

How to Vote

You have two choices when voting. You may vote in person at a polling place in your county or you may vote by mail.

You do not have to vote in every contest on your ballot. Your vote will be counted for each contest you vote in.

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 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 obtain your polling place address by visiting www.sos.ca.gov/elections/fnd-polling-place.htm or calling the Secretary of State's toll-free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683). 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. State and federal laws require that all voters be able to cast their ballots privately and independently. 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

If you are not a permanent vote-by-mail voter (formerly known as an absentee voter), you still may choose to vote by mail in this election. Your county sample ballot booklet contains an application for a vote-by-mail ballot. The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot from your county elections office is October 30. 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. 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.

Vote-by-mail ballots must be received by county elections offices no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, so be sure to mail your vote-by-mail ballot a few days before Election Day.

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 to 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.

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. 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 preference; 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.

QUICK-REFERENCE GUIDE

PROP 40 REDISTRICTING. STATE SENATE DISTRICTS. REFERENDUM.

SUMMARY

Put on the Ballot by Petition Signatures

A “Yes” vote approves, and a “No” vote rejects, new State Senate districts drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission. If rejected, districts will be adjusted by officials supervised by the California Supreme Court. Fiscal Impact: Approving the referendum would have no fiscal impact on the state and local governments. Rejecting the referendum would result in a one-time cost of about \$1 million to the state and counties.

WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

YES A YES vote on this measure means: The state Senate district boundaries certified by the Citizens Redistricting Commission would continue to be used.

NO A NO vote on this measure means: The California Supreme Court would appoint special masters to determine new state Senate district boundaries.

ARGUMENTS

PRO Yes on 40 protects the State Senate maps drawn by the voter-approved Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. Yes on 40 upholds the will of California voters to hold politicians accountable by keeping them out of the redistricting process. Good government groups, seniors, businesses and taxpayers recommend “Yes on 40.”

CON As sponsors of Proposition 40, our intention was to overturn the commission’s State Senate districts for 2012. However, due to the State Supreme Court’s ruling that kept these districts in place for 2012, we have suspended our campaign and no longer seek a NO vote.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FOR
Yes on 40
Hold Politicians Accountable
1215 K Street, Suite 2260
Sacramento, CA 95814
(866) 408-4527
Info@HoldPoliticiansAccountable.org
www.HoldPoliticiansAccountable.org

AGAINST
FAIRDISTRICTS2012.com

Visit the Secretary of State’s Website to:

- Research campaign contributions and lobbying activity
<http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov>
- View voter guides in other languages
www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov
- Find your polling place
www.sos.ca.gov/elections/find-polling-place.htm
- Obtain vote-by-mail ballot information
www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_m.htm
- Get helpful information for first-time voters
www.sos.ca.gov/elections/new-voter
- Watch live election results after polls close on Election Day
<http://vote.sos.ca.gov>

About Ballot Arguments

The Secretary of State does not write ballot arguments. Arguments in favor of and against ballot measures are provided by the proponents and opponents of the ballot measures. The submitted argument language cannot be verified for accuracy or changed in any way unless a court orders that the language be changed.

For more information about your voting rights, see page 143 of this guide.

Elections in California

The Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act, which took effect January 1, 2011, requires that all candidates for a voter-nominated office be listed on the same ballot. Previously known as partisan offices, voter-nominated offices are state legislative offices, U.S. congressional offices, and state constitutional offices. Only the two candidates receiving the most votes—regardless of party preference—move on to the general election regardless of vote totals.

Write-in candidates for voter-nominated offices can only run in the primary election. However, a write-in candidate can only move on to the general election if the candidate is one of the top two vote-getters in the primary election. Additionally, there is no independent nomination process for a general election.

California's new open primary system does not apply to candidates running for U.S. President, county central committee, or local offices.

California law requires that the following information be printed in this guide.

Party-Nominated/Partisan Offices

Political parties may formally nominate candidates for party-nominated/partisan offices at the primary election. A nominated candidate will represent that party as its official candidate for the specific office at the general election and the ballot will reflect an official designation. The top vote-getter for each party at the primary election moves on to the general election. Parties also elect officers of county central committees at the primary election.

A voter can only vote in the primary election of the political party he or she has disclosed a preference for upon registering to vote. However, a political party may allow a person who has declined to disclose a party preference to vote in that party's primary election.

Voter-Nominated Offices

Political parties are not entitled to formally nominate candidates for voter-nominated offices at the primary election. A candidate nominated for a voter-nominated office at the primary election is the nominee of the people and not the official nominee of any party at the general election. A candidate for nomination to a voter-nominated office shall have his or her party preference, or lack of party preference, stated on the ballot, but the party preference designation is selected solely by the candidate and is shown for the information of the voters only. It does not mean the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party designated, or that there is an affiliation between the party and candidate, and no candidate nominated by the voters shall be deemed to be the officially nominated candidate of any political party. In the county sample ballot booklet, parties may list the candidates for voter-nominated offices who have received the party's official endorsement.

Any voter may vote for any candidate for a voter-nominated office, if they meet the other qualifications required to vote for that office. The top two vote-getters at the primary election move on to the general election for the voter-nominated office even if both candidates have specified the same party preference designation. No party is entitled to have a candidate with its party preference designation move on to the general election, unless the candidate is one of the two highest vote-getters at the primary election.

Nonpartisan Offices

Political parties are not entitled to nominate candidates for nonpartisan offices at the primary election, and a candidate at the primary election is not the official nominee of any party for the specific office at the general election. A candidate for nomination to a nonpartisan office may not designate his or her party preference, or lack of party preference, on the ballot. The top two vote-getters at the primary election move on to the general election for the nonpartisan office.

U.S. Presidential Candidates

California Elections Code section 9084 requires that presidential candidate information be made available on the California Secretary of State's website. Visit www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov for more details.

Legislative and Congressional Candidates

This voter guide includes information about statewide ballot measures and U.S. Senate candidates. Each State Senate, Assembly, and U.S. House of Representatives 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 U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. 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 \$1,169,000 in a general election. Assembly candidates who have volunteered to limit their campaign spending may spend no more than \$909,000 in a general election.

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

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.)

California's voluntary campaign spending limits do not apply to candidates for federal offices, including the U.S. Senate. Therefore, all U.S. Senate candidates have the option to purchase space for a candidate statement in this voter guide. (Some U.S. Senate candidates choose not to purchase space for a candidate statement.)

Candidates for U.S. Senate are:

- Dianne Feinstein
- Elizabeth Emken

For the list of all nominated candidates, go to www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_cand.htm.

Large Print and Audio Voter Guides

To order a large-print, cassette or compact disc version of the Official Voter Information Guide, go to www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov/alt-versions 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.

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

Voter Registration

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 preference.

Note: If you moved to your new address after October 22, 2012, you may vote at your former polling place.

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.

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 in county jail (serving a state prison sentence or serving a term of more than one year in jail for a defined "low-level" felony), or on parole, post-release community supervision, or post-sentencing probation for a felony conviction, and not judged by a court to be mentally incompetent.

State and Federal Voter Identification Requirements

In most cases, California voters are not required to show identification before casting ballots. 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. Following is a partial list of the more than 30 acceptable forms of identification. You can also visit the Secretary of State's website and look for "Help America Vote Act Identification Standards" at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_regs.htm.

- Driver license or state-issued ID card
- Credit or debit card
- Passport
- Military ID
- Employee ID card
- Student ID