



**California**  
Secretary of State

 **STUDENTS****VOTE****PROJECT**  
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

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# STUDENTS **VOTE** PROJECT



**November 3, 2026, General Election**

**College Student Voter  
Resource Guide**

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# Introduction

## California Secretary of State's Students Vote Project

The [California Secretary of State's Students Vote Project \(SVP\)](#) is a statewide nonpartisan program that amplifies college student voices and promotes civic engagement efforts to build a more inclusive democracy. The program objectives aim to improve college student voter education, increase college student voter registration, and provide civic and voter outreach opportunities. The SVP achieves these objectives by hosting civic engagement events, creating educational resources, and partnering with campuses and outreach organizations.

## The Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act

In 2019, the Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act (SCVEA) ([California Education Code §66850-66852; California Elections Code §2148.5](#)) was enacted to provide California colleges and universities with the necessary tools to enhance civic engagement and participation among young voters. In 2020, the California Secretary of State Students Vote Project was expanded to support implementation of the landmark law. The law requires the California SOS to collaborate with the California Community Colleges and California State Universities to increase college student registration. Colleges and universities are encouraged to participate in SVP civic learning opportunities to receive and distribute voter education resources. While the University of California and the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities campuses are not required to participate, they continue to be strong partners and supporters of student civic engagement.

To learn more about how your campus can implement the SCVEA, please view the [Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act Implementation Guide](#).

# Voting in Three Steps

**1.**

**Register to vote or update  
your voter registration.**  
[registertovote.ca.gov/collegestudents](https://registertovote.ca.gov/collegestudents)

**2.**

**Choose either in-person voting  
or drop off your ballot.**

**3.**

**Vote in the November 3, 2026,  
General Election.**

## **Vote in person at a county vote center or polling location.**

- **In Person**

- In-person voting locations offer important resources such as Same Day Voter Registration, ADA accommodations, replacement ballots, and other support in various languages.

## **Vote by dropping off your ballot.**

- **Secured California County  
Drop-Off Locations**

- Vote Center or Polling Location
- County Drop Box
- County Elections Office

- **United States Postal Service Mail**

- Mail your ballot at least 7 days before Election Day.
- If mailing closer to Election Day, request a manual postmark from a Postal Service employee.



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**STUDENTS**VOTE**PROJECT**  
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# Step #1: Register to Vote or Update Your Voter Registration

The first step in preparing to vote is to register or update your voter registration. Review the information below to learn more about the voter registration process and options.

## Voting Eligibility and Identification Rules

The last day to register online to vote for the November 3, 2026, General Election is **Monday, October 19, 2026**. If you are unsure whether you are registered to vote, or if your voter registration information is up to date, visit [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov).

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 serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court

To complete the voter registration process, you will need either:

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

If you do not have a California driver's license, California identification card, or the last four digits of your social security number readily available, you can still register to vote. However, you will need to take additional steps to complete your voter registration. You will also need to verify your identity when voting for the first time. View [A Quick Guide to Voting Eligibility and Identification Rules](#) to learn more about California identification and registration requirements.

## Register to Vote

You can register to vote or update your voter registration online or by paper.

- **Online Voter Registration**

- o You can register to vote or update your registration online at [registertovote.ca.gov/collegestudents](https://registertovote.ca.gov/collegestudents).

- **Paper Voter Registration**

- o Your county elections office can mail a paper voter registration application to you, or you can register in person at your county elections office.
- o Find your [county elections office](#).

## Registering to Vote While Living Away from Home

If you are attending college in California and away from home, you may register to vote using either:

- The California address where you live when going to school (college address), or
- The California home address where you live when you are not going to school (traditional home address).

### Registering to Vote Using Your California College Address

If you are a student living away from home while attending a college, trade school, or technical school, you can choose to register to vote by using your college address where your school is located. Students living in dorms should use their residence hall address if they wish to vote while living on campus.

If you use your college address to register to vote, your ballot will reflect the local contests in the county your school is located in. Your voting locations will also be in the county your school is located in.

