



Guidance: Pre-registration

Issuance Date: June 10, 2021

Revision Date: n/a

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Purpose/Background

The purpose of this document is to provide information and guidance on 16- and 17-year old's who are pre-registered to vote.

Guidance

A 16- or 17-year old who meet all eligibility requirements to vote may submit a properly executed affidavit of registration to their county elections official pursuant to Elections Code section 2102 and 2150. The registration will be effective as of the date the registrant becomes 18 years old.

All registration data of pre-registrants must remain confidential and not appear on any list, roster, or index until the pre-registrant turns 18 years of age and becomes a registered voter. The exception is when a pre-registrant turns 18 years of age 60 days prior to an election, per California Code of Regulations section 19089.

Pre-Registrant Status

When accepting an affidavit of registration for a pre-registrant, the county elections official shall do the following:

- 1) Enter the pre-registrant affidavit into the county Election Management System (EMS) with a Voter Status of "Pending" and Voter Status Reason Code of "Underage Voter," which will send the update to VoteCal.
- 2) At the time the pre-registrant turns 18 years of age, the county elections official shall:
 - a. Change the pre-registrant's Voter Status from "Pending" to "Active" with a Voter Status Reason Code of "Turned 18 Years Old."
 - b. Send a voter notification card to the pre-registrant of the change in voter status informing the registrant of his/her eligibility to vote.

In the event that the pre-registrant will be 18 years old prior to the election and eligible to vote, the county elections official shall update the Voter Status to "Active" 60 days before the election. The activation will ensure that the pre-registrant will receive election related material and appear on the county official list. These pre-registrants are eligible to cast a VBM ballot and participate in early voting.

- Please note the following:
 - For county elections that are in close proximity to each other, pre-registrants should only be considered "Active" for the elections for which they will be 18 by that election day.
 - Although pre-registrants can be marked "Active" 60 days before the election in order to receive election materials, candidates must be 18 to take out signatures-in-lieu or nomination documents.



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Pre-Registration Voter Notification Card

Pursuant to Elections Code section 2155.3, the Secretary of State (SOS) Office sends weekly, all new pre-registrants a pre-registration notice by non-forwardable, first-class mail informing them that their pre-registration has been accepted.

Monthly Verification Check

The SOS performs a monthly check, usually within the first week of the month, to ensure that all pre-registrants who will not be 18 within 60 days of an election have a Voter Status of "Pending" and notifies counties by email if any records have an incorrect Voter Status. Counties should then correct the pre-registrant record. This process helps to prevent pre-registrant records from being included in Public Voter Registration Data Requests, Jury Wheel extracts, Report of Registration, and other lists where voters are extracted.

Contact Information

For questions or to report issues contact the SOS VoteCal Help Desk at 888-868-3225 or email VoteCalHelp@sos.ca.gov.