



BLACK WOMEN
FOR WELLNESS

PRIMARY VOTER *Guide*

2024

Voting is your

RIGHT

I have come to see more and more that one of the most decisive steps that the Negro can take is that little walk to the voting booth. That is an important step. We've got to gain the ballot, and through that gain, political power.

- Martin Luther King Jr.

VOTING 101

Did you know that EVERY registered voter in California will receive a Vote by Mail ballot? Universal Vote by Mail ballots are now a permanent part of California's voting landscape - making voting easier and more accessible. This guide provides information on voting in California.

Elections are a key part of the democratic process. Most of us know that we will be voting for president this year, but there are many other key races, propositions, and issues on the ballot that we should be paying attention to this election cycle. It is important that we participate in

these elections because it will help determine many important local races that will impact our reproductive justice priorities, housing, criminal justice reform and more.

This guide shares helpful tips to make sure your vote counts.

KEY DATES TO REMEMBER:

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION: MARCH 5, 2024

- Mailing of Vote by Mail Ballots- February 5, 2024
- Drop-off Locations Open- February 6, 2024
- Voter Registration Deadline- February 20, 2024
- Voter Centers Open- February 24, 2024
- Election Day - March 5, 2024

GENERAL ELECTION: NOVEMBER 5, 2024

- Mailing of Vote by Mail Ballots- October 7, 2024
- Drop-off Locations Open- October 8, 2024
- Voter Registration Deadline- October 21, 2024
- Voter Centers Open- October 26, 2024
- Election Day - November 5, 2024



VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter Registration is necessary to vote in California.

You are able to register to vote if:

- You are U.S. Citizen and a resident of California.
- You are or will be 18 by the time of the election.
- You are not currently in state or federal prison for a felony conviction.

You are not able to register to vote if:

- Have been found to be mentally incompetent by a court.
- Are not U.S. citizens.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

California residents can register to vote several ways.

- Online at <http://registertovote.ca.gov/>
- By filling out by paper registration and turning it into your local registrar office
- At a voting center.

The deadline to register to vote is 15 days before the election. If you have missed this deadline. You can provisionally register and vote at a voter center in your county through Election Day.



JUST A FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER

YOU MAY REGISTER TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS IF YOU:

- Are an inmate
- Awaiting or on trial for a criminal offense
- Serving time for a traffic or misdemeanor offense
- Serving time in a local jail as a condition of probation.
- People who are found mentally incompetent by a court cannot register to vote.

DID YOU DO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING? REASONS TO RE-REGISTER TO VOTE:

- Move to a different address (permanent or semi-permanent)
- Change name (including if you changed your name because of marriage or divorce)
- **Change political party affiliation**

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

HOMELESS

If you do not have an address because of homelessness, you can still register to vote and voter. The registration form leaves space for street corners, parks or shelters to use in lieu of a traditional home address.

The best option for a mailing address is to use a shelter that you trust and have access to. Some counties will allow homeless individuals to use their office as a mailing address.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SHELTER

If you are in a domestic abuse shelter, contact the staff about what address to use for registering to vote.

CALIFORNIA CONFIDENTIAL ADDRESS PROGRAM

If you are in California Confidential Address program, please contact Safe at Home to register to vote. The phone number is 877-322-5227.



JUST MOVED

If you have just moved and want to register to vote in your new city, you will need to re-register to vote. This can be done by filling out a registration form. If you have moved within California or to California, you can re-register at a Voter Center (if it's after the 15 day cut off) or through the traditional process if it's before the 15 days cut off.





I AM A STUDENT *HOW DO I VOTE?*

If you are an American Citizen who meets the qualifications of who can vote (see voting registration requirements), you are able to vote either in the city (if it's in America) you are going to school in or the city you are from/permanent address if it is different. You are only able to vote once in an election. You **CANNOT** vote in two different cities in the same election.



IF YOU ARE A CALIFORNIA RESIDENT BUT GO TO AN OUT OF STATE SCHOOL:

TO VOTE IN CALIFORNIA ELECTION:

If you go to school out of state and are interested in taking part in the California election, make sure to request your absentee ballot once available using your permanent or home address in California.

Be sure to verify information related to voting by mail/absentee voting deadlines. California always has the option of using a mail-in ballot.

TO VOTE IN OUT OF STATE ELECTION:

Students can register to vote using your school residence or your permanent one. Be aware that states can vary in the rules around registration and voting so be sure to check what the particular rules are in your state.

I LIVE ABROAD AND I NEED HELP.

HOW TO REGISTER

OPTION 1:

Register or re-register to vote online at [http:// registertovote.ca.gov/](http://registertovote.ca.gov/) and request a Vote by Mail ballot. This option is the more “permanent” option, if you’re going to be overseas for multiple election cycles, this might be the better option.

Complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). You can obtain the FPCA at any Voting Assistance Office at a military base or any US Embassy/Consulate. It is recommended that you complete this form every year you request an absentee ballot. This option might be better for people that are not planning to be overseas long-term.

If you live in Los Angeles - Return your completed FPCA to LA County by mail or email. If you live in another county in California, you must return your FPCA form to the County in which you are registered.

Mail:

Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

Vote by Mail Section P.O. Box 30450
Los Angeles, CA 90030-0450

Fax: (562) 864-6786

Email:

militaryoverseasAV@rrcc.lacounty.gov

FORMERLY OR CURRENTLY INCARCERATED

In California, if you have a prior felony conviction, but have completed your sentence and are not currently serving state or federal prison terms for a felony conviction, you are able to register and vote in the state of California.

