

About Ballot Arguments

The Secretary of State's Office does not write ballot arguments. Arguments in favor of and against ballot measures are provided by the proponents and opponents of the ballot measures. If multiple arguments are submitted for or against a measure, the law requires that first priority be given to arguments written by legislators in the case of legislative measures, and arguments written by the proponents of an initiative or referendum in the case of an initiative or referendum measure.

Subsequent priority for all measures goes to bona fide associations of citizens and then to individual voters. The submitted argument language cannot be verified for accuracy or changed in any way unless a court orders it to be changed.

Find Your Polling Place

Polling place locations are coordinated by county elections offices. Your polling place will be listed on the back cover of your county sample ballot booklet.

Many county elections offices offer polling place look-up assistance via websites or toll-free phone numbers. For more information, visit the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_d.htm or call the toll-free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

(Note: If you moved to your new address after May 4, 2009, you may vote at your old polling place.)

Provisional Ballots

If your name does not appear on the voter list at your polling place, you have the right to cast a "provisional" ballot at any polling place in the county in which you are registered to vote.

Your provisional ballot will be counted after county elections officials have confirmed that you are registered to vote and did not vote elsewhere in that same election. The poll worker can give you information about how to check that your provisional ballot was counted and, if it was not counted, the reason why.

How to Vote

You can vote in person at your assigned polling place on Election Day or you can vote by mail on a vote-by-mail ballot.

Voting at the Polling Place on Election Day

Polls are open in California from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Some counties also offer early voting at a few polling places before Election Day. When you arrive at your polling place, a poll worker will ask for your name and check an official list of registered voters for that polling place. After you sign next to your name on the list, the poll worker will give you a paper ballot, unique passcode, or computer memory card, depending on the voting system your county uses. Go to a private booth and begin voting. Poll workers are there to assist voters with the voting process. If you are not familiar with how to cast a ballot, ask a poll worker for instructions on how to use the voting system. If you make a mistake in marking the ballot, ask a poll worker for instructions on how to correct a mistake on the ballot. If you need to, you can ask for a new ballot and start over.

State and federal laws require that all voters be able to cast their ballots privately and independently. Some voting systems have been specifically designed with this in mind to assist voters with disabilities. Each polling place is required to have at least one voting machine that permits voters, including those who are blind or visually impaired, to cast a ballot without assistance. The voting machine also must permit you to privately and independently verify your vote choices and, if there is an error, permit you to correct those choices before casting the final ballot.

Voting By Mail

After you mark your choices on your vote-by-mail ballot, put it in the official envelope provided by your county elections office and seal it. Place the proper postage on the envelope and sign the outside of the envelope where directed. You may return your voted vote-by-mail ballot by:

- Mailing it to your county elections office;
- Returning it in person to any polling place or elections office within your county on Election Day; or
- 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.

Even if you receive your vote-by-mail ballot, you can change your mind and vote at your polling place on Election Day. However, you must bring your vote-by-mail ballot to the polling place and give it to a poll worker in exchange for a polling place ballot. If you do not have your vote-by-mail ballot, you will be allowed to vote on a “provisional” ballot, which will be counted after elections officials have confirmed that you are registered to vote and you did not vote more than once in that election.

Large-Print and Audio Voter Information Guides

The Secretary of State provides the Official 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 Official 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 (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

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

State and Federal Voter Identification Requirements

In most cases, California 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's 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.

Voter Registration Information

Registering to vote is simple and free. Registration forms are available online at www.sos.ca.gov and at most post offices, libraries, city and county government offices, and the California Secretary of State's Office. You also may have a registration form mailed to you by calling your county elections office or the Secretary of State's toll-free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

To register to vote you must be a U.S. citizen, a California resident, at least 18 years of age on Election Day, not in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony, and not judged by a court to be mentally incompetent.

You are responsible for updating your voter registration information. You can do this by returning another voter registration form with the new information. You should update your voter registration if you:

- Change your home address,
- Change your mailing address,
- Change your name, or
- Want to change or select a political party.

COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICES

ALAMEDA COUNTY

1225 Fallon Street, Room G-1
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 272-6973
www.acgov.org/rov

ALPINE COUNTY

99 Water Street
P.O. Box 158
Markleeville, CA 96120
(530) 694-2281
www.alpinecountyca.gov

AMADOR COUNTY

810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642
(209) 223-6465
www.co.amador.ca.us

BUTTE COUNTY

25 County Center Drive, Suite I
Oroville, CA 95965-3375
(530) 538-7761 or (800) 894-7761
<http://clerk-recorder.buttecounty.net>

CALAVERAS COUNTY

891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249
(209) 754-6376
www.co.calaveras.ca.us

COLUSA COUNTY

546 Jay Street, Suite 200
Colusa, CA 95932
(530) 458-0500
www.colusacountyclerk.com

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

555 Escobar Street
P.O. Box 271
Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 335-7800
www.cocovote.us

DEL NORTE COUNTY

981 H Street, Room 160
Crescent City, CA 95531
(707) 465-0383
www.dnco.org

EL DORADO COUNTY

2850 Fairlane Court
P.O. Box 678001
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-7480
www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/elections

FRESNO COUNTY

2221 Kern Street
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 488-3246
www.co.fresno.ca.us

GLENN COUNTY

516 W. Sycamore Street, 2nd Floor
Willows, CA 95988
(530) 934-6414
www.countyofglenn.net/elections/home_page.asp

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

3033 H Street, Room 20
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 445-7678 or (707) 445-7481
www.co.humboldt.ca.us/election

IMPERIAL COUNTY

940 West Main Street, Suite 202
El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 482-4226
www.imperialcounty.net/elections

INYO COUNTY

168 N. Edwards Street
P.O. Box F
Independence, CA 93526
(760) 878-0224
www.inyocounty.us

KERN COUNTY

1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 868-3590
www.co.kern.ca.us/elections/

KINGS COUNTY-ELECTIONS

1400 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext. 4401
www.countyofkings.com/acr/elections/index.htm

LAKE COUNTY

255 N. Forbes Street, Room 209
Lakeport, CA 95453-4748
(707) 263-2372
www.co.lake.ca.us

LASSEN COUNTY

220 S. Lassen Street, Suite 5
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 251-8217
<http://clerk.lassencounty.org/registrat.htm>

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650-8350
(800) 481-8683 or (562) 466-1310
www.lavote.net

MADERA COUNTY

200 West 4th Street, 1st Floor
Madera, CA 93637
(559) 675-7720
www.madera-county.com/countyclerk/index.html

MARIN COUNTY

3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 121
San Rafael, CA 94903
P.O. Box E
San Rafael, CA 94913
(415) 499-6456
www.marinvotes.org

MARIPOSA COUNTY

4982 10th Street
P.O. Box 247
Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 966-2007
www.mariposacounty.org

MENDOCINO COUNTY

501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 463-4371
www.co.mendocino.ca.us/acr

MERCED COUNTY

2222 M Street, Room 14
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-7541
<http://web.co.merced.ca.us/elections/index.html>

MODOC COUNTY

204 S. Court Street, Room 204
P.O. Box 130
Alturas, CA 96101-0131
(530) 233-6200

MONO COUNTY

74 School Street, Annex I
P.O. Box 237
Bridgeport, CA 93517
(760) 932-5537
www.monocounty.ca.gov

MONTEREY COUNTY

1370-B South Main Street
P.O. Box 4400
Salinas, CA 93912
(831) 796-1499
www.montereycountyelections.us

NAPA COUNTY

900 Coombs Street, Suite 256
Napa, CA 94559
(707) 253-4321
www.co.napa.ca.us

NEVADA COUNTY

950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959
(530) 265-1298
www.mynevadacounty.com/elections

COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICES

ORANGE COUNTY

P.O. Box 11298
Santa Ana, CA 92711
(714) 567-7600
www.ocvote.com

PLACER COUNTY

P.O. Box 5278
Auburn, CA 95604
(530) 886-5650
www.placer.ca.gov/elections

PLUMAS COUNTY

520 Main Street, Room 102
Quincy, CA 95971
(530) 283-6256
www.countyofplumas.com

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

2724 Gateway Drive
Riverside, CA 92507-0918
(951) 486-7200
www.voteinfo.net

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

7000 65th Street, Suite A
Sacramento, CA 95823-2315
(916) 875-6451
www.elections.sacounty.net

