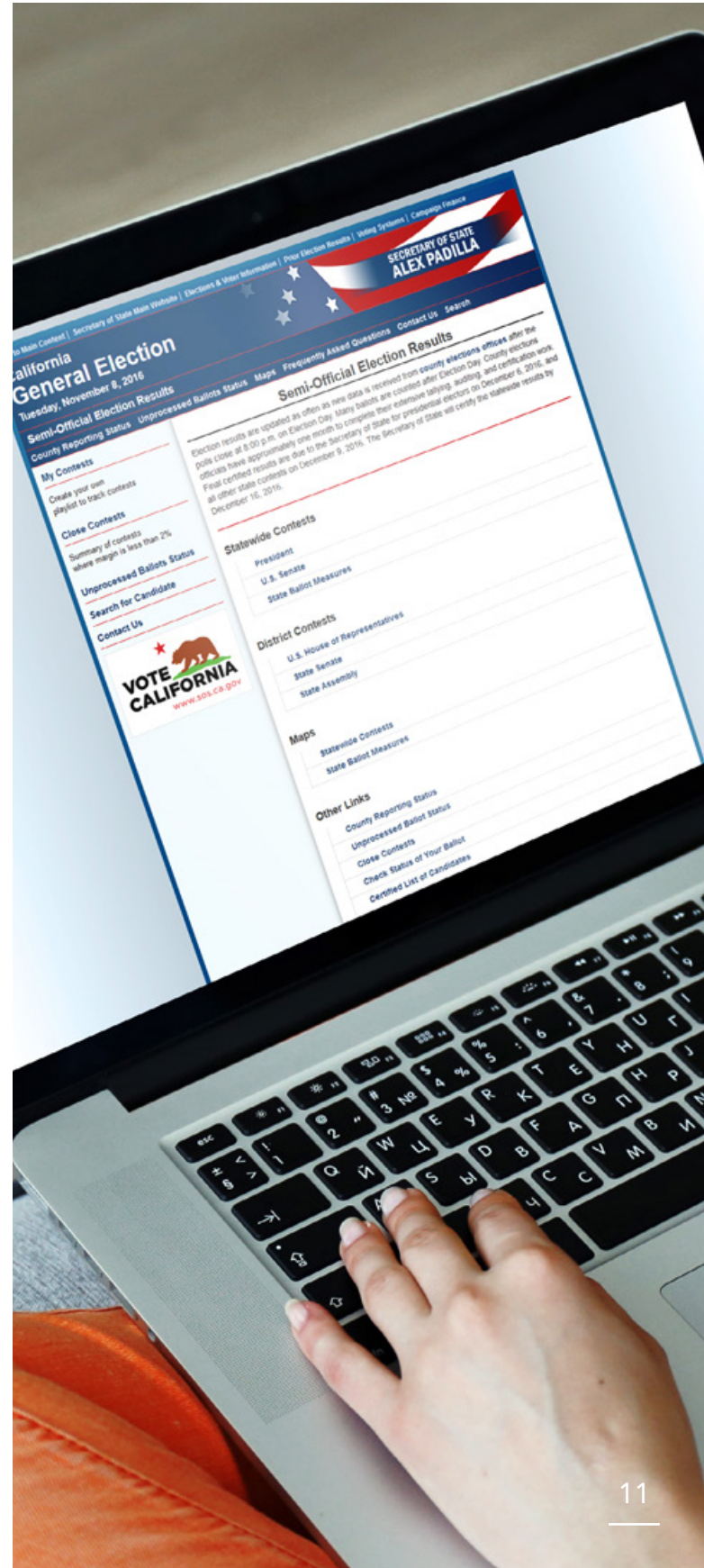
Once a county submits its final ballot-count report for Election Night, “SF” for Semi-Final will be noted in the Report Type column. Election Night results can be viewed as a snapshot in time [here](#).

Election results will change throughout the 30-day canvass period (28 days for presidential electors and 30 days for all other contests) as vote-by-mail ballots, provisional ballots, and other ballots are tallied.

When are vote-by-mail ballots counted?

Vote-by-mail ballots that are received by county elections officials before Election Day are typically counted on Election Day. Many more vote-by-mail ballots are dropped off at polling places, drop box locations, or arrive at county elections offices on Election Day. A vote-by-mail ballot is to be counted if received in the county elections office no later than three days after the election and postmarked on or before Election Day. Depending on the volume of these types of ballots, it takes up to 30 days (28 days for presidential electors and 30 days for all other contests) for county elections officials to verify voter records and determine if ballots have been cast by eligible voters. The frequency of updated results will vary based on the size of each county and the process each local elections office uses to tally and report votes.

