

Know Your

California Elections 2016



ASIAN AMERICANS
ADVANCING
JUSTICE
CALIFORNIA

Voting Rights



★ **Deadline to register to vote: Monday, October 24, 2016**

★ **General Election: Tuesday, November 8, 2016**

CAN I VOTE IN THIS ELECTION?

To vote in an election, you must first register to vote!
You CAN register to vote if you are:

- a U.S. citizen;
- a resident of California;
- will be 18 years old or older on Election Day;
- not currently in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony; and
- not found by a court to be “mentally incompetent.”

What if I don't know if I'm already registered to vote?

You can check online to see if you are registered to vote at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/registration-status, but you can always simply register again. You should also re-register to vote if you have **changed your name or your address**.

Do I need to read and write English in order to register to vote?

No, and you should be able to get at least some voting materials in Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Spanish, Thai, or Vietnamese. Check the box on the voter registration form for the language you prefer.

How do I register to vote?

The voter registration deadline is 15 days before the election: **October 24, 2016**. You can register:

- at www.registertovote.ca.gov (you can register online in 10 languages);
- at the DMV, post office, library, or your county election office; or
- by calling **(800) 345-VOTE (8683)** to request a voter registration form.

Do I have to choose a political party?

No, you can register with “No Party Preference” or leave that section blank.

Will I get information about what's going to be on the ballot?

Yes. Prior to Election Day, state and county elections officials will mail you lots of information about the candidates and propositions on the ballot.



HOW DO I VOTE BY MAIL?

You can vote by mail, which means that about a month before Election Day, you will receive your ballot in the mail. You can return the ballot by mail or drop it off at a polling place on Election Day.

You can sign up to become a vote-by-mail voter while registering to vote. If you are already registered to vote, you can download a vote-by-mail application at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail/.

What's the deadline for returning my vote-by-mail ballot?

Your vote-by-mail ballot must be **postmarked by Election Day**. You can also drop it off at any polling place in your county before 8 p.m. on Election Day.

HOW DO I VOTE ON ELECTION DAY?

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2016. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

You simply walk in, find the poll workers sitting behind the main table, and give them your name and address. **Make sure to ask if a ballot is available in your preferred language.**

Where do I vote?

The sample ballot you receive from your county elections office prior to the election will list your assigned polling place. You can also find your polling place here: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place/.

Do I need to show my ID when voting?

In almost all instances, no. You only need to show documents before voting in California if you are voting for the first time and you did not include your driver's license number, state ID number, OR Social Security Number when you registered to vote. Lots of documents will suffice; call your elections office in advance if you are concerned about your lack of identification.

Can I bring someone to help me vote?

Yes. California law allows you to bring up to two people to your polling place to help you vote, as long as they do not represent your employer or your union. Bring a family member or friend.



PROBLEMS AT THE POLLS

What if I'm not on the voter list?

If you are not on the voter list, ask a poll worker to check all lists again, including any supplemental lists. If they still cannot find your name, ask if you are in the wrong polling place and if the poll worker can help you identify the correct polling place. You can also find your polling place at: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place/.

To report problems on Election Day, call:

- ☛ **866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)** for assistance in English
- ☛ **888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683)** for assistance in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, and Filipino/Tagalog
- ☛ **888-Ve-Y-Vota (888-839-8682)** for assistance in English and Spanish

In Los Angeles, you can call these hotlines:

Korean: 213-241-8840 **Chinese:** 213-241-8841
Khmer: 213-241-8842 **Thai:** 213-241-8844
Filipino/Tagalog: 213-241-8845
Vietnamese: 213-241-8843

Don't let anyone take your vote away!

If you cannot figure out where you are registered or which polling place is correct, do not give up!

Ask for a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot is a ballot that will be counted after elections officials have confirmed your eligibility and confirmed that you voted in your county of residence.

What if someone tries to intimidate or harass me?

Tell a worker at the polling place right away. If the poll worker is the one harassing you, or the poll worker is not helpful, call one of the phone numbers listed on this flyer.

WILL BALLOTS BE AVAILABLE IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH?

In these California counties, **all voting materials** should be translated into multiple languages:

- ★ **Alameda, San Diego, Santa Clara:** Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Vietnamese
- ★ **Los Angeles:** Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese
- ★ **Orange:** Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese
- ★ **Sacramento, San Mateo:** Spanish, Chinese
- ★ **San Francisco:** Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog

Even if your preferred language is not on this list, **you may be able to get translated sample ballots in your neighborhood polling place** if the neighborhood has enough residents who speak your language. You can refer to the translated sample ballots when voting, but you must cast your vote on a ballot in English. **Translated sample ballots are not available to vote-by-mail voters.**

To find out before Election Day what translated materials will be available, call your county elections office. You can find the office's number here: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices/.

★ **When you go vote** on Election Day, ask the staff working at your polling place if translated materials are available and if the staff present speaks your preferred language.

To call California's Chief Elections Official for help: 800-345-VOTE (800-345-8683)



ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE - CALIFORNIA

protects the voting rights of Asian American, Latino, and immigrant communities in California.

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