

# Making Your Vote Count

*If you have never voted before, the process of registering to vote and casting a ballot may seem complicated. Here are the few steps you need to guide you from registering to voting!*

## 1 Register to Vote

- **Register to vote online** at [registertovote.ca.gov](https://registertovote.ca.gov) **OR**
- **Get a voter registration form** at:
  - The DMV
  - Post office
  - Your county election office **OR**
- **Call 1-800-345-VOTE** (8683) and ask for a registration form to be mailed to you.

### PRO TIPS

- If you move, you need to make sure your address gets changed on your voter registration or just re-register to vote.
- The last day to register to vote online or mail in a paper voter registration card is 15 days before an election.
- If you don't get registered or forget to update your registration before the 15-day deadline, you can still register and vote in the two weeks before and on Election Day at any voting location by asking for same day voter registration.
- You can check if you are already registered or your registration is up to date at [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov).



## 2 Study Up to Vote

Once you've sent in your completed voter registration form, you'll receive a confirmation postcard that means you are now officially registered to vote! If you don't receive one, or have questions, contact us.

Then, as each election approaches, you'll receive a sample ballot and voter pamphlet describing the candidates, initiatives, and issues to be voted on.

A lot of other people—usually candidates and political parties—will also be sending you materials for Election Day. The information can be overwhelming. Sometimes it's helpful, but sometimes it's just confusing or even misleading.

To prepare to vote, talk to people you trust about the candidates and ballot measures. Maybe you trust an elder or a close friend, an organization, or a political party you identify with.

### PRO TIPS

- State and national elections are held in California on the first Tuesday of March and November in even-numbered years. Local and special elections may be held at other times of the year.
- Your sample ballot and voter pamphlet have written statements from the candidates and tell you who is for and against each ballot initiative. A lot of people **bring their sample ballots** with notes with them to the polling place on Election Day.
- Remember, **you don't need to vote on every race or issue**. You can choose which things are most important to you.
- Look up your ballot, polling place, and other important information from a trusted source like [www.VotersEdge.org/ca](http://www.VotersEdge.org/ca).

## 3 Vote by Election Day

No later than election day, cast your ballot in person at a voting location in your county or return your vote-by-mail ballot via mail, drop box, or to a voting location. Information about where you can vote is on your sample ballot, on your county elections website, or at [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](http://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov).

When you arrive, there will be volunteer poll workers to answer questions about casting your ballot. You'll sign in with them at a check-in table.

### PRO TIPS

- Remember, **you do NOT need photo identification to vote** in California.
- If you vote-by-mail, your ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day. If you think it might not arrive in time, you can drop it off at any polling site on Election Day.
- **Never leave the polling place without voting**. If someone tells you that you can't vote for any reason, demand a "provisional ballot," vote as you planned, and then contact us.

If you are being harassed, are asked to show an ID, or someone is saying you cannot vote, call (866) OUR-VOTE (687-8683).