All vote-by-mail ballots that county elections officials determine to be valid and cast by eligible voters are counted and included in the official election results, which will be published by the Secretary of State by December 16.



TRANSLATION MATERIALS

The Secretary of State offers voter information and assistance in English and nine more languages: Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.

Specific to November 2016

The November 8, 2016, Voter Information Guide can help you make informed decisions. It includes impartial analysis, arguments in favor and against the many ballot measures, declarations of the candidates, the Voter Bill of Rights, and other important information. The Voter Information Guide is printed and available on our website in ten languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.

www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov

The Vote in 2016 pamphlet includes information on important election related deadlines, polling place hours of operation, registering to vote, voting by mail, provisional voting, and finding your polling place.

www.elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/outreach/pdf/vote-in-2016.pdf

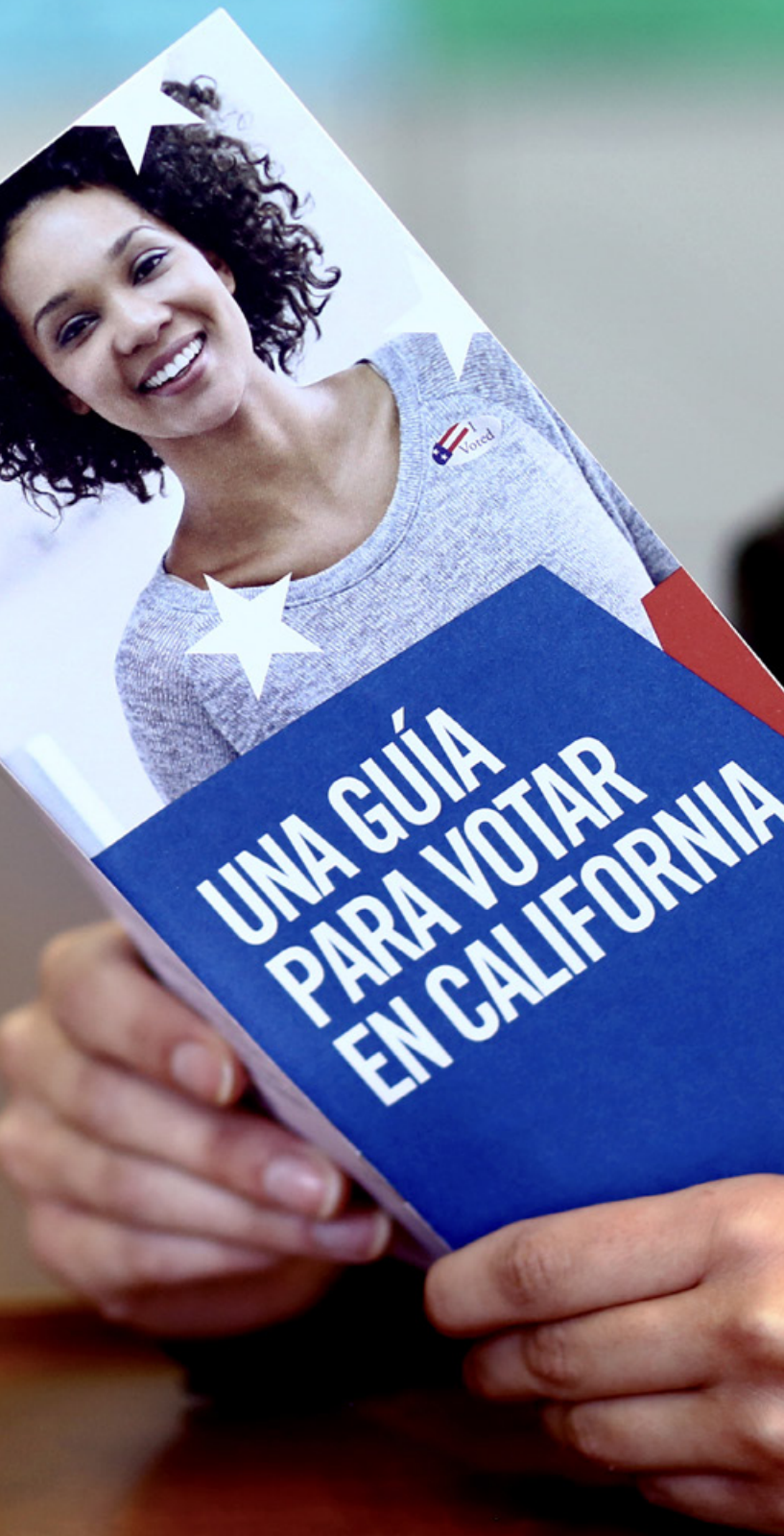
Other Materials

A Guide to Voting in California has detailed information regarding registering to vote, how statewide primaries and generals work, voting by mail, military and overseas voting, accessibility for those with disabilities, and how to contact your local elections official.

