Know Your Voting Rights

Getting ready to vote

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.”

Already registered?
Check and update your voter registration information. Use https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov to:
- Confirm your mailing address
- Add or update an email address to get timely information from your county elections office
- Indicate your preferred language to get translated materials if they are available in your area!

Want to register?
Through **Monday, October 19th** you can register:
- online at 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 **October 19th**. No stamp needed!

What If I Miss the Voter Registration Deadline?
No problem! You can still register and vote any day leading up to and including Election Day.

**Option 1**
You can go to your county elections office or any vote center in your county to use “same-day voter registration” to register and vote then. You'll get a voter registration form and ballot to complete on the spot.

**Option 2**
If you are not registered to vote and cannot go to a voting location, contact your county elections office to ask how you can register and vote remotely by using “Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail.”
Vote from home

If you register by October 19th, you will automatically receive a ballot in the mail with instructions on how to fill it out and return it. You can:

- Send your ballot by mail – no stamp needed!
- Remember to sign and date your ballot envelope.
- Make sure your ballot is post-marked on or before Election Day.

Vote in person

If you prefer to vote in person, you can! You can vote at any vote center in your county. Vote centers will be open from Saturday, October 31, 2020 through Tuesday, November 3, 2020, and some may be open for 10 days before Election Day. You will receive information about vote center locations and hours by mail, or you can check here: https://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov/

On Election Day, vote centers will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. As long as you are in line by 8pm, you will be able to cast your vote.

Walk into any vote center and give them your name and address to receive a ballot. If you prefer voting in a non-English language, ask if they have any materials in that language and if any of the vote center workers speak that language.

Will There Be Public Health Protections?
Yes. Vote center staff will wear masks and follow public health guidelines, and will set up vote centers to allow for physical distancing. Voters must comply with state and local public health requirements, including wearing a face covering and maintaining physical distancing.

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.

What If I Run Into Problems while voting?
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.

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.

The languages that may be offered in your county include: Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese, Farsi, Gujarati, Hindi, Hmong, Ilocano, Indonesian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Lao, Mien, Mongolian, Nepali, Punjabi, Spanish, Syriac, Tagalog, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

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

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.