Ways to Vote



Vote by Mail

Request a vote-by-mail ballot by May 31.

Return by mail—must be postmarked on or before **June 7** and received by your county elections office no later than **June 10**.

Return in person—to your county elections office or any polling place in your county before 8:00 p.m. on **June 7**.



Vote Early in Person

Some counties offer early voting at a few locations before Election Day.

Contact your county elections office to see if they offer early voting.

County contact information can be found on page 29 or by visiting the Secretary of State's website at: http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices.



Vote at the Polls on Election Day

Polls are open on Election Day: June 7 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The location of your polling place is printed on the back page of the sample ballot booklet your county elections official mailed to you.

You can also find your polling place:

- © By calling (800) 345-VOTE (8683)
- Online at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place
- By texting *Vote* to GOVOTE (468683)

Elections in California

There are two different types of primary elections in California. The results of the primary election determine the candidates who will run in the general election in November. The types of primary elections are:

Presidential (Party-Nominated/Partisan Offices)

- Office on the ballot: U.S. President
- Who can vote: Only voters who registered with the same political party as the candidate (some parties allow voters who registered with no party preference to vote in their primary. Visit http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/political-parties/no-party-preference for more information).
- Result: The candidate who moves on to the general election is the candidate nominated by their national
 political party and may not be the candidate that was elected by popular vote in the California primary
 election.

California Open Primary (Voter-Nominated Offices)

- Offices on the ballot: U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, statewide offices, and state legislative
 offices
- Who can vote: Any voter may vote for any one candidate in each contest, regardless of party preference.
- Result: The top-two candidates, regardless of party preference, who receive the most votes in each primary contest move on to the general election. After a top-two primary, a general election must be held even if one candidate receives a majority of the vote (at least 50 percent +1) and even if there is only one candidate in the primary election.
- California's open primary system does not apply to candidates running for U.S. President, county central committee, or local offices.

California law requires the following information to 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.

Top Contributors to Statewide Candidates and Ballot Measures

When a committee (a person or group of people who receive or spend money for the purpose of influencing voters to support or oppose candidates or ballot measures) supports or opposes a ballot measure or candidate and raises at least \$1 million, the committee must report its top 10 contributors to the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). The committee must update the top 10 list when there is any change.



These lists are available on the FPPC website at http://www.fppc.ca.gov/transparency/top-contributors.html.

Assistance for Voters with Disabilities

State and federal laws require polling places to be physically accessible to voters with disabilities. County elections officials inspect each site and often make temporary modifications for Election Day. Every person who works in a polling place is trained in election laws and voter rights, including the need to make reasonable modifications of policies and procedures to ensure equal access.

State and federal laws require that all voters be able to cast their ballots privately and independently. Each polling place must have at least one voting machine that allows all voters, including those who are blind or visually impaired, to cast a ballot without assistance. The voting machine permits voters to verify their vote choices and, if there is an error, allows voters to correct those choices before submitting their ballot.

Check your sample ballot



Your county sample ballot booklet will:

- Describe how persons with disabilities can vote privately and independently
- Display a wheelchair symbol if your polling place is accessible to voters with disabilities

At the polling place

If you need help marking your ballot, you may choose up to two people to help you. This person cannot be:

- Your employer or anyone who works for your employer
- Your labor union leader or anyone who works for your labor union

Curbside voting allows you to park as close as possible to the voting area. Elections officials will bring you a roster to sign, a ballot, and any other voting materials you may need, whether you are actually at a curb or in a car.

Contact your county elections office to see if curbside voting is available at your polling place.

State Voter Information Guide vs. County Sample Ballot Booklet

As a registered voter you will receive two information resources by mail:

State Voter Information Guide (this guide)

Contains information about federal candidates and statewide propositions.

Candidate Information:

President (online at www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov)
U.S. Senate

State Propositions:

Proposition 50

Your County Sample Ballot Booklet

Contains a sample of your ballot and information about local candidates, ballot measures, and your polling place location.

