

VOTING RIGHTS

Persons with a
Criminal History



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

You can register to vote and vote if you are:

- A United States citizen and a resident of California,
- 18 years old or older on Election Day,
- Not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony, and
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court (for more information, please see [Voting Rights: Persons Subject to Conservatorship](#)).

PERSONS WITH A CRIMINAL HISTORY WHO CAN REGISTER AND VOTE:

- In county jail:
 - Serving a misdemeanor sentence (a misdemeanor never affects your right to vote)
 - Because jail time is a condition of probation (misdemeanor or felony)
 - Serving a felony jail sentence
 - Awaiting trial
- On probation
- On parole
- On mandatory supervision
- On post-release community supervision
- On federal supervised release
- A person with a juvenile wardship adjudication

PERSONS WITH A CRIMINAL HISTORY WHO CANNOT REGISTER AND VOTE:

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

- State prison
- Federal prison
- County jail or other correctional facility*

NOTE: Once you have finished serving your term, your right to vote is restored; however, you must register online at RegisterToVote.ca.gov or by filling out a paper voter registration card.

*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.

QUESTIONS

If you are unsure of what type of sentence you are serving, ask staff at your correctional facility.



California Secretary of State

Tel 916.657.2166 | Fax 916.653.3214 | www.sos.ca.gov

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

You may request a voter registration card from the Secretary of State or your county elections office. If you are in jail and you are eligible to vote, you are entitled to receive a voter registration card.

You may also apply to register to vote on the Secretary of State's website [RegisterToVote.ca.gov](https://www.sos.ca.gov). 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. For more information please go to the Secretary of State's webpage on same day voter registration and voting (<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/same-day-reg>) or contact your county elections official.

Voter registration cards and voting materials are available in English, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese. Voter registration cards are available at most public libraries and government offices. See the attached list for state and local elections office contact information.

VOTE BY MAIL

If you are already registered to vote at your current home address, you may request a vote-by-mail ballot application by contacting your county elections office. Once you receive your vote-by-mail ballot application, you must complete and return it to your county elections office at least seven (7) days before Election Day.

If you are not registered to vote at your current home address, you may register or re-register to vote and request a vote-by-mail ballot on the Secretary of State's website [RegisterToVote.ca.gov](https://www.sos.ca.gov).

RELEASE FROM CUSTODY

If you requested a vote-by-mail ballot but are released from custody before you receive your ballot, you can still vote. Just go to the polling place for your home address or any polling place in the county where you are registered and vote a provisional ballot.

If you change your name, home address, mailing address, or party preference you must complete a new voter registration card.

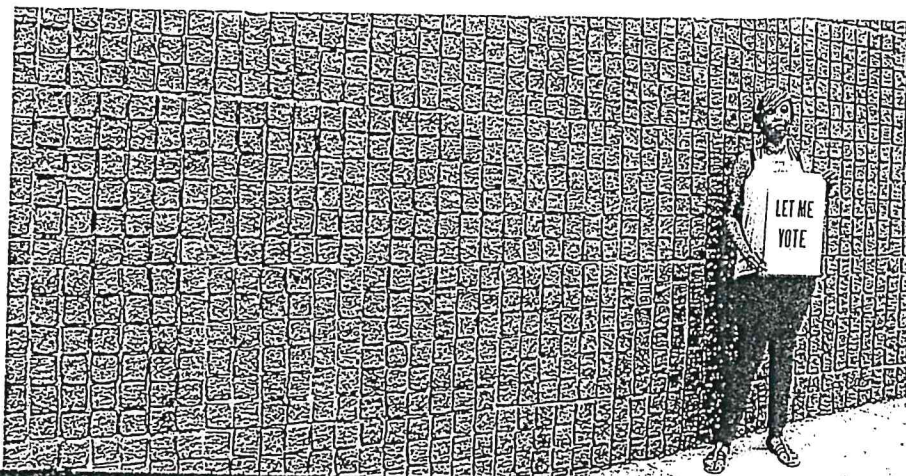
RESOURCES

For more information contact your county elections office or the California Secretary of State:

