



CALIFORNIA

# STUDENTS **VOTE** PROJECT

Student Voter Resource Guide

General Election 2020

[CLICK HERE TO  
REGISTER TO VOTE](#)



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California Secretary of State

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# STUDENT VOTER RESOURCE GUIDE

The California Students Vote Project welcomes all to use and share this Student Voter Resource Guide to help students better understand the process of registering to vote and voting during one of the most critical elections of our lifetimes.

If you have been displaced due to current wildfires, are experiencing homelessness or a medical emergency, you still have the right to vote for the November 3, 2020, General Election. For more information, visit [sos.ca.gov/elections/election-2020/covid-19-election-resources](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/election-2020/covid-19-election-resources)

If you have questions or would like more information, contact [CastStudentsVote@sos.ca.gov](mailto:CastStudentsVote@sos.ca.gov)

## IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

### **September 2020: Recommended Time To Verify Your Voter Information**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for the November 3, 2020, General Election only, all active California registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot, no request needed. The Secretary of State strongly encourages all voters to verify or update their voter registration information at [RegisterToVote.ca.gov/?t=s](https://RegisterToVote.ca.gov/?t=s) as early as possible, before the voter registration deadline on October 19, 2020.

### **September 22, 2020: National Voter Registration Day**

### **October 5 - October 9, 2020: National Voter Education Week**

### **October 19, 2020: Voter Registration Deadline**

### **November 3, 2020: Election Day**

## IMPORTANT ELECTIONS QUESTIONS

### **Am I Eligible To Vote In California?**

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 (for more information on the rights of people who have been incarcerated, please see the Secretary of State's Voting Rights for Persons with a Criminal History: [bit.ly/2GHVV2A](https://bit.ly/2GHVV2A)), and
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court (for more information, please see Voting Rights for Persons Subject to Conservatorship: [bit.ly/2FiyD2m](https://bit.ly/2FiyD2m))

## How Can I Register To Vote?

### Register Online

Register to vote online at [RegisterToVote.ca.gov/?t=s](https://RegisterToVote.ca.gov/?t=s)

**The Secretary of State strongly encourages every voter to verify or update their voter registration information as early as possible to ensure their vote-by-mail ballot is sent to the correct address.**

To register online you will need to provide your *California driver license or identification card, the last four digits of your social security number, and date of birth.*

If you do not have a California driver license or California identification card, you can still register online; however, you will need to verify your identity when voting for the first time. Learn more in the **What Type Of ID Do I Need To Vote?** section.

### Register by Paper

Register to vote using a paper voter registration application available at your county elections office or library. It is important that your completed voter registration application be postmarked or hand-delivered to your county elections office at least 15 days before the election. Visit [sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices) to find the contact information for your county elections official.

**Please note:** The deadline to register to vote is **October 19, 2020**. Same-day voter registration is available to voters who miss the registration deadline and is available at county elections offices, all polling places, and all vote centers in California.

## What Address Can I Use To Register To Vote?

Eligible student voters have a choice about where to register to vote.

Students attending college may register at their campus address or register at their permanent or home address. It is important to have the most up-to-date information, so make sure your address reflects where you want to receive your ballot and Voter Information Guide.

You may only be registered and vote in one location. Visit our unique URL to confirm your address and other details: [RegisterToVote.ca.gov/?t=s](https://RegisterToVote.ca.gov/?t=s)

## What If I Am An Out Of State Student?

California eligible voters who are attending college outside of California have the choice on whether to register in California or to register in the state they are attending college.

Choosing which address to use when you register to vote is a personal decision. Whatever you decide, you may only be registered and vote in one location.

## What If I Am An International Student?

International students in California who are not United States citizens, but reside in the state to attend college, cannot register or vote, though they can be involved with our democracy in other ways.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the nation is facing a poll worker shortage. A legal resident of the United States, who would be eligible to vote, except for their citizenship status, can volunteer as a poll worker, and get paid to save democracy! For more information about volunteering as a poll worker in California, visit [PollWorker.sos.ca.gov](https://PollWorker.sos.ca.gov)

## How Can I Vote?

### *By Mail*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all active California registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot, no request needed. This ballot will come with a pre-paid postage return envelope, so you do not need a postage stamp when mailing in your ballot.

You can mail your ballot as soon as you complete it. Completed vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day, and received within 17 days of the election. For more information, visit [sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail)

### *Secured Ballot Drop Box*

Ballot drop boxes are secure, locked boxes where vote-by-mail ballots may be dropped off as early as 28 days before the election. Visit [CaEarlyVoting.sos.ca.gov](https://CaEarlyVoting.sos.ca.gov) to find your nearest drop box locations.

### *Early In-Person*

For the November 3, 2020, General Election, counties in California will have early in-person voting opportunities. Information about early voting in your county can be found at

[CaEarlyVoting.sos.ca.gov](https://CaEarlyVoting.sos.ca.gov).

Contact your county elections official for more information about early voting locations in your county. Their contact information can be found at

[sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices).

### *Election Day*

Voting locations will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. If you are in line by 8 p.m., you still have the right to vote. Do not leave your place in line. Report any issues you encounter while voting to the California Statewide Voter Hotline at **(800) 345-VOTE (8683)**



## What Type Of ID Do I Need To Vote?

In most cases, California voters do not have to show identification before they vote.

