

This factsheet is for **Madera, Napa, Nevada, San Mateo, and Sacramento Counties only.**

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 Miss the Voter Registration Deadline?

No problem! If you miss the voter registration deadline on October 22, 2018, you can still register to vote through “conditional voter registration,” which allows you to register and vote (at the same time) after the voter registration deadline.

Walk into any Vote Center in your county, register to vote, and then vote!

### 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.

### 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.

## Voting Is Getting Easier In Your County!

Five counties (**Napa, Nevada, Madera, Sacramento, and San Mateo**) are implementing a new voting system to make voting easier. All traditional polling places will be replaced with “vote centers,” which are like jumbo, full-service polling places, and if you are a registered voter in one of these counties, you will automatically receive a ballot in the mail.

You will have many choices on how to vote:

1. Return your ballot **by mail**
2. Drop it off without postage at one of many ballot “**drop boxes**” located throughout the county
3. Vote in-person at any “**Vote Center**”



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

This factsheet is for **Madera, Napa, Nevada, San Mateo, and Sacramento Counties only.**

### **What benefits do Vote Centers provide?**

- You can vote at *any* Vote Center in the county, not just the one closest to home.
- You can vote *early* – Vote Centers are open from 3 to 28 days before Election Day.
- You can register to vote *and* vote the same day at Vote Centers, even after the voter registration deadline.
- You can use translated language assistance and several accessible voting machines at every Vote Center.

### **What's the Deadline for Casting My 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 Vote Center or drop box 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! If you can't find your vote-by-mail ballot, or prefer voting in person, vote at a Vote Center.

### **How Do I Vote At a Vote Center?**

You can vote at **any** Vote Center in your county. You will receive information about Vote Center locations and hours by mail, or you can check your county elections website:

[www.sos.ca.gov/county-elections-offices](http://www.sos.ca.gov/county-elections-offices).

Walk into any Vote Center, 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.

### **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 the Vote Center?**

Do not give up! If the poll workers say there is a problem, ask to re-register to vote (which should solve a number of problems) or ask for a provisional ballot. Or, call an Election Day voter protection hotline:

- **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.

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

Language assistance differs by county. Call your county elections office or visit a Vote Center to ask if translated materials are available and if the staff present speaks your preferred language. Potential languages offered in your county may include:

**Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Hmong, Korean, Punjabi, Spanish, and Vietnamese.**



**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)**.