How Do I Register to Vote?

To register to vote in California, you must be:
» A United States citizen.
» A resident of California.
» 18 years of age or older on Election Day.

Cannot register to vote if:
» Currently imprisoned or on parole for the conviction of a felony.
» Found by a court to be mentally incompetent.
» Californians with criminal convictions are eligible to vote if they are on probation, mandatory supervision, or post-release community supervision.

Online - If you have a CA driver license or CA identification card number, the last four digits of your social security number, and your date of birth you may register to vote online at: http://registertovote.ca.gov/

By Mail - You can pick up a paper voter registration application at your county elections office, library, Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) offices, or U.S. post office. It is important that your voter registration application be filled out completely and be postmarked or hand-delivered to your county elections office at least 15 days before the election.

In Person - You may visit your county elections office and fill out a registration form in person. To find your county go to: http://bit.ly/21rGsTH

Find Your Polling Place:

The Secretary of State offers a polling place lookup at: http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place/.

Tips for Avoiding Problems:

» Check your voter registration status and polling place at http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/registration-status/ as early as possible.
» Vote before Election Day, using early in-person or mail-in voting.
» If you vote on Election Day, the polls will be busiest before and after work hours.
» Bring some form of identification if you have it, even if it’s not required for most people.
» Ask for help if you need it.
» Take your time—it’s your vote!

Register by October 24, 2016 to vote in the General Election on November 8, 2016.

Go to http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections for more Voter Information.

Problem at the polls? Call 866-OUR-VOTE or visit 866OURVOTE.org
How Do I Vote?

You have the right to vote if you’re in line or inside your polling place when the polls close. On Election Day, all polls will remain open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

California voters are not required to show identification at polling places UNLESS this is the first time they are voting in a federal election in that specific county and they registered by mail or online but did not provide a driver’s license number, state identification number, or the last four digits of their social security number when they registered.

In these narrow circumstances, acceptable proof of ID includes:

» Driver’s license or identification card of any state
» Passport
» Employee identification card
» Identification card provided by commercial establishment
» Credit or debit card
» Military identification card
» Student identification card
» Health club identification card
» Insurance plan identification card
» Public housing identification card

Voters can also submit documents that include their name and address, dated since the date of the last general election. These include:

» Utility bills
» Bank statements
» Government checks and paychecks
» Documents issued by a governmental agency (e.g., an issued sample ballot, a voter notification card, public housing identification card, student identification, tuition statement or bill, insurance plan or drug discount card, discharge certificates, pardons, and other documents relating to the resolution of a criminal case, indictment, sentence or other matter)

What if my name is not on the voter list at the polling place?

» You have the right to vote with a provisional ballot. Your provisional ballot will be counted only after the elections official has confirmed you are a registered voter and you did not vote anywhere else in that election.

You can vote before Election Day by mail or in person.

By Mail: Any registered California voter can request a mail-in absentee ballot. No special circumstances are necessary. Voters can obtain an absentee ballot application from the sample ballot booklet received from their county elections office, fill in a California Vote-By-Mail Ballot Application (http://bit.ly/1pQ50rH), or contact their county elections official to see if their county allows applying by telephone. The absentee ballot request must be received by the county elections office by no later than 7 days before Election Day. After 7 days you will need to apply in person at your county elections office. The ballot may be delivered personally or by an authorized family member to any polling place or elections office in your county by close of polls at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day or sent by mail to the voter’s county elections office, in which case the ballot will need to be postmarked on or before Election Day and received no later than 3 days after Election Day.

Early In Person: Any registered California voter may go in person to their county board of elections office to request and receive a vote-by-mail ballot to vote prior to and on Election Day. See counties with early voting and ballot drop-off locations here: http://bit.ly/1TwsA7A.

Language Assistance

» You can have anyone assist you in casting your vote including a translator, except for your employer or labor union or any officer or agent of them.

All counties are required to provide oral and written Spanish language assistance. Some counties must provide assistance in selected Asian languages (http://bit.ly/29sG3NI).

This brochure was created and provided by the Native American Voting Rights Coalition (NAVRC) in collaboration with Native Vote and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI).