



BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS



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. Elections are a key part of the democratic process. While most notably we will be voting for president this election cycle, there are still many key races, propositions, and issues that are on the ballot that require us to be vigilant and pay attention. It is important that we participate in these elections because it will help determine many important local races that can impact our reproductive justice priorities, housing, criminal justice reform and more.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Election Day: November 5, 2024

Mailing by Mail Ballot Votes- Oct. 7, 2024

Drop-off Locations Open- Oct. 8, 2024

Voter Registration Deadline- Oct. 21, 2024

Voter Centers Open- Oct. 26, 2024

Election Certification Deadline (CA) Dec. 6, 2024*

Congressional Electoral Vote Count - Jan. 6, 2025

Inauguration Day - Jan. 20, 2025

*Certification deadlines vary by State. Typically occurs within several weeks of Election Day.

VOTER★GUIDE

This guide provides helpful tips to make sure your vote counts in California.

GENERAL ELECTION 2024

VOTER ★ Registration



VOTER REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY TO VOTE IN CALIFORNIA.

YOU MAY REGISTER TO VOTE IF:

- You are U.S. Citizen
- You are or will be 18 by election time
- You are not currently in prison or parole for a felony conviction.

INCARCERATION & VOTING

People who are formerly incarcerated CAN vote in the state of California as long as they are not on parole. This includes post-release, community supervision, or post sentencing probation for a felony. People who are on parole, but it is not a felony conviction can also register to vote.

You are not able to register to vote if:

- 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.
- With a certified representative from the registrar
- 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 up until the election.

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.
- If found mentally incompetent you can't 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's Confidential Address Program California Confidential Address Program If you are in the 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 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'm 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 will not be in town on Election Day but still want to take part in the California election. You must register for an absentee ballot at least one week in advance of the election, using your permanent or home address in California.

To vote in out of State election:

You must register to vote in the county where you reside for school. 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.

IF YOU GO TO SCHOOL IN CALIFORNIA:

If your permanent address is in California: Students can register to vote using your school residence or your permanent one. Please take into the fact where you are going to be during the time of elections, and how familiar you are with the local politics in the area. There is always the option of using a mail-in ballot.

If your permanent address is out of state: Students who go to school in California but want to vote in a California's election must register to vote using the address where the student lives during the school year.

I live abroad and I need help!



HOW TO REGISTER?

Option 1: Register or re-register to vote online at <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.

Option 2: Complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). You can contain the FPCA at any Voting Assistance Officer 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, fax, or email.

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

VOTING★

FORMALLY OR CURRENTLY INCARCERATED

In California, if you have a prior felony conviction, but are not currently serving state or federal prison terms for a felony conviction, you are able to register / vote in California.

YOU MAY REGISTER AND VOTE IF YOU'RE:

- 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 CAN'T VOTE:

- Currently imprisoned in: • State prison • Federal prison
- Currently serving a state prison felony sentence in a county jail or other correctional facility
- Currently in county jail awaiting transfer to a state or federal prison for a felony conviction

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. In elections conducted by your county elections official, 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.



WHAT TO EXPECT POST ELECTION:

I voted, now what?

WHEN / HOW ARE ELECTIONS CALLED? HOW WILL I KNOW WHO WON?

The 2024 U.S. presidential election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. The process of “calling” the election, or determining the winner, involves several key steps:

Voting & Counting: On Election Day, voters across the country will cast their ballots. In many states, early voting and mail-in ballots will also be counted, starting before Election Day.

Election Night: As polls close in various states, media outlets will begin to report results based on the votes counted so far. These results are often projected using exit polls and preliminary counts.

State Certification: Each state will continue counting votes and will certify the results over the following days and weeks. The certification process ensures that all votes are accurately counted, and any issues are resolved.

Electoral College: The U.S. uses the Electoral College system to determine the winner of the presidential race. The Electoral College consists of 538 electors. Each state has a certain number of electors based on its representation in Congress. For example, California has 2 U.S. Senators and 52 U.S. Representatives so it has a total of 54 electors. Once state results are certified, the electors cast their votes in December, which are then sent to Congress for counting.

Congressional Count: On January 6, 2025, Congress meets in a joint session to count electoral votes and formally declare the winner. If no disputes /objections are raised, this process usually confirms the outcome reported by the media on Election Night.

The “call” of the election, in terms of declaring a winner, usually happens on Election Night or shortly thereafter, based on media projections and early counts, but the official confirmation comes with the Congressional count in January.

How does the Electoral College work?

After you cast your ballot for president, your vote contributes to a statewide tally. Apart from Maine and Nebraska, most states and Washington, D.C., award all their electoral votes to the candidate who wins the popular vote in that state. To win the presidency, a candidate needs at least 270 electoral votes. A projected winner is usually announced on election night in November or within several days of the election, but the official Electoral College vote occurs in mid-December when electors meet in their states.

WHAT IS THE “LAME DUCK SESSION” IN POLITICS?

The lame duck session refers to a period in the legislative body that occurs after an election but before the new members take office. In the U.S., this session happens after the November elections and before the new Congress is sworn in in January of the following year. The lame duck session is the final opportunity for outgoing legislators to push through bills and policies, make critical budgetary and funding decisions, or confirm appointments to key positions such as judicial posts. These final decisions can have long-term implications for future governance and policy implementation.

RESOURCE 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)

REMEMBER: Election Day is: November 5, 2024



BALLOT★Questions



I got my ballot,
now
what?

Once you receive your ballot, be sure to fill it out as soon as possible. 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 as your ballot as possible. Local races, which will be at the top of the ticket, are just as important as the federal contests. The down-ballot races are just as important as the top of the ticket. If you need help figuring out who to vote for, check-in with some of your favorite trusted community organizations, many of them have recommendations and information on who and what to vote for on the ballot.

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.



THREE WAYS TO TURN IN MY MAIL-IN BALLOT

- Dropping it in the mail at any mailbox or post office. Mail must be postmarked by 8pm 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 after October 15th 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.

BY WHEN DO I NEED TO APPLY FOR A VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT?

You need apply at least 7 days before the election for vote by mail 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.

VOTER★Questions

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 vote, need some assistance to vote because of disability, or need language assistance, in person is a good option. By the way, any voter can decide to vote in person at a location. You don't need a reason to do so.

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

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

Option 1) You can turn in your mail-in ballot at 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 10 days before the election. Check with your local registrar office to find out where your polling location or vote center is and the times it's open.

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 with the new address of where you're moving too. 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).

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.

I WANT TO TRACK WHERE MY BALLOT IS TO MAKE SURE IT GETS COUNTED, HOW DO I DO THAT?

California's Secretary of State's office has created a website just for tracking your ballot. It is below: <https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/>

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.



BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS

Black Women for Wellness is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to enhancing the health and wellness of Black women and girls through advocacy, education and empowerment. To learn more about our organization and join our mission contact us at:

info@bwwla.com

323-290-5955

bwwla.com

Facebook: Black Women for Wellness

X: @BW4WLA

Instagram: BWWLA



REMEMBER:

Election Day is November 5, 2024

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