



California

Secretary of State

California Voter ID & Registration Requirements

A Quick Guide to Voting Eligibility and Identification Rules

✓ What Do I Need to Register to Vote?

You must provide:

- A California Driver's License or State ID number,
OR
- The last four digits of your Social Security Number (SSN) (if you do not have a CA ID)

If you don't have either, you can still register. You'll be assigned a unique identifier to validate your registration.

All numbers are securely verified:

- CA ID numbers are matched with DMV records
- SSNs are matched with Social Security Administration records
- Unique identifiers are verified by election officials

✓ Who Can Register to Vote in California?

To register, you must be:

- A United States citizen and a California resident
- 18 years or older on Election Day (or 16 or 17 years old to pre-register)
- Not currently serving a state or federal prison term for a felony
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court

IMPORTANT:

On the voter registration form, applicants must check "Yes" to confirm U.S. citizenship. If this is left blank, your registration will not be accepted. Elections Code § 2111 states that an affidavit of registration is proof of citizenship for voting purposes only; it cannot be used to prove citizenship for any other purpose.

✓ Do I Need to Show ID to Vote in California?

In most cases, NO. California does not generally require voters to show identification at the polls.

✓ When MIGHT You Be Asked for ID?

You may need to show ID only if ALL the following apply:

- You're voting for the first time in a federal election
- You registered by mail or online, AND
- You did not provide your CA ID or SSN when registering

You'll be notified in advance if this applies to you.

Poll workers may only request an ID if the voter list clearly indicates it's required.

✓ What Forms of ID Are Acceptable (if required)?

You can show a photo or non-photo ID, including:

- California Driver's License or State ID card
- U.S. Passport
- Student or Military ID
- Official mail from a government agency
- Paycheck or government check
- Utility bill or bank statement

For a complete list, see: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/hava-id-standards>

Photo ID is not required, it's just one of many valid options. ID does not need to show your address or be government-issued.

✓ Don't Have ID When Voting?

No problem, you can still cast a provisional ballot. Your vote will be counted after your eligibility is confirmed.

For more information, visit
vote.ca.gov or call our Voter
Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).



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