You may have to show one form of identification at the polling place if you are voting for the first time after registering by mail or online and you did NOT provide the following on your application (or any other identification):

- State-issued driver license, or identification number, or
- Last four digits of your social security number

If this applies to you, the California Secretary of State recommends bringing an ID with you when you go to vote in person, or if voting by mail, mail a photocopy of your ID to your county elections official before the election. Such ID can include, but is not limited to:

- A California driver license
- A California identification card
- Student ID
- U.S. passport
- A copy of a recent utility bill
- The county Voter Information Guide sent to you by your county elections office

## Where Is My Nearest Voting Location?

To find your nearest polling location, type in your address using the tool found at [sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place)

## What If English Is Not My Preferred Language?

Visit [VoterGuide.sos.ca.gov](https://VoterGuide.sos.ca.gov) to access the statewide Voter Information Guide in 9 languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.

You may also request language assistance at in-person voting locations.



## Where's My Ballot?

The Secretary of State's "Where's My Ballot?" tracking tool is now available to voters in all 58 California counties.

All California voters can now sign-up at [WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov](https://WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov) to receive messages by email, text message or voice call when their ballot has been mailed, received, counted, and if there are any issues with their ballot.

You will also receive communications from your county elections office about important election deadlines and critical updates such as polling place changes.

## What's On My Ballot?

Along with the presidential race and statewide and local races, 12 statewide propositions will be on the November 3 ballot. Information about the 12 propositions can be found in the California Voter Information Guide at [VoterGuide.sos.ca.gov](https://VoterGuide.sos.ca.gov). Information about your county's local races and measures can be found in your county's Voter Information Guide - county contact information can be found at [sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices)

**Defining ballot measures, propositions, referendums:** *Ballot measures or propositions* can be proposals to enact or repeal new laws and constitutional amendments that are placed on the ballot for approval by the electorate. There are different kinds of ballot measures:

- An *initiative* is a proposal of a new law or constitutional amendment that is placed on the ballot by petition, which is the act of collecting a certain number of signatures from citizens with respect to a specific cause.
- A *referendum* is a proposal to repeal a law that was previously enacted by the legislature.
- A *legislative proposition or legislative measure* is a proposal placed on the ballot by the legislature.

## Have I Been Counted In The 2020 Census?

Students, regardless of citizenship status, who were living in the United States on April 1, 2020 should be counted in the 2020 Census. Every ten years, people across the country fill out the Census in order to help determine California's federal funding for important community services that help support our families, and congressional representation. Go to [My2020Census.gov](https://My2020Census.gov)

All of California's 482 cities and 58 counties are competing to have the highest and most improved Census self-response rates. Encourage your county or city to win the California Census Challenge. For more information about the California Census Challenge, visit [CensusChallenge.sos.ca.gov](https://CensusChallenge.sos.ca.gov)

# #VOTE2020



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# HOW DO I MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE?

### **Update Your Voter Registration**

- The Secretary of State strongly encourages every voter to verify or update their voter registration information as early as possible at [RegisterToVote.ca.gov/?t=s](https://RegisterToVote.ca.gov/?t=s) to ensure their vote-by-mail ballot is sent to the correct address.
- Visit [Vote.ca.gov](https://Vote.ca.gov) to learn more about your voting options.

### **Identify How You Will Vote**

- **Vote by Mail:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all active California registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot, no request or postage needed.
- **Secured Ballot Drop Box:** A secure, locked box where vote-by-mail ballots may be dropped off and is available throughout the state beginning 28 days before the election.
- **In-Person Voting Location:** Offers important resources such as same-day voter registration, ADA accommodations, replacement ballots, and support in various languages.

### **Identify When You Will Vote**

- **Vote by Mail:** Mail your ballot as soon as you complete it. Completed vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received within 17 days of the election. You do not need a postage stamp when mailing in your ballot.
- **Secured Ballot Drop Boxes** will be available beginning 28 days before the election.
- **Early In-Person:** Counties in California will be offering early in-person voting opportunities.
- **Election Day Voting Locations** will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. If you are in line by the closing time, then you have a right to vote.

### **Execute Your Plan!**



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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following resources include information on student voting, or voter engagement efforts in general. These additional resources were created by outside organizations working on student engagement, and are not owned by the California Secretary of State's Office.

### Student Poll Worker Recruitment Resources

- Students Learn Students Vote Poll Worker Recruitment Toolkit ([Link](#))
- Power the Polls: Nationwide Poll Worker Recruitment Organization ([Link](#))

### Student Engagement Resources

- Campus Vote Project ([Link](#))
- Students Learn Students Vote ([Link](#))
- Every Vote Counts ([Link](#))

### Youth Engagement Resources

- A Band of Voters ([Link](#))
- Generation Vote ([Link](#))

### Voter Education Class Curriculum

- California Youth Voter Education Coalition ([Link](#))
- Rock The Vote's Democracy Class ([Link](#))

### Voter Education Resources

- When We All Vote ([Link](#))
- National Voter Education Week ([Link](#))
- National Voter Registration Day ([Link](#))
- National Voting and Elections Information ([Link](#))