SAN BENITO COUNTY

Courthouse
440 Fifth Street, Room 206
Hollister, CA 95023-3843
(831) 636-4016
www.sanbenitocountyelections.us

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

777 E. Rialto Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415
(909) 387-8300
www.sbcrv.com

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

5201 Ruffin Road, Suite I
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 565-5800
www.sdvote.com

SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, #48
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-4375
www.sfgov.org/site/elections

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

212 N. San Joaquin Street
Stockton, CA 95202
(209) 468-2885
www.sjcrv.org

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

1055 Monterey Street, D-120
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 781-5228
www.slocounty.ca.gov/clerk

SAN MATEO COUNTY

40 Tower Road
San Mateo, CA 94402
(650) 312-5222
www.shapethefuture.org

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

130 E. Victoria Street, Suite 200
P.O. Box 159
Santa Barbara, CA 93102
(800) SBC-VOTE
(805) 568-2200
www.sbcvvote.com

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

1555 Berger Drive, Building 2
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 299-VOTE or (866) 430-VOTE
www.sccvvote.org

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

701 Ocean Street, Room 210
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-4076
(831) 454-2060
www.votescount.com

SHASTA COUNTY

1643 Market Street
Redding, CA 96001
(530) 225-5730
www.elections.co.shasta.ca.us

SIERRA COUNTY

P.O. Drawer D
Downieville, CA 95936
(530) 289-3295
www.sierracounty.us

SISKIYOU COUNTY

510 N. Main Street
Yreka, CA 96097
(530) 842-8084 or
(888) 854-2000 ext. 8084
www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/clerk/index.htm

SOLANO COUNTY

675 Texas Street, Suite 2600
Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 784-6675
www.co.solano.ca.us/depts/rov/

SONOMA COUNTY

435 Fiscal Drive
P.O. Box 11485
Santa Rosa, CA 95406-1485
(707) 565-6800 or (800) 750-VOTE
www.sonoma-county.org/regvoter

STANISLAUS COUNTY

1021 I Street, Suite 101
Modesto, CA 95354-2331
(209) 525-5200
www.stanvote.com

SUTTER COUNTY

1435 Veterans Memorial Circle
Yuba City, CA 95993
(530) 822-7122
www.suttercounty.org

TEHAMA COUNTY

444 Oak Street, Room C
P.O. Box 250
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(530) 527-8190
www.co.tehama.ca.us/elections.cfm

TRINITY COUNTY

11 Court Street
P.O. Box 1215
Weaverville, CA 96093
(530) 623-1220
www.trinitycounty.org

TULARE COUNTY

5951 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277
(559) 733-6275
www.tularecoelections.org

TUOLUMNE COUNTY

Administration Center
2 S. Green Street
Sonora, CA 95370-4696
(209) 533-5570
www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov

VENTURA COUNTY

800 S. Victoria Avenue, L-1200
Ventura, CA 93009-1200
(805) 654-2664 or (805) 654-2781
recorder.countyofventura.org/elections.htm

YOLO COUNTY

625 Court Street, Room B05
Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8133
www.yoloelections.org

YUBA COUNTY

915 8th Street, Suite 107
Marysville, CA 95901-5273
(530) 749-7855
elections.co.yuba.ca.us

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 (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.

Citizens Redistricting Commission

On November 4, 2008, California voters passed Proposition 11, the Voters First Act (Act), which is California's new law calling for the selection of a Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) that will draw boundary lines for State Assembly, State Senate, and State Board of Equalization districts. Voters entrusted the California State Auditor with forming the Commission of Californians to implement the Act, and activity is under way to alert all interested persons.

If you are interested in applying to be a part of the Citizens Redistricting Commission, visit the California State Auditor's website today at www.bsa.ca.gov/bsa/prop11.php or contact the office at (866) 356-5217.

Check the website frequently for updates. The application process for the Commission will begin no later than January 1, 2010.