



CALIFORNIA  
**STUDENTS****VOTE**PROJECT

**Student Voter Resource Guide  
2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election**

**CLICK HERE TO  
REGISTER TO VOTE**



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# IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES



## Introduction

The California Students Vote Project welcomes all to use and share this Student Voter Resource Guide created to help students better understand the process of registering to vote and voting during the 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election. If you have questions or would like more information, contact [CastStudentsVote@sos.ca.gov](mailto:CastStudentsVote@sos.ca.gov).

## Get Ready for the 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election!

Check whether your voter information is up to date at [VoterStatus.sos.ca.gov](https://VoterStatus.sos.ca.gov) to ensure you receive your vote-by-mail ballot on time. The Secretary of State strongly encourages all voters to 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 August 30, 2021.

## August 16, 2021: Counties Mail Ballots to Active Registered Voters by this Date

Like the 2020 General Election, every active registered voter will be mailed a vote-by-mail ballot for the 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election.

Only active registered voters will receive vote-by-mail ballots for the 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election. California works to ensure every eligible California has the information they need to register to vote and cast their ballot, while ensuring they can only vote once.

## August 30, 2021: Voter Registration Deadline

Same Day Voter Registration is available to voters who miss the voter registration deadline and is available at county elections offices, all polling places, and all vote centers in California. Visit [sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/same-day-reg](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/same-day-reg) for more information.

## September 14, 2021: 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, you have a right to vote.



## 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 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.

**The deadline to register to vote is August 30, 2021. 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. Visit [sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/same-day-reg](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/same-day-reg) for more information.**

## 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. To register to vote using our unique URL at [RegisterToVote.ca.gov/?t=s](https://RegisterToVote.ca.gov/?t=s). Visit [VoterStatus.sos.ca.gov](https://VoterStatus.sos.ca.gov) to check if your voter information is up to date.

## 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 to vote 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. Keep in mind, the 2021 California Gubernatorial Recall Election is specific to voters who register to vote or are registered to vote in California.

## 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.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, poll workers will be even more critical to our democracy. 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).



## 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.



## How Can I Vote?

### *By Mail*

California counties will start mailing ballots to active registered voters on August 16, 2021. This ballot will come with a pre-paid postage return envelope, so you do not need a postage stamp when mailing in your ballot. For more information, visit [sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail).

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 by your county elections office.

### *Secured Ballot Drop Box*

Ballot drop boxes are a secured box where vote-by-mail ballots may be dropped off before or on Election Day. Visit [CAEarlyVoting.sos.ca.gov](https://CAEarlyVoting.sos.ca.gov) to find your nearest drop box location.

### *Early In-Person*

For the September 14, 2021, Gubernatorial Recall Election, some counties in California will have early in-person voting. 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 a 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)**.

**HAVE YOU  
VOTED?**



## Where's My Ballot?

The Secretary of State's "Where's My Ballot?" tracking tool is 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 your ballot has been mailed, received, counted, and if there are any issues with your 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?

The 2021 California Gubernatorial Recall Election ballot will ask the following questions:

- Do you want to recall the governor?
- If the governor is recalled, who do you want to replace him?

Your answer to one question will not impact the other.

In addition, the California Voter Guide will be available and can be found 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).





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## HOW DO I MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE?

### Update Your Voter Registration

- Every active registered voter will receive a vote-by-mail ballot for the 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election. Update your voter registration information as early as possible at [RegisterToVote.ca.gov/?t=s](https://RegisterToVote.ca.gov/?t=s) to ensure your vote-by-mail ballot is sent to the correct address.

### Choose How You Will Vote

- **Voting by Mail** is a secure and safe way to return your vote-by-mail ballot as long as it is postmarked on or before Election Day.
- **Secured Ballot Drop Boxes** are a convenient and safe way to drop off your vote-by-mail ballot and are available throughout the state before and on Election Day.
- **In-Person Voting Locations** offer important resources such as Same Day Voter Registration, ADA accommodations, replacement ballots, and support in various languages.

### Identify When And Where 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.
- **Secured Ballot Drop Boxes:** The secure drop box shall be clearly and visibly marked, as an "Official Ballot Drop Box" that shows language stating that tampering with the drop box is a felony. Visit [bit.ly/3zVVE2n](https://bit.ly/3zVVE2n) for more information about Vote-By-Mail Ballot drop boxes.
- **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.

### Carry Out 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 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](#))