Candidate Information:

U.S. Representative in Congress State Senator Member of the State Assembly Other local offices

Local Ballot Measures:

Vary by county

Provisional Voting

If your name is not on the voter list at your polling place, you have the right to vote a provisional ballot.

What Is a Provisional Ballot?

A provisional ballot is a regular ballot that is placed in a special envelope prior to being put in the ballot box.

Who Casts a Provisional Ballot?

Provisional ballots are ballots cast by voters who:

- Believe they are registered to vote even though their names are not on the official voter registration list at the polling place.
- Vote by mail but did not receive their ballot or do not have their ballot with them, and instead want to vote at a polling place.

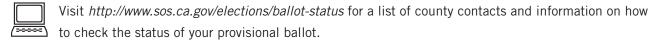
What Happens After You Cast a Provisional Ballot?

Your provisional ballot will be counted after elections officials have confirmed that you are registered to vote in that county and you did not already vote in that election.

You may vote a provisional ballot at any polling place in the county in which you are registered to vote, however, only the elections contests you are eligible to vote for will be counted.

How Can You Check The Status of Your Provisional Ballot?

Every voter who casts a provisional ballot has the right to find out from their county elections official if the ballot was counted and, if not, the reason why it was not counted.



Election Day Information

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 7. If you are in line before 8:00 p.m., you can still vote.

4 ways to find your polling place:

- Check the back cover of the sample ballot booklet your county elections official mailed to you
- © Calling (800) 345-VOTE (8683)
- Online at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place
- Text *Vote* to GOVOTE (468683)

County Elections Offices

Alameda County

(510) 272-6973

www.acgov.org/rov

Alpine County (530) 694-2281

www.alpinecountyca.gov

Amador County

(209) 223-6465

www.co.amador.ca.us/government/elections

Butte County

(530) 538-7761 or

(800) 894-7761 (within Butte

County)