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE VOTER HOTLINES

English	(800) 345-VOTE (8683)
Español / Spanish	(800) 232-VOTA (8682)
Chinese / 中文	(800) 339-2857
Hindi / हिन्दी	(888) 345-2692
Japanese / 日本語	(800) 339-2865
Khmer / ខ្មែរ	(888) 345-4917
Korean / 한국어	(866) 575-1558
Tagalog	(800) 339-2957
Thai / ไทย	(855) 345-3933
Vietnamese / Việt ngữ	(800) 339-8163
TTY/TDD	(800) 833-8683

Let Me VOTE



**On Probation? Off Parole? Off Any Other Community Supervision?
You Have the Right to Vote!**

Frequently Asked Questions

What are my voting rights if I have a misdemeanor?

A misdemeanor conviction does not affect your right to vote at all. You can vote in all elections.

What are my voting rights if I have a felony?

If you have a felony conviction, **you can vote IF:**

- you are on probation, even if you are in county jail as a condition of your probation, or
- you have completed your probation, or
- you are awaiting a judge's decision on a probation violation, or
- you have completed mandatory supervision, or
- you have completed post-release community supervision, or
- you have completed your parole.

The only time **you are not allowed to vote is IF:**

- you have a felony conviction and you are still in state prison, or
- you are serving an 1170(h) felony sentence in county jail, or
- you are awaiting transfer to a state prison, or
- you are on parole, on post-release community supervision, or on mandatory supervision.

Once you have completed your prison sentence and parole or other community supervision, you can register to vote. If you are unsure what type of sentence you are serving check with your parole or probation officer.

Can I vote when I am on probation?

Yes! You can vote at all times when you are on probation, whether your conviction is a felony or a misdemeanor.

Can I vote when I am on parole?

No. You can only vote once you have completed your parole.

Can I vote on mandatory supervision?

No. You can only vote once you have completed your mandatory supervision.

Can I vote while I am on post-release community supervision?

No. You can only vote once you have completed your post-release community supervision.

Can I vote while I am in county jail?

Maybe. You **can vote IF** you are in county jail:

- awaiting trial for any crime, or
 - for a misdemeanor conviction, or
 - on a probation violation, or
 - on felony probation.
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The only time **you lose the right to vote while in county jail** is when you are:

- in state prison for a felony conviction, or
- in jail awaiting transfer to a state prison for a felony conviction, or
- serving an 1170(h) felony sentence in the county jail, or
- in jail for a parole violation.

How do I get back my right to vote?

In California, you do not need to do anything to "restore" your right to vote. It is automatically restored once you have completed your parole and no longer in state prison. **However, you must register or re-register to vote in an upcoming election.**

How do I register to vote?

There are two ways to register to vote:

- You can **register online** at our website, www.letmevoteca.org.
- You can pick up a **paper registration form** at the DMV, post office, public libraries, or your county elections office. Complete the form, sign it, and drop it in the mail!

Do I need to re-register if I move or change my name?

Yes. You need to re-register (using either of the methods above) if you move or change your name.

How and where do I vote?

In California, you can vote two ways:

Vote-by-Mail: This means that every election your ballot will be mailed to you and you can take your time to fill it out and mail back your vote. It's easy to become a vote-by-mail voter. Either:

- put your initials on line 15 on your voter registration application, or
- if you are already registered to vote, you will get a vote-by-mail application attached to the sample ballot you receive about a month before the election. Complete this application and mail back to your county election official.

Reminder! A vote-by-mail ballot will be mailed to the address you provide on your voter registration. If you move a lot, this may not be the best option for you.

At your local polling place: Once you are registered to vote, you can vote at your local polling place on Election Day. Your local polling place is listed on the Sample Ballot you receive in the mail. If for any reason you are unsure of your polling place, you can look it up at www.votersedge.org or contact your local county elections office to find out.

When is the last day to register to vote?

You must register (or re-register, if you've moved or changed your name, or if your right to vote has been restored) at least **15 days** before the next local, state, or federal election.

For more information about voting with a criminal conviction visit
www.letmevoteca.org