### Registering to Vote Using Your California Traditional Home Address

If you are a student living away from home while attending a college, trade school, or technical school, you can choose to register to vote by using your traditional home address where your traditional home is located.

If you use your traditional home address to register to vote, your ballot will reflect the local contests in the county your traditional home address is located in. Your voting locations will also be in the county your traditional home address is located in.

A student does not need to establish residency or domicile for any amount of time before they register to vote.

*Choosing which address to use when you register to vote is a personal decision. Whatever you decide, you may not register to vote or vote in two places during the same election.*

## Receiving Your Ballot

All California active registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail for the November 3, 2026, General Election.

- If you want to receive your ballot at a different address other than where you are registered to vote, you can update your voter registration to a different mailing address. This mailing address can include your college address, traditional home address, or a P.O. Box.
  - Update your registration as needed by the online voter registration deadline, **Monday, October 19, 2026.**

## Same Day Voter Registration (Conditional Voter Registration)

If you missed the online voter registration deadline, you may still register to vote and cast a ballot on or before Election Day. Learn more about the [Same Day Voter Registration](#) process and eligibility.



# Step #2: Choose to Vote in Person or Drop Off Your Ballot

The second step in preparing to vote is choosing whether to vote in person or by dropping off your ballot. See the options below to help you decide what works best for you.

## In Person

- [Voter's Choice Act](#) counties begin to offer early in-person voting on **Saturday, October 24, 2026**.
- In-person [early voting locations](#) throughout California will be open on **Saturday, October 31, 2026**.
- In-person voting locations offer important resources, such as:
  - [Same Day Voter Registration](#)
  - [ADA accommodations](#)
  - Replacement ballots
  - Support in various languages

## Drop Off Your Ballot

- Every active registered voter will receive a [ballot in the mail](#) for each statewide election. County election officials will begin mailing ballots no later than **Monday, October 5, 2026**.



# Step #3: Vote in the November 3, 2026, General Election

Now that you have registered to vote and decided how you want to vote, the last step is to vote. View your preferred option below for more information. The last day to vote is **Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at 8:00 pm.**

## Vote in Person

If you would like to vote in person, visit [caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov](https://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov) to find your nearest vote center or polling location. **Tuesday, November 3** is the last day to vote in person. If you did not receive a ballot in the mail, you will need to vote in person. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## Vote by Dropping Off Your Ballot

If you choose to vote using the ballot you received in the mail, mark your ballot and insert it in the return envelope provided and sign it. Make sure you complete all required information on the ballot return envelope, including your signature. Below are a few options.

- **Secured California County Drop-Off Locations:**
  - **Vote Center or Polling Location**
    - Drop off your ballot at a vote center or polling location as early as possible. Visit [caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov](https://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov) to find your nearest vote center or polling location. The location must list “Drop-off Location” as a service.
  - **Secure County Drop Box**
    - Drop off your ballot at a secure drop box as early as possible. The secure drop boxes are clearly and visibly marked as an “Official Ballot Drop Box” that shows language stating that tampering with the drop box is a felony. Visit [caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov](https://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov) to find your nearest drop box.
  - **County Elections Office**
    - Drop off your ballot at your county elections office as early as possible. Find your [county elections office](#).
- **United States Postal Service Mail:**
  - Mark your ballot. Sign the ballot return envelope. Mail your ballot back as soon as possible after you receive it. To be counted, your ballot must be

postmarked no later than Election Day. We recommend mailing it at least seven days before Election Day. If you mail it closer to Election Day, take it to a United States Post Office and ask for a manual postmark.

If you are in line to cast your ballot or to drop off the completed ballot you received in the mail before 8:00 pm on Election Day, then you have the right to vote. View the [\*\*Voter Right Bill of Rights\*\*](#) for more information on your voting rights.

Learn how California is ensuring a secure and fair election by viewing the [\*\*California Secretary of State California Election Security Safeguards\*\*](#).