www.elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/outreach/pdf/guide-to-voting.pdf

Voter Education and Outreach

www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/voting-california/help-strengthen-our-democracy/



MY VOTER STATUS



My Voter Status

The Secretary of State has launched the new My Voter Status website. This website allows voters to look up their voter registration information through the Secretary of State’s website.

Voters are able to view their registration status, the address at which they are registered, their party preference, and county and state voter information guides delivery preference. In addition, voters will have the ability to change how they would like to receive their state and county voter information guides.

www.voterstatus.sos.ca.gov

Using My Voter Status

01

Log in to [My Voter Status](#) with first and last name, driver license or identification card number, last 4 digits of your SSN, and date of birth exactly as they appear in your voter registration record.

02

Make sure your residential and mailing addresses are current and your registration status is active. If your residential and mailing addresses are not current, click on “Re-Register to Vote” to update them.



VOTE CALIFORNIA

A Mobile Tool for Voting Information

The Vote California App was developed and launched by the California Secretary of State, The Pew Charitable Trusts and California counties, to connect you with the essential information you need to cast your ballot.

The app has:

- Information about the November 8 General Election
- Voter status lookup
- Polling location lookup
- Voter Registration
- Quick guide to propositions

You can download the app on your smartphone today! Simply visit Google Play or the Apple Store and search "Vote California".

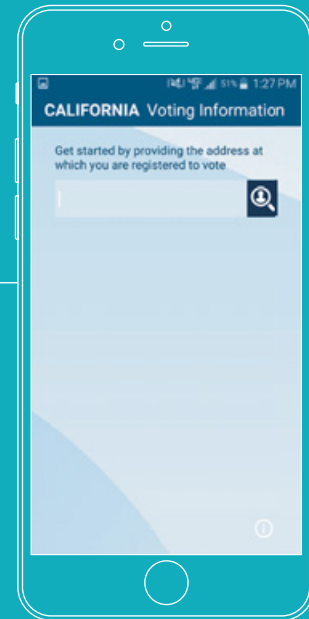
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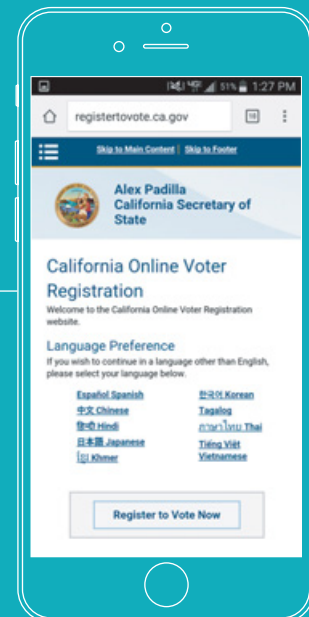
Home Screen



Polling Location Lookup



Voter Registration



VOTER BILL OF RIGHTS

You have the following rights:

1. The right to vote if you are a registered voter.

You are eligible to vote if you are:

- a U.S. citizen living in California
- registered where you currently live
- at least 18 years old
- not in prison or on parole for a felony

2. The right to vote if you are a registered voter even if your name is not on the list. You will vote using a provisional ballot. Your vote will be counted if elections officials determine that you are eligible to vote.

3. The right to vote if you are still in line when the polls close.

4. The right to cast a secret ballot without anyone bothering you or telling you how to vote.

5. The right to get a new ballot if you have made a mistake, if you have not already cast your ballot. You can:

Ask an elections official at a polling place for a new ballot; or

Exchange your vote-by-mail ballot for a new one at an elections office, or at your polling place; or

Vote using a provisional ballot, if you do not have your original vote-by-mail ballot.

6. The right to get help casting your ballot from anyone you choose, except from your employer or union representative.

7. The right to drop off your completed vote-by-mail ballot at any polling place in the county where you are registered to vote.

8. The right to get election materials in a language other than English if enough people in your voting precinct speak that language.

9. The right to ask questions to elections officials about election procedures and watch the election process. If the person you ask cannot answer your questions, they must send you to the right person for an answer. If you are disruptive, they can stop answering you.

