

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.

Supplemental Voter Information

This Voter Information Guide is current as of the August 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 (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.

About Initiatives

Often referred to as “direct democracy,” the initiative process is the power of the people to place measures on a statewide ballot. These measures can either create or change laws and amend the constitution. If the initiative proposes to create or change California laws, proponents must gather petition signatures of registered voters equal in number to five percent of the votes cast for all candidates for Governor in the most recent gubernatorial election. If the initiative proposes to amend the California Constitution, proponents must gather petition signatures of registered voters equal in number to eight percent of the votes cast for all candidates for Governor in the most recent gubernatorial election. To be enacted, an initiative requires a simple majority of the total votes cast.

About Judicial Retention Elections

Justices of the California Supreme Court and California Courts of Appeal serve 12-year terms in office.

When a state Supreme Court or Court of Appeal justice is near the end of a term in office, voters are asked to decide if the justice will be retained (continue to serve) for an additional term. This is known as a retention election.

In retention elections, justices do not run against opposing candidates. If a justice receives a majority of “yes” votes, the justice may remain in his or her position. If a justice receives a majority of “no” votes, the justice will complete his or her current term, then a new justice will be appointed by the governor.

State Supreme Court justices hold statewide office so all California voters participate in Supreme Court retention elections. Background information on each of the Supreme Court justices up for retention election this November is available on page 91. For additional information about the California Supreme Court justices, visit www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov or www.courtinfo.ca.gov.

Courts of Appeal justices serve in one of six districts in California. Only registered voters within an appellate district are asked to determine if the justices of that district will be retained. For information about the Court of Appeal justices up for retention election in your district in November, visit www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov or www.courtinfo.ca.gov.

District-Level Candidate Statements

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

California law includes voluntary spending limits for candidates running for state legislative office (not federal office such as United States House of Representatives and United States Senate). Legislative candidates who choose to keep their campaign expenses under specified dollar amounts may purchase space in county sample ballot booklets for a candidate statement of up to 250 words.

State Senate candidates who have volunteered to limit their campaign spending may spend no more than \$1,165,000 in a general election. Assembly candidates who have volunteered to limit their campaign spending may spend no more than \$906,000 in a general election.

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

California’s voluntary campaign spending limits do not apply to candidates for United States House of Representatives. Therefore, all U.S. House of Representatives candidates have *the option* to purchase space for a candidate statement in county sample ballot booklets. (Some U.S. House of Representatives candidates choose not to purchase space for a candidate statement.)

Large Print and Audio Voter Information Guides

The Secretary of State provides the Official Voter Information Guide in large-print and audio formats for people who are 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 MP3 version of the Official Voter Information Guide, go to www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov/audio.

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).

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.

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 instead want to vote at a polling place.

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.

(Note: If you moved to your new address after October 18, 2010, you may vote at your old polling place.)

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 of service;
 - 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.

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 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.

Note: If you moved to your new address after October 18, 2010, you may vote at your old polling place.

COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICES

ALAMEDA COUNTY

1225 Fallon Street, Room G-1
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 272-6933 or (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/
index.aspx?page=77](http://www.co.amador.ca.us/index.aspx?page=77)

BUTTE COUNTY

25 County Center Drive, Suite 110
Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 538-7761
<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, Suite 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 or (800) 730-4322
www.edcgov.us/elections

FRESNO COUNTY

2221 Kern Street
Fresno, CA 93722
(559) 600-VOTE
www.co.fresno.ca.us/elections

GLENN COUNTY

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

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 Main Street, Suite 202
El Centro, CA 92251
(760) 482-4226 or (760) 482-4201
www.co.imperial.ca.us

INYO COUNTY

168 N. Edwards Street
P.O. Drawer F
Independence, CA 93526
(760) 878-0224
[www.inyocounty.us/Recorder/
Clerk-Recorder.html](http://www.inyocounty.us/Recorder/Clerk-Recorder.html)

KERN COUNTY

1115 Truxtun Avenue, 1st Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 868-3590 or (800) 452-8683
www.co.kern.ca.us/elections/

KINGS COUNTY

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

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://www.lassencounty.org/govt/dept/
country_clerk/registrar/Elections.asp](http://www.lassencounty.org/govt/dept/country_clerk/registrar/Elections.asp)

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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

MADERA COUNTY

200 W. 4th Street
Madera, CA 93637
(559) 675-7720
www.madera-county.com

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/
index.aspx?nid=87](http://www.mariposacounty.org/index.aspx?nid=87)

MENDOCINO COUNTY

501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 463-4371 or (707) 463-4372
www.co.mendocino.ca.us