# November 3, 2026, General Election

## Civic and Election Dates

### General Election Dates and Deadlines

- **Monday, October 5:** County elections officials will begin mailing ballots by this date and secure ballot drop off locations open.
  - Counties offer early voting sites – to find a location and available times, please visit [caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov](https://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov).
  - Ballots can be dropped off at a drop-off location, county elections office, or returned by mail.
- **Monday, October 19:** The last day to [register online to vote](#) for the November 3, 2026, General Election.
- **Saturday, October 24:** The first vote centers open for early in-person voting in all [Voter's Choice Act counties](#).
- **Tuesday, October 20 – Tuesday, November 3:** [Same Day Voter Registration](#) (Conditional Voter Registration) is available. Voters can use the Same Day Voter Registration process during this time.
- **Tuesday, November 3:** Election Day – Last day to vote in-person or return a ballot by 8:00 p.m. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
  - Mail your ballot back as soon as possible after you receive it. To be counted, your ballot must be postmarked no later than Election Day. We recommend mailing it at least seven days before Election Day. If you mail it closer to Election Day, take it to a United States Post Office and ask for a manual postmark.

### 2026 Key Dates

- **Monday, August 10 – Tuesday, November 3:** [California University and College Ballot Bowl](#)
- **Tuesday, September 15:** National Voter Registration Day
- **Thursday, September 17:** Constitution Day
- **Monday, October 5 – Friday, October 9:** National Voter Education Week

- **Tuesday, October 20:** Election Hero Day
- **Tuesday, October 27:** Vote Early Day

## Informed Voting Resources

### State Voter Information Guide

View a copy of the State Voter Information Guide at [voterguide.sos.ca.gov](https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov). You may check with your [county elections office](#) for more information regarding local contests.

The State Voter Information Guide covers key election dates, voting resources, and includes all statewide contest details. The guide is available in 10 languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, Vietnamese.

### What's on My Ballot?

The November 3, 2026, General Election Ballot will have the following **state** contests:

- **Governor**
  - o As the state's chief executive officer, oversees most state departments and agencies, and appoints judges.
  - o Proposes new laws, approves or vetoes legislation, and submits the annual state budget to the Legislature.
  - o Mobilizes and directs state resources during emergencies.
- **Lieutenant Governor**
  - o Assumes the office and duties of Governor in the case of impeachment, death, resignation, removal from office, or absence from the state.
  - o Serves as president of the State Senate and has a tie-breaking vote.
  - o Chairs the Commission for Economic Development; is a member of the State Lands Commission, and the Ocean Protection Council; and sits on the boards of the California university systems.
- **Secretary of State**
  - o As the state's chief elections officer, oversees statewide elections and provides public access to campaign and lobbying financial information.
  - o Maintains certain business filings, authenticates trademarks, regulates notaries public, and enables secured creditors to protect their financial interests.

- Maintains certain business filings, authenticates trademarks, regulates notaries public, and enables secured creditors to protect their financial interests.
- Preserves California's history by acquiring, safeguarding, and sharing the state's historical treasures.
- **Controller**
  - As the state's chief fiscal officer, serves as the state's accountant and bookkeeper of all public funds.
  - Administers the state payroll system and unclaimed property laws and conducts audits and reviews of state operations.
  - Serves on the Board of Equalization, the Board of Control, and other boards and commissions.
- **Treasurer**
  - As the state's banker, manages the state's investments, and administers the sale of state bonds and notes.
  - Serves on several commissions, most of which are related to the marketing of bonds.
  - Pays out state funds when spent by the Controller and other state agencies.
- **Attorney General**
  - As the state's chief law officer, ensures that state laws are enforced and investigates fraudulent or illegal activities.
  - Heads the Department of Justice, which provides state government legal services and represents the state in civil and criminal court cases.
  - Oversees law enforcement agencies, including county district attorneys and sheriffs.
- **Insurance Commissioner**
  - Heads the Department of Insurance, which enforces California insurance laws and adopts regulations to implement the laws.
  - Licenses, regulates, and examines insurance companies.
  - Answers public questions and complaints about the insurance industry.