10. The right to report any illegal or fraudulent election activity to an elections official or the Secretary of State's office.



The California Secretary of State's office has produced an animated video that explains to voters what their rights are while casting their vote.

The video is available on YouTube in two languages:

ENGLISH: https://youtu.be/_m_Ge5uEd1c | **SPANISH:** <https://youtu.be/WQOtsjrOml4>

VOTER REGISTRATION

Who can register to vote?

To register to vote in California, you must be:

- A United States citizen,
 - A resident of California,
 - 18 years of age or older on Election Day,
 - Not currently imprisoned or on parole for the conviction of a felony (for more information on the rights of people who have been incarcerated, please see the Secretary of State's [Voting Rights for Californians with Criminal Convictions or Detained in Jail or Prison \[PDF\]](#)), and
 - Not currently found to be mentally incompetent by a court of law (for more information, please see [Voting Rights: Persons Subject to Conservatorship](#)).
- Department of Developmental Services Regional Centers
 - Board of Equalization and Franchise Tax Board district offices
 - Armed Forces recruitment offices

How can I register to vote?

You can apply to register to vote right now by visiting www.RegisterToVote.ca.gov or calling the Secretary of State's Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

Paper voter registration applications are also provided at many places throughout the state:

- County elections offices or city halls
- Public libraries
- Post offices
- Department of Motor Vehicles field offices
- State and county social services offices
- State and county mental health offices
- Department of Rehabilitation offices
- Independent Living Centers

If you have a California identification card or driver license, you must provide the number on your voter registration application. If you do not have one of those two types of identification, provide the last four digits of your social security number. If you do not have a social security number, you will be assigned a unique identification number for voting purposes only.

Assistance in Other Languages

The Secretary of State's online and paper application are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.

Voter Registration Deadline

It is important that your voter registration application be filled out completely and be postmarked or hand-delivered to your county elections office at least 15 days before the election.

If you have any questions, visit www.sos.ca.gov/elections/frequently-asked-questions or contact the Secretary of State's Elections Division at (800) 345-8683 or by email.

Military and Overseas Voters

Military and overseas voters are United States citizens who are members of the Uniformed Services (on active duty) and their eligible dependents, members of the Merchant Marine and their eligible dependents, commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or United States citizens residing outside the United States. To apply to register to vote, receive your elections materials, and vote, you must apply for a special absentee ballot by registering online at www.RegisterToVote.ca.gov or by visiting Federal Voting Assistance Program and filling out the [Federal Post Card Application \(PDF\)](#).

Voting Options for College Students

As a Californian living away from home while attending a college, trade school or technical school, you may choose to register to vote using your home away from home address you use while at school or your traditional home address.

Choosing which address to use when you register to vote is a personal decision. Whatever you decide, you may not register to vote in two places during the same election cycle.

Voting While Living Abroad

If you are a student living temporarily outside the United States, you can register to vote and apply to vote by mail by registering online at www.RegisterToVote.ca.gov or by visiting Federal Voting Assistance Program and using the [Federal Post Card Application \(PDF\)](#) that is used by all other Californians who are living abroad.

Are You Already Registered to Vote?

To find out if you are currently registered to vote, visit My Voter Status to check status of your voter registration at www.voterstatus.sos.ca.gov.

When to Re-Register to Vote

You need to re-register to vote when:

- You move to a new permanent residence,
- You change your name, or
- You change your political party choice.

As a California voter, be aware that local elections in some areas are held on dates that do not coincide with statewide election dates. The 15-day close of registration deadline for these local elections varies depending on the actual date of the election.

CALIFORNIA VOTER REGISTRATION/PRE-REGISTRATION APPLICATION **SO**

Use blue or black ink. Print clearly. Fill out this form if you are a new voter, are pre-registering to vote, have changed your name, or want to change your political party preference.

