



Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D. California Secretary of State Elections Division

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February 12, 2026

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #26037

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: /s/ Jannell Jackson
Deputy Secretary of State, Outreach and Education

RE: Primary Election: School Availability as Polling Places

California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond are partnering to remind each California school administrator of the requirements of [Elections Code section 12283](#) with regards to the use of schools as polling locations, including use of accessible parking spaces and parking for voters to cast their ballot curbside at these locations. Attached for your reference is a copy of the letter that was sent to each of your County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, School Board Presidents, and High School Principals.

We plan to continue this partnership to encourage the use of schools for the June 2, 2026, Primary Election. School administrators have also been encouraged to promote high school students to participate as poll workers.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions at (916) 584-3538 or SosOutreach@sos.ca.gov.

Attachment



California Department of Education

Tony Thurmond, *State Superintendent of Public Instruction*
1430 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-5901
916-319-0800

California Secretary of State

Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., *Secretary of State*
1500 11th Street, 6th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
916-653-7244

February 9, 2026

Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, School Board Presidents, and High School Principals:

Schools as Voting Locations and Student Poll Workers

We respectfully request your assistance in addressing the critical need for voting locations and poll workers for the June 2, 2026, Primary Election. By offering your campuses as voting locations and encouraging high school students to serve as poll workers, schools can play a meaningful role in supporting a successful election.

Public School Campuses as Voting Locations

Your local elections official may request the use of a public school campus as a voting location or vote center. We encourage you to consider these requests. State law allows school districts flexibility in determining how to accommodate voting activities in a way that best meets local needs.

Under California Elections Code Section 12283

(https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=12283&lawCode=ELEC), school districts may choose one of the following options:

- (1) Keep the school open and in session while designating a specific area for a voting location or vote center;
- (2) Designate the day or days as staff training and development days;
- (3) Close the school to students and non-classified employees.

If your school agrees to participate, please notify your local elections office of your decision.

Please note that schools serving as voting locations must have accessible parking for voters and have parking available for curbside voting as required by Elections Code Section 12283(e)

(https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=12283&lawCode=ELEC).

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High School Students as Poll Workers

Elections officials consistently report that high school students are often the most helpful and enthusiastic poll workers. Students who serve in this capacity gain firsthand experience with the elections process and develop an early understanding of civic participation.

High school students who are at least 16 years of age, are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, and maintain a 2.5 grade point average are eligible to serve as poll workers. Some county elections officials may offer a stipend for student poll workers. Depending on location, students may receive a stipend ranging from \$65 to \$150 per day. If a student serves as a poll worker, they will receive an excused absence, which does not impact average apportionment funding.

We encourage you to make every effort to accommodate the use of your campuses as voting locations and to assist local elections officials by identifying students who may be eligible and interested in serving as poll workers. This opportunity supports both civic education and the administration of elections.

If you have questions, please contact Jannell Jackson, Deputy Secretary of State for Outreach and Education, at SoSOutreach@sos.ca.gov or 916-584-3538, or the California Department of Education's High School Innovations and Initiatives Office at 916-319-0893 or HSIIO@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Tony Thurmond
State Superintendent of Public Instruction



Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.
California Secretary of State