- **Board of Equalization – District 1, District 2, District 3, District 4**
  - Serves on the Board of Equalization, the state’s elected tax commission, which:
    - Assesses the property of regulated railroads and specific public utilities, and assesses and collects the private railroad car tax.
    - Oversees the assessment practices of the state’s 58 county assessors.
    - Assesses and collects the alcoholic beverage tax, and jointly administers the tax on insurers.
- **Superintendent of Public Instruction**
  - As the state’s chief of public schools, provides education policy direction to local school districts, and works with the education community to improve academic performance.
  - Heads the Department of Education and carries out policies set by the State Board of Education.
  - Serves as an ex-officio member of governing boards of the state’s higher education system.
- There will also be 14 statewide propositions on the ballot.

For more information on candidates and statewide propositions, please view the [State Voter Information Guide](#).

## Create Your Voting Plan

Not knowing **how, when, or where** you will vote may lead to missed deadlines and being unprepared to cast your ballot. Create a plan to vote using the [College Student Voting Plan](#) tool to help you be a prepared voter.

## Where’s My Ballot?

Track your ballot to see when it has been mailed, received, counted, or if there were any issues. Sign up to receive updates about your ballot at [wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov](https://wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov).

You can choose to receive your ballot updates by:

- Email
- Text message (SMS)
- Voice call

## Additional Voter Resources

### Students Experiencing Homelessness

If you are experiencing homelessness, learn how you can participate in the election by viewing the [Voters Experiencing Homelessness Fact Sheet](#).

### Justice-Compromised Students

If you are a student with a prior felony conviction, visit the [Voting Rights Restored](#) page to better understand your voter eligibility.

### Voter Hotline

For answers to your questions about voting and elections, or to request mail delivery of a voter registration form, vote-by-mail information, or the State Voter Information Guide, please call one of the toll-free Voter Hotlines shown below.

- (800) 345-VOTE (8683) - English
- (800) 232-VOTA (8682) - español / Spanish
- (800) 339-2857 - 中文 / Chinese
- (888) 345-2692 - हिन्दी / Hindi
- (800) 339-2865 - 日本語 / Japanese
- (888) 345-4917 - ខ្មែរ / Khmer
- (866) 575-1558 - 한국어 / Korean
- (800) 339-2957 - Tagalog
- (855) 345-3933 - ภาษาไทย / Thai
- (800) 339-8163 - Việt ngữ / Vietnamese
- 711 - TTY/TDD

# Voter Outreach Materials



- **College Student Voter Checklist (Flyer)**
- **Sample Email Message**
- **Social Media Graphics**
- **Television Graphics**
- **Posters**

# College Student Voter Checklist

## November 3, 2026, General Election



### Register or update your voter registration.

- If you plan to vote in the November 3, General Election, be sure to register to vote or update your voter registration online at [registertovote.ca.gov/collegestudents](https://registertovote.ca.gov/collegestudents) by **Monday, October 19, 2026**.
- If you missed the online voter registration deadline, **Same Day Voter Registration** is available in California up to and including Election Day.
- Ensure your mailing address is current to receive your vote-by-mail ballot and other important election materials for the November 3, General Election. .



### Learn about what's on the ballot.

- The State Voter Information Guide covers key election dates, voting resources, and includes all statewide contest details. The guide is available in 10 languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, Vietnamese
- View the official State Voter Information Guide at [voterguide.sos.ca.gov](https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov).



### Create a voting plan.

- Create a voting plan using the College Student Voting Plan tool at [collegehub.sos.ca.gov/collegestudentvotingplan](https://collegehub.sos.ca.gov/collegestudentvotingplan) to help decide **how, when, or where** you will vote.