MERCED COUNTY

2222 M Street, Room 14
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-7541
www.mercedelections.org

MODOC COUNTY

204 S. Court Street
Alturas, CA 96101
(530) 233-6205

MONO COUNTY

74 School Street, Annex I
P.O. Box 237
Bridgeport, CA 93517
(760) 932-5537 or (760) 932-5534
www.monocounty.ca.gov

MONTEREY COUNTY

1370 B South Main Street
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 796-1499 or (866) 887-9274
www.montereycountyelections.us

NAPA COUNTY

900 Coombs Street, #256
Napa, CA 94559
(707) 253-4321 or (707) 253-4374
www.countyofnapa.org

NEVADA COUNTY

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

ORANGE COUNTY

1300 S. Grand Avenue, Building C
Santa Ana, CA 92705
P.O. Box 11298
Santa Ana, CA 92711
(714) 567-7606
www.ocvote.com

PLACER COUNTY

2956 Richardson Drive
P.O. Box 5278
Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 886-5650 or (800) 824-8683
www.placerelections.com

PLUMAS COUNTY

520 Main Street, Room 102
Quincy, CA 95971
(530) 283-6256 or (530) 283-6129
www.countyofplumas.com

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

2724 Gateway Drive
Riverside, CA 92507
(951) 486-7200 or
(800) 773-VOTE (8683)
www.voteinfo.net

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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

SAN BENITO COUNTY

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

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

777 E. Rialto Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0770
(909) 387-8300 or (800) 881-8683
www.sbcrov.com

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

5201 Ruffin Road, Suite I
San Diego, CA 92123
P.O. Box 85656
San Diego, CA 92186
(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.sfelections.org

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

44 N. San Joaquin Street, Suite 350
Stockton, CA 95209
P.O. Box 810
Stockton, CA 95201
(209) 468-2885 or (209) 468-2890
www.sjcrov.org

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

1055 Monterey Street, D120
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 781-5228 or (805) 781-5080
www.slocounty.ca.gov/clerk

SAN MATEO COUNTY

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

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

4440-A Calle Real
P.O. Box 61510
Santa Barbara, CA 93160-1510
(800) SBC-VOTE or
(805) 568-2200
www.sbcvote.com

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

1555 Berger Drive, Bldg. 2
P.O. Box 611360
San Jose, CA 95161
(408) 282-3005
www.sccvote.org

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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

SHASTA COUNTY

1643 Market Street
Redding, CA 96001
P.O. Box 990880
Redding, CA 96099-0880
(530) 225-5730
www.elections.co.shasta.ca.us

SIERRA COUNTY

100 Courthouse Square, Room 111
P.O. Drawer D
Downieville, CA 95936
(530) 289-3295
www.sierracounty.ws

SISKIYOU COUNTY

510 N. Main Street
Yreka, CA 96097
(530) 842-8084
www.co.siskiyou.ca.us

SOLANO COUNTY

675 Texas Street, Suite 2600
Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 784-6675
www.solanocounty.com/depts/rov/

SONOMA COUNTY

435 Fiscal Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
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
Modesto, CA 95354
(209) 525-5200 or
(209) 525-5230 (Spanish)
www.stanvote.com

SUTTER COUNTY

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

TEHAMA COUNTY

444 Oak Street, Room C
P.O. Box 250
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(530) 527-8190 or (866) 289-5307
www.co.tehama.ca.us

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) 624-7300
www.tularecoelections.org

TUOLUMNE COUNTY

2 South Green Street
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 533-5552
www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov

VENTURA COUNTY

800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1200
(805) 654-2700
recorder.countyofventura.org/elections.htm

YOLO COUNTY

625 Court Street, Room B05
Woodland, CA 95695
P.O. Box 1820
Woodland, CA 95776
(530) 666-8133 or (800) 649-9943
www.yoloelections.org

YUBA COUNTY

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

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 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 31 days after the date of the election.

Special Arrangements for Military and Overseas Voters

Federal law allows United States citizens serving in the military or living overseas to register for and vote using special absentee ballot procedures. To qualify as a “special absentee voter,” you must be:

- An active duty member of the military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard) or other uniformed service;
- A spouse or dependent of a member of the military;
- A member of the Merchant Marine; or
- A civilian U.S. citizen living outside the United States.

You can register to vote and complete a special absentee ballot application at www.fvap.gov.

For more information about registering to vote as a special absentee voter, go to www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_mov.htm.

As a special absentee voter, you can fax or mail your ballot to your county elections office. If you fax your voted ballot, you must also include an “Oath of Voter” form that waives your right to a confidential vote. All ballots must be received by the county elections office before the polls close at 8:00 p.m. (PST) on Election Day. Postmarks do not count.

If you are recalled to military service less than seven days before Election Day, you can go to the elections office in the county to which you are recalled and apply for an absentee ballot.

Contact information for all 58 California county elections offices is at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_d.htm.