

Where to Vote

When you receive your county sample ballot booklet in the mail a few weeks before Election Day, look for your polling place on the back cover of the booklet. If you do not receive your sample ballot booklet, contact your county elections office. You can also find your polling place by calling the Secretary of State's toll-free Voter Hotline at 1-800-345-VOTE (8683) or by visiting www.sos.ca.gov.

The sample ballot booklet also includes instructions on how voters with disabilities are able to vote privately and independently and will display the International Symbol of Accessibility if your polling place is accessible to voters with disabilities.

Provisional Ballots

Provisional ballots are ballots cast by voters who:

- Believe they are registered to vote even though their names do not appear on the official voter registration list;
- Believe the official voter registration list incorrectly lists their political party affiliation; or
- Vote by mail but cannot locate their vote-by-mail ballot and want to vote at a polling place.

All valid provisional ballots that county elections officials determine have been cast by eligible voters are counted and included in the official election results. Elections officials have 28 days to complete this process, referred to as the “official canvass” period, and must report the results to the Secretary of State 35 days after the date of the election.

State and Federal Voter Identification Requirements

In most cases, voters are not required to show identification before they cast a ballot. If you are voting for the first time after registering by mail and did not provide your driver license number, California identification number, or the last four digits of your social security number on the registration card, you may be asked to show a form of identification when you go to the polls. Make sure you bring identification with you to the polls or include a copy of it with your vote-by-mail ballot. For a list of the more than 30 acceptable forms of identification, contact your county elections office or visit the Secretary of State's website and look for “HAVA ID Regulations” at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_regs.htm.

Voting by Mail

You may return your voted vote-by-mail ballot by:

1. Mailing it to your county elections office;
2. Returning it in person to any polling place or elections office within your county on Election Day; or
3. Authorizing a legally allowable third party (spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, or a person residing in the same household as you) to return the ballot on your behalf to any polling place or elections office within your county on Election Day.

In any case, your vote-by-mail ballot must be received by the time polls close at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Late-arriving vote-by-mail ballots cannot be counted.

All valid vote-by-mail ballots that county elections officials determine have been cast by eligible voters are counted and included in the official election results. Elections officials have 28 days to complete this process, referred to as the “official canvass,” and must report the results to the Secretary of State 35 days after the date of the election.

United States Presidential Candidate Statements

For information about the candidates running for the office of United States President, please visit the Secretary of State's website at www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov or call the Secretary of State's toll-free Voter Hotline at 1-800-345-VOTE (8683) for information to be mailed to you.

Legislative Candidate Statements

This Voter Information Guide covers statewide ballot measures. Each State Senate and Assembly office relates to voters in only one or a few counties, so some candidate statements may be available in your county sample ballot booklet.

Proposition 34, approved by voters in November 2000, established voluntary spending limits for candidates running for state legislative office. Legislative candidates who choose to keep their campaign expenses under specified dollar amounts may purchase space in county sample ballot booklets for a 250-word candidate statement.

Candidates who have voluntarily chosen to limit their spending in campaigns for State Senate may spend no more than \$724,000 in a primary election and \$1,086,000 in a general election. Assembly candidates may spend no more than \$483,000 in a primary election and \$845,000 in a general election.

To view a list of legislative candidates who have accepted the campaign spending limits, go to www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_cand_stat.htm.

Supplemental Voter Information

This Voter Information Guide is current as of the date of printing. If any additional statewide measures qualify for the ballot, a supplemental Voter Information Guide will be prepared and mailed to you. If you or someone you know does not receive a guide, you may view the information at www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov or request an additional copy by calling the Secretary of State's toll-free Voter Hotline at 1-800-345-VOTE (8683).

Copies are also available at your local library and county elections office. Copies of the state Voter Information Guide and your county sample ballot booklet also will be available at your polling place on Election Day.

Large-Print and Audio Voter Information Guides

The Secretary of State provides the Voter Information Guide in large-print and audio formats for the visually impaired in English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

To order the large-print or audio-cassette version of the Voter Information Guide, go to www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vig_altformats.htm or call the Secretary of State's toll-free Voter Hotline at 1-800-345-VOTE (8683).

For a downloadable audio version of the Voter Information Guide, go to www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov/audio/.

Earn Money and Make a Difference . . .

Serve as a Poll Worker on Election Day!

In addition to gaining first-hand experience with the tools of our democracy, poll workers can earn extra money for their valuable service on Election Day.

You can serve as a poll worker if you are:

- A registered voter, or
- A high school student who:
 - is a United States citizen;
 - is at least 16 years old at the time you will be serving;
 - has a grade point average of at least 2.5; and
 - is in good standing at a public or private school.

Contact your county elections office, or call 1-800-345-VOTE (8683), for more information on becoming a poll worker.

If you are a state government employee, you can take time off work, without losing pay, to serve as a poll worker if you provide adequate notice to your department and your supervisor approves the request.

Voter Registration Information

Registering to vote just takes a few minutes and, thanks to the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), you can easily find registration forms in many places throughout the state. The NVRA was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton in 1993. Also known as the "Motor Voter" law, the NVRA requires the Department of Motor Vehicles and many other government agencies to provide people the opportunity to register to vote. To register to vote you must be a U.S. citizen, a California resident, at least 18 years of age on Election Day, and not in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony.

To request a voter registration form or to find out if you are registered to vote, just call your county elections office or the Secretary of State's toll-free Voter Hotline at 1-800-345-VOTE, or visit www.sos.ca.gov. For more information on the NVRA and the Secretary of State's efforts to assist state agencies and county elections officials in complying with it, go to www.sos.ca.gov/elections/.