### Vote early.

- Voting early either by mail or at an early voting location can help reduce wait times. Find your nearest voting location at [caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov](https://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov).
- Visit [sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-bill-rights](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-bill-rights) for information on your voting rights.



### Track your ballot.

- Sign up for ballot tracking at [wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov](https://wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov) to receive updates on when your ballot is mailed, received, and counted.

# Sample Email Message

## New Message

To

Cc Bcc

Subject **November 3, 2026, General Election – Early Voting Options and Important Election Information**

Hello <Insert Mascot Name>,

Get ready to make your voice heard! The general election is on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, and in California, you can vote early. Learn how you can participate in early voting below.

### Early Voting

Did you know you can vote early in-person or by mail? This is a great opportunity to help avoid the Election Day rush. View the important dates below to learn more about voting early.

- **Monday, October 5:** County elections officials will begin mailing ballots by this date and secure ballot drop off locations open.
  - o Counties offer early voting sites – to find a location and available times, please visit <https://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov>.
  - o Ballots can be dropped off at a drop-off location, county elections office, or returned by mail.
- **Saturday, October 24:** The first vote centers open for early in-person voting in all [Voter's Choice Act](#) counties.

If you want to see all important dates and deadlines for the upcoming primary election, view the [2025-2026 California Civic and Election Dates](#).

### Resources for Informed Voting

Explore these essential resources to empower yourself as an informed voter.

- Register to Vote or Update Your Registration by **Monday, October 19, 2026:**
  - o <https://registertovote.ca.gov/collegestudents>
- Voter Registration Status:
  - o <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>
- State Voter Information Guide:
  - o <https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/>
- California Secretary of State Students Vote Project:
  - o <https://studentsvoteproject.sos.ca.gov>

**Important Disclaimer for California Registered Voters:** The civic and election information provided may apply to the county where the campus is located. Election information varies by county. To find the contact information for the California county you are registered to vote in, visit <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices>