1 I am a U.S. citizen and resident of California. Yes No ← If "No" you CANNOT register to vote. Do not complete.
 I am 18 or older. Yes No
 I am 16 or 17 and want to pre-register. Yes No

Your legal name: First name _____ Middle name _____
 Last name (may include suffix, such as Jr., Sr., III) _____ Optional Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss

Home address – not a P.O. Box or business address – (Number, Street, Ave., Drive, etc. Include N, S, E, W) _____ Apt or unit # _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ California county _____
 CA

If you do not have a street address, describe where you live including cross streets, Route, N, S, E, W _____

Mailing address – if different from above, or P.O. Box _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Foreign country _____

Date of birth _____ U.S. state or foreign country of birth _____

CA driver license or CA ID card # _____ If you do not have a CA driver license or CA ID card, list the last 4 numbers of your Social Security Number, if you have one. * * * * * SSN (Last 4 numbers) _____ Phone numbers are posted at polling places on election day.
 Email (optional) _____ Phone number (optional) _____

Do you want to disclose a political party preference?
 Yes, my political party preference is (check one):
 American Independent Party Democratic Party Green Party No, I do not want to disclose a political party preference.
 Libertarian Party Peace and Freedom Party Republican Party
 Other (specify): _____ (If you select no, you may not be able to vote for some parties' candidates at a primary election for U.S. President or party committee.)

I want to get my ballot by mail before each election.* Yes No *If initialed, you will get your ballot by mail before each election. If you want to vote in person, you must turn in your ballot or vote a provisional ballot.

If you were registered/pre-registered to vote before, fill out below:
 First name _____ Middle initial _____ Last name _____
 Previous address where you were registered/pre-registered _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Previous county _____ Previous political party preference (if any) _____

59 CQ _____ 200001 _____

Read and sign below.
 I am a U.S. citizen and am at least 18 years old. I am not currently imprisoned or on parole for the conviction of a felony. I am not prohibited from voting by a court because of mental incompetency. I understand that it is a crime to intentionally provide incorrect information on this form. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information on this form is true and correct.

Voter Signature _____ Date signed: _____ Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

Important! To vote in the next election, you must be at least 18 on Election Day and mail or deliver this card at least 15 days before the next election. New voters who register by mail may have to show their ID at the polling place the first time they vote.

(This part is the voter's receipt.)
 59 CQ _____
 * As a registered voter, you may vote for any candidate for state or congressional office, regardless of the party preference or lack of party preference disclosed by you or the candidate.
 * If "Yes," you will get your ballot by mail before each election. If you want to vote in person, you must turn in your ballot or vote a provisional ballot.

Optional
 A. I want to be a poll worker on election day.
 If bilingual, indicate language: _____
 I can provide a polling place on election day.
 B. My ethnicity/race is: _____
 C. My language preference for receiving election materials is:
 English Spanish Chinese Vietnamese Korean
 Tagalog Spanish Español 中文 Việt ngữ 한국어
 Japanese 日本語 हिन्दी Khmer Thai ភ្នំពេញ

Did someone help you fill out or deliver this form?
 If yes, the person who helped you must fill out and sign both parts of this green box.
 Signature _____ Month _____ Day _____ Year _____
 Name, address, and tel.: _____
 Org. name and tel. (if any): _____

SOCIAL MEDIA

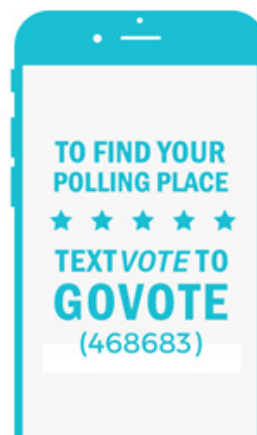
Social media is a fast, fun and easy way to get information out to your employees and customers. Copy, paste, use one of our photos and post. It's that simple!

Sample Messages

1. (insert your business name) is putting democracy to work!
#VoteCalifornia
2. Promote the vote. Get registered. Vote. #VoteCalifornia
(insert your business name) takes pride in empowering our community! #VoteCalifornia
3. Did you know you can register to vote online in California? Visit RegisterToVote.ca.gov and get registered today. #VoteCalifornia
4. Want to vote? Get registered @RegisterToVote.ca.gov
#VoteCalifornia
5. Visit RegisterToVote.ca.gov and be sure to vote on November 8
#VoteCalifornia
6. Register to Vote @RegisterToVote.ca.gov #VoteCalifornia
7. We are committing to Register to Vote in 2016. #VoteCalifornia
8. Text Vote to GoVote (468-683) to find your polling place
#VoteCalifornia
9. Register to Vote by October 24 to vote in the November 8 election #VoteCalifornia
10. Use our photos: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/myvote-democracy-work-project/democracy-work-social-media



www.RegisterToVote.ca.gov



Election Dates
General Election
November 8, 2016
Register to vote by
October 24, 2016



COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICES

www.sos.ca.gov/county-elections-offices

Alameda County

(510) 272-6973
www.acvote.org

Alpine County

(530) 694-2281
www.alpinecountyca.gov

Amador County

(209) 223-6465
www.amadorgov.org/elections

Butte County

(530) 538-7761 or (800) 894-7761
<http://buttevotes.net/>

Calaveras County

(209) 754-6376 or (209) 754-6375
<http://elections.calaverasgov.us/elections.aspx>

Colusa County

(530) 458-0500 or (877) 458-0501
www.countyofcolusa.org/elections

Contra Costa County

(925) 335-7800
www.contracostacore.us

Del Norte County

(707) 464-7216
www.co.del-norte.ca.us

El Dorado County

(530) 621-7480 or (800) 730-4322
www.edcgov.us/elections

Fresno County

(559) 600-8683
www.co.fresno.ca.us/elections

Glenn County

(530) 934-6414
www.countyofglenn.net/govt/departments/elections/

Humboldt County

(707) 445-7481
humboldtgov.org/

Imperial County

(442) 265-1074
www.co.imperial.ca.us/regvoters

Inyo County

(760) 878-0410 or (760) 878-0224
elections.inyocounty.us

Kern County

(661) 868-3590 or (800) 452-8683
www.co.kern.ca.us/elections/

Kings County

(559) 852-4401
www.countyofkings.com

Lake County

(707) 263-2372
www.co.lake.ca.us

Lassen County

(530) 251-8352 or (530) 251-8217
<http://www.lassencounty.org>

Los Angeles County

(800) 815-2666 or (562) 466-1310
www.lavote.net

Madera County

(559) 675-7720 or (800) 435-0509
www.votemadera.com

Marin County

(415) 473-6456
www.marinvotes.org

Mariposa County

(209) 966-2007
www.mariposacounty.org

Mendocino County

(707) 234-6819
www.co.mendocino.ca.us/acr/elections.htm

Merced County

(209) 385-7541 or (800) 561-0619
www.mercedelections.com

Modoc County

(530) 233-6205
www.co.modoc.ca.us/departments/elections

Mono County

(760) 932-5537 or (760) 932-5530
www.monocounty.ca.gov/elections

Monterey County

(831) 796-1499 or (831) 796-1480
www.montereycountyelections.us/

Napa County

(707) 253-4321
www.countyofnapa.org/elections

Nevada County

(530) 265-1298
www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/elections/

Orange County

(714) 567-7600
www.ocvote.com

Placer County

(530) 886-5650
www.placerelections.com

Plumas County

(530) 283-6256 or (530) 283-6129
www.plumascounty.us

Riverside County

(951) 486-7200
www.voteinfo.net

Sacramento County

(916) 875-6451
www.elections.saccounty.net

San Benito County

(831) 636-4016 or (877) 777-4017
www.sbcvote.us

San Bernardino County

(909) 387-8300 or (800) 881-8683
www.sbcountyelections.com

San Diego County

(858) 565-5800 or (800) 696-0136
www.sdvote.com

San Francisco County

(415) 554-4375
www.sfelections.org

San Joaquin County

(209) 468-2885
www.sjcrov.org

San Luis Obispo County

(805) 781-5228
www.slovote.com

San Mateo County

(650) 312-5222
www.shapethefuture.org

Santa Barbara County

(805) 568-2200 or (800) 722-8683
www.sbcvote.com

Santa Clara County

(408) 299-8683 or (866) 430-8683
www.sccvote.org

Santa Cruz County

(831) 454-2060
www.votescount.com

Shasta County

(530) 225-5730
www.elections.co.shasta.ca.us

Sierra County

(530) 289-3295
www.sierracounty.ca.gov

Siskiyou County

(530) 842-8084 or (888) 854-2000 ext. 8084
www.sisqvotes.org

Solano County

(707) 784-6675 or (888) 933-8683
www.solanocounty.com/elections

Sonoma County

(707) 565-6800
vote.sonoma-county.org

Stanislaus County

(209) 525-5200 or (209) 525-5201
www.stanvote.com

Sutter County

(530) 822-7122
www.suttercounty.org/elections

Tehama County

(530) 527-8190 or (866) 289-5307
www.co.tehama.ca.us

Trinity County

(530) 623-1220
www.trinitycounty.org

Tulare County

(559) 624-7300
www.tularecounty.ca.gov/registrarofvoters/

Tuolumne County

(209) 533-5570
www.co.tuolumne.ca.us/elections

Ventura County

(805) 654-2664
venturavote.org

Yolo County

(530) 666-8133 or (800) 649-9943
www.yoloelections.org

Yuba County

(530) 749-7855
www.yubaelections.org