

This factsheet is for **all counties** except Madera, Napa, Nevada, San Mateo, and Sacramento Counties.

KNOW YOUR

# VOTING RIGHTS



CALIFORNIA 2018

General Election:  
**Tuesday, November 6, 2018**  
Voter Registration Deadline:  
**Monday, October 22, 2018**

## Can I Vote in This Election?

### How Do I Get Started?

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

- a U.S. citizen;
- a resident of California;
- will be 18 years 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.”

### How Do I Register to Vote?

The deadline is 15 days before the election:

**October 22, 2018.** You can register:

- online at [www.registertovote.ca.gov](http://www.registertovote.ca.gov);
- at the DMV, post office, library, or your county elections office; or
- by calling 800-345-VOTE (8683) to request a voter registration form.

### What If I Don't Know If I'm Already Registered to Vote?

You can check online to see if you are registered at <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov>. If you are unsure, you can always register again. You should also re-register to vote if you have changed your name or your address.

### What If I Miss the Voter Registration Deadline?

If you miss the voter registration deadline on October 22, 2018, you can still register to vote through “conditional voter registration” (CVR), which allows you to register and vote (at the same time) after the voter registration deadline. However, CVR is only available at limited county locations, including your county elections office. Check where CVR is offered by contacting your county elections office: [www.sos.ca.gov/county-elections-offices](http://www.sos.ca.gov/county-elections-offices).

### Do I Have to Choose a Political Party?

No. If you want to be independent, you can register with “No Party Preference” or leave that section blank. Be careful! Registering with the American Independent Party is not the same as registering as an independent.

### How Do I Vote on Election Day?

**Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2018.**

**Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

Walk into your polling place, find the main table, and give the staff (known as “poll workers”) your name and address. Ask the poll workers if a ballot is available in your preferred language.

### Where Do I Vote?

The county voter information guide (also known as a “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](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place).



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

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### Do I Need to Show My ID When Voting?

You only need to show identification before voting in California if you did not provide identification when registering to vote. Lots of documents will suffice. Call your elections office in advance if you have questions.

### 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.

### What If I Run Into Problems At My Polling Place?

Do not give up! If the poll workers say there is a problem, ask for a provisional ballot, which is a regular ballot that will be counted after elections officials have confirmed your eligibility. Or, call one of these Election Day voter protection hotlines:

- **866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)** for assistance in English.
- **888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683)** for assistance in English and Asian languages.
- **888-Ve-Y-Vota (888-839-8682)** NALEO Educational Fund toll-free bilingual English-Spanish hotline.
- **844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287)** for assistance in Arabic.

### How Do I Vote By Mail?

You can sign up to vote by mail while registering to vote. If you already registered, you can download a vote-by-mail application at [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail). If you sign up to vote by mail, the county elections office will send you a ballot in the mail about a month before Election Day.

### What's the Deadline for Returning My Vote-By-Mail Ballot?

If you return your vote-by-mail ballot by mail, it 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. Remember to sign and date your vote-by-mail ballot for it to be counted!

### Will I Be Able to Vote in Languages Other than English?

Language assistance differs by county. Call your county elections office to find out what is available in your preferred language in your county. At your polling place on Election Day, ask if translated materials are available and if the staff present speaks your preferred language. The potential languages offered in your county may include:

Arabic	Armenian	Assyrian (Syriac)	Cambodian/ Khmer
Chinese	Farsi	Filipino/ Tagalog	Hmong
Ilocano	Korean	Punjabi	Spanish
Vietnamese	Japanese (LA only)	Hindi (LA only)	Thai (LA only)

### Special Counties

Madera, Napa, Nevada, Sacramento, and San Mateo Counties are implementing a new voting system under the Voter's Choice Act. You can find out more about this new voting system by contacting the organizations below.



**Asian Americans Advancing Justice - California** protects the voting rights of Asian American, Latino, and immigrant communities.

**Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus**  
55 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94111  
[www.advancingjustice-alc.org](http://www.advancingjustice-alc.org) (415) 896-1701  
Jonathan Stein, Staff Attorney and Program Manager, Voting Rights Program: [jonathans@advancingjustice-alc.org](mailto:jonathans@advancingjustice-alc.org)

**Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles**  
1145 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90017  
[www.advancingjustice-la.org](http://www.advancingjustice-la.org) (213) 977-7500  
Deanna Kitamura, Project Director, Voting Rights Project: [dkitamura@advancingjustice-la.org](mailto:dkitamura@advancingjustice-la.org)

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