



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

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June 29, 2026

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #26178

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

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

RE: General 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 regard to the use of schools as polling locations, including the 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 School Principals.

We plan to continue this partnership to encourage the use of schools for the November 3, 2026, General Election. School administrators have also been encouraged to inspire 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

June 25, 2026

Schools as Voting Locations and Student Poll Workers

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

We respectfully request your assistance in addressing the critical need for voting locations and poll workers for the November 3, 2026, General 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 provides school districts with flexibility in determining how to accommodate voting activities in a manner that best meets local needs.

Under *Elections Code* Section 12283, school districts may choose any 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 nonclassified employees.

If your school agrees to participate, please notify your local elections office of your decision (see <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices>).

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

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 role 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 stipends for student poll workers. Students who serve as poll workers can receive an excused absence. Under *Education Code* Section 48205(a)(12) students in grades 6–12 may receive one excused absence per year to participate in a civic or political event with prior notice (see https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB73).

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 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 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