http://buttevotes.net

Calaveras County

(209) 754-6376 or (209) 754-6375

www.elections.calaverasgov.us/

elections.aspx

Colusa County

(530) 458-0500 or (877) 458-0501

www.countyofcolusa.org/elections

Contra Costa County

(925) 335-7800

www.cocovote.us

Del Norte County

(707) 464-7216 or (707) 465-0383

www.co.del-norte.ca.us

El Dorado County

(530) 621-7480 or (800) 730-4322

www.edcgov.us/elections

Fresno County

(559) 600-8683

www.co.fresno.ca.us/elections

Glenn County

(530) 934-6414

www.countyofglenn.net/elections

Humboldt County

(707) 445-7481

humboldtgov.org/elections

Imperial County

(442) 265-1074

www.co.imperial.ca.us

Inyo County

(760) 878-0224

elections.inyocounty.us

Kern County

(661) 868-3590

www.co.kern.ca.us/elections

Kings County

(559) 852-4890

www.countyofkings.com

Lake County

(707) 263-2372

www.co.lake.ca.us/government/directory/

rov.htm

Lassen County

(530) 251-8217 or (530) 251-8352

http://www.lassencounty.org

Los Angeles County

(800) 815-2666 Option 2 or

(562) 466-1323

www.lavote.net

Madera County

(559) 675-7720

www.madera-county.com

Marin County

(415) 473-6456

www.marinvotes.org

Mariposa County

(209) 966-2007 www.mariposacounty.org

Mendocino County

(707) 234-6819

www.co.mendocino.ca.us/acr/elections

Merced County

(209) 385-7541 or (800) 561-0619

www.mercedelections.org

Modoc County

(530) 233-6205

www.co.modoc.ca.us

Mono County

(760) 932-5537 or (760) 932-5530

www.monocounty.ca.gov/elections

Monterey County

(831) 796-1499 or (866) 887-9274

www.montereycountyelections.us/

Napa County

(707) 253-4321 or (707) 253-4374

www.countyofnapa.org

Nevada County

(530) 265-7115

www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/elections/

Pages/Home.aspx

Orange County

(714) 567-7600

www.ocvote.com

Placer County

(530) 886-5650

www.placerelections.com

Plumas County

(530) 283-6256 or (844) 676-8683

www.countyofplumas.com

Riverside County

(951) 486-7200 or (800) 773-8683

www.voteinfo.net

Sacramento County

(916) 875-6451 or (800) 762-8019

www.elections.saccounty.net

San Benito County

(831) 636-4016 or (831) 636-4017

www.sbcvote.us

San Bernardino County

(909) 387-8300 or (800) 881-8683

www.sbcountyelections.com

San Diego County

(858) 565-5800

www.sdvote.com

San Francisco County

(415) 554-4375

www.sfelections.org

San Joaquin County (209) 468-2890

www.sjcrov.org

San Luis Obispo County

(805) 781-5228 or (805) 781-5080

www.slovote.com

San Mateo County

(650) 312-5222

www.shapethefuture.org

Santa Barbara County (805) 568-2200 or (800) 722-8683

www.sbcvote.com

Santa Clara County

(408) 299-8683 or (866) 430-8683

www.sccvote.org

Santa Cruz County

(831) 454-2060

www.votescount.com

Shasta County

(530) 225-5730

www.co.shasta.ca.us

Sierra County

(530) 289-3295 www.sierracounty.ca.gov

Siskiyou County

(530) 842-8084

www.sisqvotes.org **Solano County**

(707) 784-6675

www.solanocounty.com/elections

Sonoma County

(707) 565-6800 or (800) 750-VOTE

vote.sonoma-county.org

Stanislaus County

(209) 525-5200 or (209) 525-5201

www.stanvote.com

Sutter County

(530) 822-7122 or (530) 713-3226

www.suttercounty.org/elections

Tehama County

(530) 527-8190 www.co.tehama.ca.us

Trinity County (530) 623-1220

www.trinitycounty.org

Tulare County

(559) 624-7300

http://www.tularecounty.ca.gov/

registrarofvoters/

Tuolumne County

(209) 533-5570 www.co.tuolumne.ca.us/elections

Ventura County

(805) 654-2664

venturavote.org

Yolo County

(530) 666-8133 or (800) 649-9943 www.yoloelections.org

Yuba County

(530) 749-7855

www.yubaelections.org

Audio & Large Print Voter Information Guides

This guide is available at no cost in English, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.

To order:

- © Call the Secretary of State's toll-free voter hotline at (800) 345-8683
- Visit www.sos.ca.gov
- Download an audio MP3 version at www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov/en/audio

Voter Registration

If you have already registered to vote, you do not need to reregister *unless* you change your name, home address, mailing address or if you want to change or select a political party.

You can register to vote online at *RegisterToVote.ca.gov*. Or call the Secretary of State's free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683) to get a form mailed to you.

Voter registration forms can be found at most post offices, libraries, city and county government offices, county elections offices, and the California Secretary of State's Office.

Voter Registration Privacy Information

Safe at Home Confidential Voter Registration Program: Certain voters facing life-threatening (i.e. domestic violence, stalking victims) situations may qualify for confidential voter status. For more information, contact the Secretary of State's Safe at Home program toll-free at (877) 322-5227 or visit http://www.sos.ca.gov/registries/safe-home.

Voter Information Privacy: Information on your voter registration affidavit will be used by elections officials to send you official information on the voting process, such as the location of your polling place and the issues and candidates that will appear on the ballot. Commercial use of voter registration information is prohibited by law and is a misdemeanor. Voter information may be provided to a candidate for office, a ballot measure committee, or other person for election, scholarly, journalistic, political, or governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State. Driver license and social security numbers, or your signature as shown on your voter registration card, cannot be released for these purposes. If you have any questions about the use of voter information or wish to report suspected misuse of such information, please call the Secretary of State's Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

DATES TO REMEMBER!





REMEMBER TO VOTE!

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day!

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May 9, 2016

First day to vote-by-mail.

May 23, 2016

Last day to register to vote.

May 31, 2016

Last day that county elections officials will accept any voter's application for a vote-by-mail ballot.

JUNE										
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June 7, 2016

Election Day!