YOU MAY ALSO REGISTER AND VOTE IF YOU ARE:

- Awaiting or on trial for a criminal offense
- Serving time for a traffic or misdemeanor offense
- Serving time in a local jail as a condition of probation.
- Serving a felony jail sentence in county jail
- On probation
- On mandatory supervision
- On post-release community supervision
- On federal supervised release
- A person with a juvenile wardship adjudication
- Currently on parole with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

PERSONS WITH A CRIMINAL HISTORY THAT CANNOT VOTE:

Currently serving a state or federal prison sentence for the conviction of a felony in:

- State prison
- Federal prison
- A local detention facility

Note: You may still register to vote if you are serving a felony JAIL sentence in county jail.

HOW TO RESTORE YOUR VOTE

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/restore-your-vote>

Your voter registration application must be received or postmarked at least fifteen (15) days before Election Day to be eligible to vote in that election. You can “conditionally” register and vote provisionally at your county elections office after the 15-day voter registration deadline.

****California Penal Code section 2910** allows the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to make agreements with local governments to house felons in a county jail or other correctional facility. A person serving a state prison sentence who is housed in a local jail or other facility under these circumstances is not allowed to register and vote.



F.A.Q.'S

I GOT MY BALLOT, NOW WHAT?

Once you receive your ballot, make sure to review it carefully. If you know who and what you're voting for, go ahead and fill that ballot out and turn it in. However, it is ok to take your time to make sure you have it right. Fill out as much of your ballot as possible. Local races, which will be at the top of the ticket, are just as important as the federal contests. It is critically important to vote for your local offices as they will have a larger impact on how your city is run and what resources are coming into your community. If you need help figuring out who to vote for, check in with some of your favorite trusted community organizations. While many are 501(c)(3)s and cannot tell you who and what to vote for on the ballot, they can assist you in finding resources that will help you make an informed decision.

Make sure to sign your mail-in-ballot before you mail it out or drop it off at a local drop box location. Your signature must match the signature on file (i.e. your driver's license or the signature on your voter registration application) for it to be counted.



HOW TO TURN IN MY MAIL-IN BALLOT

There are three ways to turn in your mail-in-ballot:

- By mail dropping it in the mail at any mailbox or post office. All mail must be postmarked by 8:00 pm on Election Day.
- Dropping it off at a vote center within your county.
- Turn it into an official ballot drop-off location.

DOES MY MAIL-IN BALLOT NEED A STAMP?

No. A bill passed in 2018 requires mail-in-ballots to have pre-paid postage. You just need to drop in the mail or at a designated drop box.

WHEN SHOULD I TURN IN MY BALLOT?

As soon as possible. However, all the mail-in ballots need to be postmarked by 8:00 pm on Election Day.

I DIDN'T GET MY BALLOT IN THE MAIL.

If it's been more than 1 week since the ballots went out and you still haven't gotten your ballot in the mail, you may need to re-register to vote with your current address. You can do that by using this link <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>. You can also call your local registrar to see if you can track down your ballot.

I'M NOT SURE IF I AM REGISTERED TO VOTE OR IF I NEED TO RE-REGISTER TO VOTE?

If you are unsure if or where you are registered to vote, go to <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>. You will need to know the last four digits of your social security number and California ID or Driver's License Number.

IT'S AFTER THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE, BUT I STILL WANT TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE ELECTION. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If you miss the deadline to register, you may conditionally register to vote and cast a provisional ballot by visiting your county elections office, a vote center, or a designated satellite location through Election Day.



FAQ'S

I'VE MOVED OR I'M MOVING BEFORE THE ELECTION. HOW DO I GET MY BALLOT?

If you are moving to another place in CA, you can register to vote using your new address. If you don't know the address yet, you can vote in person or send your ballot to a trusted place when you can get it (like your parents or a friend's house).



I DON'T TRUST THE MAIL, IS THERE ANOTHER WAY TO VOTE?

They are two options if you don't feel confident about the postal service getting your ballot in on time:

- Option 1) You can turn in your mail-in ballot at a drop off location, or at your polling place or vote center.
- Option 2) You can vote in person. Most voting sites will be open the weekend and Monday before Election Day. Some in-person locations will be open as many as 11 days before the election. Check with your local registrars office to find out where your polling location or vote center is and the times it's open.

WHAT IF I CAN'T DROP OFF MY MAIL-IN BALLOT MYSELF?

If you are unable to return the ballot yourself, you may designate someone else to drop off your ballot for you at a polling place or voter center or at an official ballot drop-off location. If someone is dropping off your ballot, do not forget to sign it before handing it off.

SO WAIT, I CAN STILL VOTE IN PERSON?

Yes! You can still vote in person. You will need to check with your local registrar office to find where your closest voting location is or your polling center, depending on what county you live in, but you can totally vote in person. Most polling locations will be open the weekend before the election and some locations open 11 days before. Remember, if you are voting in person, check your local public health department for the best ways to keep safe, including wearing a mask.

FAQ'S

RESOURCES RECAP

- To find the nearest drop box or voting center, voters can visit:
<https://locator.lavote.gov/locations/>
- Track your ballot like you track packages at:
<https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/>
- Check your registration status by going to:
<https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>
- Register online, the deadline is 15 days before an election:
<https://registertovote.ca.gov/>
- Restore your vote after criminal conviction:
<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/restore-your-vote>
- To request a replacement ballot: Call county elections office or the Secretary of State's toll-free Voter Hotline (800) 345-VOTE (8683)



Stay
Connected

Contact Us

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The Black Women for Wellness team is here to support you! If you ever need extra assistance, feel free to reach out to us for additional resources or advocacy tools. We've got your back!