<Insert Name/Department>

Send

# Social Media Graphics

## Graphic Set One



Instagram

Download



Snapchat

Download



Facebook

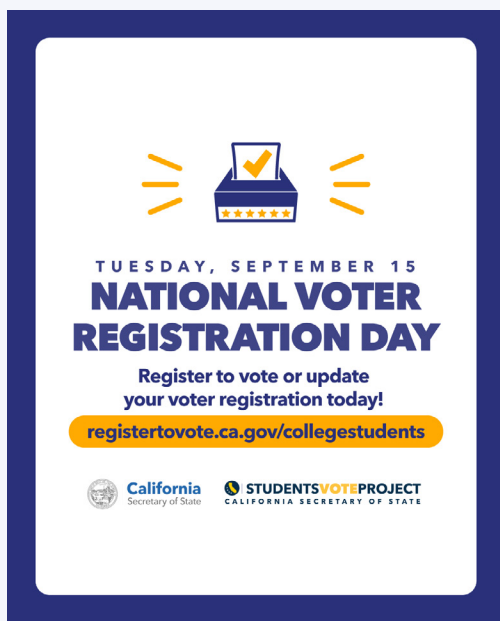
Download



X

Download

## Graphic Set Two



Instagram

Download



Snapchat

Download



Facebook

Download



X

Download

# Social Media Graphics (Continued)

## Graphic Set Three



Instagram

Download



Snapchat

Download



Facebook

Download



X

Download

## Graphic Set Four



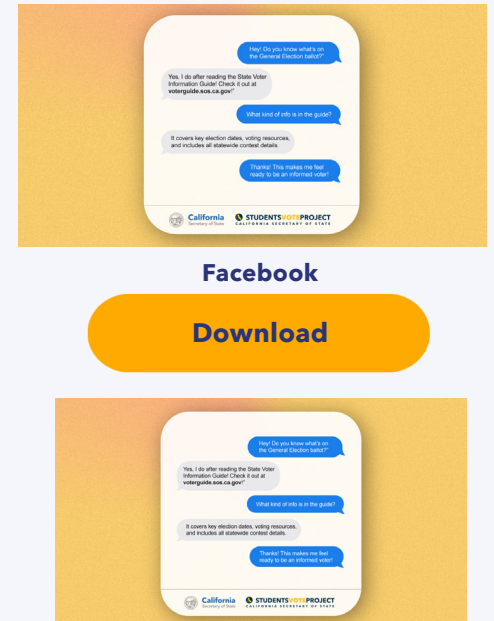
Instagram

Download



Snapchat

Download



Facebook

Download



X

Download

# Social Media Graphics (Continued)

## Graphic Set Five



Instagram

Download



Snapchat

Download



Facebook

Download



X

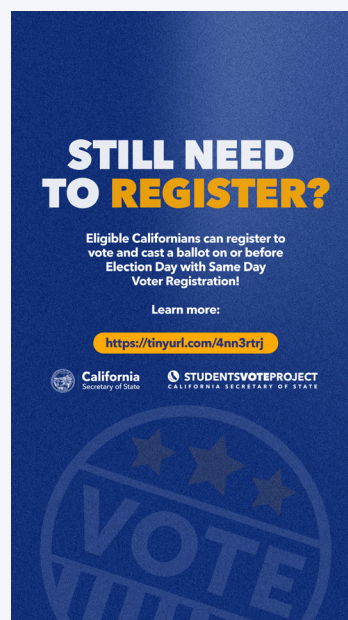
Download

## Graphic Set Six



Instagram

Download



Snapchat

Download



Facebook

Download



X

Download

# Social Media Graphics (Continued)

## Graphic Set Seven



Instagram

Download



Snapchat

Download



Facebook

Download



X

Download

# Television Graphics (1920px x 1080 px)



Download



Download



Download



Download

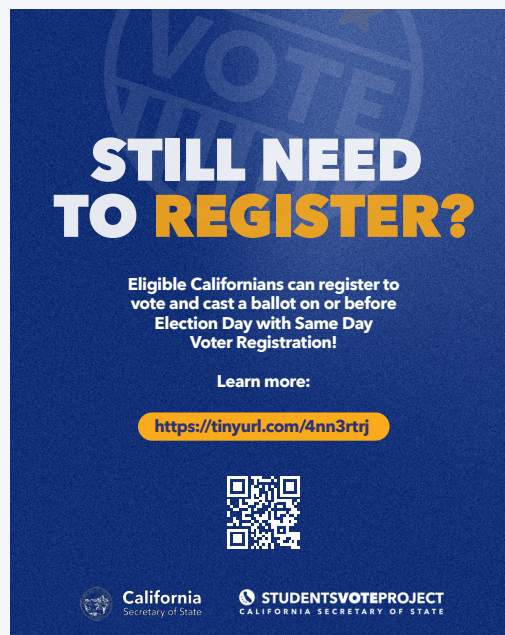
# Posters (16 in x 20 in)



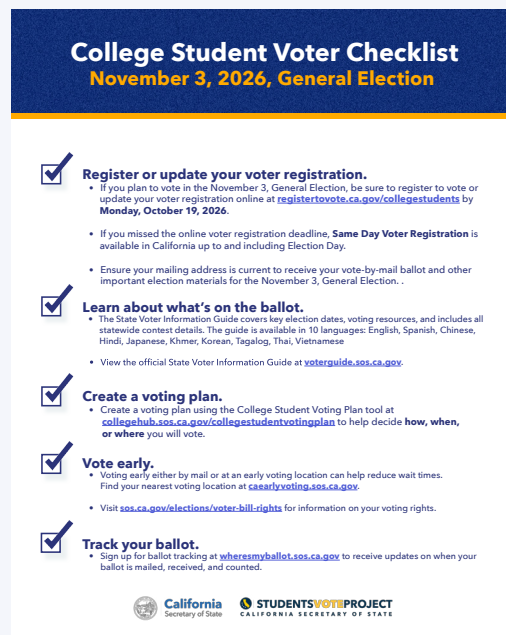
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