

## STOP AND DOUBLE-CHECK IF THIS IS THE RIGHT INFORMATION FOR YOU!

This factsheet is for voters in all California counties **except** Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Tuolumne counties.



**CALIFORNIA'S 2020  
PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

Tuesday,  
Feb 18, 2020

Voter Registration Deadline  
for the Primary Election

Tuesday,  
Mar 3, 2020

Primary Election

# Know Your Voting Rights



## 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 to vote 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: **Tuesday, February 18, 2020**. 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, which must be in the mail by February 18th. No stamp needed!

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

No problem! You can still use “same-day voter registration” at a polling place on Election Day. You’ll get a voter registration form and ballot to complete on the spot. That said, registering by the deadline will ensure you receive helpful materials about what is on the ballot by mail before Election Day.

Feb 18	Voter registration deadline
Feb 19 - March 2	Go to your county elections office to register and vote. Find your elections office address here: <a href="http://www.sos.ca.gov/county-elections-offices">www.sos.ca.gov/county-elections-offices</a> .
March 3	Go to any polling place in your county to register and vote. If you want to vote on all the local races, try to go to a polling place close to your home. Some counties have an online tool that allows you to determine your closest polling place. Alternatively, you can call and ask. Find your elections office phone number here: <a href="http://www.sos.ca.gov/county-elections-offices">www.sos.ca.gov/county-elections-offices</a> .

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

Check online to see if you are registered at [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](http://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov). Alternatively, you can always register again. You should always re-register to vote if you have changed your name, your address, or your political party.

### 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.

If you recently registered or re-registered to vote at the DMV, your party choice may have unintentionally changed. Use [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](http://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov) to double-check this preference and re-register if it is incorrect.

## I'm a “No Party Preference” Voter. How Do I Vote for a Presidential Candidate?

The default ballot for No Party Preference (NPP) voters does not have presidential candidates on it. NPP voters need to take extra steps to cast a vote in the presidential primary.

### To vote in the American Independent, Democratic, and Libertarian Party primaries:

- **If you vote by mail**, you should have received a postcard asking if you want to request a ballot for one of the parties that allows NPP voters to participate in their primaries. You can also call, email, or fax your county elections office with this request, or just take your vote-by-mail ballot to your polling place and exchange it for a ballot with presidential candidates on it.
- **If you vote at a polling place**, ask the poll worker for a ballot with presidential candidates when you check in.

### To vote in the Green, Peace and Freedom, and Republican Party primaries:

- **You must re-register to vote and choose a party preference** for one of these three parties to receive a ballot with their presidential candidates on it. If the registration deadline has passed, you can use same-day voter registration through Election Day. You can always re-register after the election to switch back to No Party Preference.

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### How Do I Vote By Mail?

You can sign up to vote by mail when registering to vote. The county elections office will send you a ballot in the mail before Election Day. You can vote on that ballot, put it in the envelope included, and drop it back in the mail. No stamp needed!

If you are already registered, you can download a vote-by-mail application at [sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail).

### How Do I Vote on Election Day?

Election Day is **Tuesday, March 3, 2020**. Polls will be open from **7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

Walk into your polling place, find the main table, and give the poll workers your name and address. If you prefer voting in a language other than English, ask if they have any materials in that language and if any of the poll workers speak that language.

### Where Do I Go to Vote?

Your assigned polling place can be found on the materials you receive from your county elections office prior to the election. You can also look it up here: [sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place](https://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 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. If this is the case, many documents will work. Call your elections office in advance if you are concerned.

### 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.

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

Language assistance differs by county. If you vote by mail, call your county elections office to find out what is available in your preferred language in your county. If you vote at a polling place, ask if translated materials are available and if the staff present speaks your preferred language. You can also look for signs in your language.

The languages that may be offered in your county include: **Arabic, Armenian, Assyrian/Syriac, Cambodian/Khmer, Chinese, Farsi, Filipino/Tagalog, Hmong, Ilocano, Korean, Punjabi, Spanish, Vietnamese, Japanese (LA only), Hindi (LA only), and Thai (LA only).**

You can find a handout on language access in voting that explains what languages are available in your county at: [www.advancingjustice-alc.org/know-your-voting-rights/](http://www.advancingjustice-alc.org/know-your-voting-rights/).



### What If I Run Into Problems at a Vote Center?

Do not give up! **Ask to use same-day voter registration** to re-register and vote. If you are unable to do so for some reason, **ask for a provisional ballot**, which is a ballot that will be counted after Election Day if elections officials confirm your eligibility.

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, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Korean, Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, and Tagalog.
- **888-Ve-Y-Vota (888-839-8682)** NALEO Educational Fund toll-free bilingual English-Spanish hotline.

### Different Voting System in Voter's Choice Act (VCA) Counties

Fifteen counties are implementing a voting system under the Voter's Choice Act: Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Tuolumne.

For more information on voting in these counties, you can find the appropriate version of this handout at [advancingjustice-alc.org/know-your-voting-rights](http://advancingjustice-alc.org/know-your-voting-rights).