



# HOW TO VOTE IN CALIFORNIA

A Quick Guide for People with Disabilities Voting in the 2022 General Election on or Before November 8, 2022.



## REGISTERING TO VOTE

- **How can I register to vote?** You can register:
  - If you have already registered, [check if your voter registration is up to date.](#)
  - Online at California's [Online Voter Registration Website.](#)
  - By picking up and mailing the California voter registration form. You can pick up a voter registration form at your county elections office, library, Department of Motor Vehicles, or post office. You can also call 800-345-VOTE (8683) or email [Elections Division staff](#) and have a paper form mailed to you.
- **When do I need to register?** Be sure to register to vote on or before October 24, 2022, or you can register in person on Election Day.
- **Do I need identification (ID) to register?** You will need to have a California address and California state ID card or driver's license. You can use your social security number if you don't have a state ID.
- **Can I vote if I have a disability?** Yes! People with disabilities who are 18 years old or older have the right to vote. Your vote matters and is protected by laws to make sure voting is accessible, independent, and private. If you have a conservator, you can still vote, unless a judge said

you cannot vote. For help understanding or getting back your right to vote, contact your local [Protection and Advocacy Agency \(P&A\)](#).

- **Can I vote if I have gone to jail or prison?** If you have gone to jail or prison, you should check to see if you are allowed to vote. Learn about voting rights for people who have [gone to jail or prison](#). You can also [contact your local P&A](#).



## LEARNING ABOUT THE ISSUES

- **What is a ballot?** A ballot is a list of who and what you can vote for. Your ballot will list candidates who are running for different offices, such as Senator or Representative. You vote by marking your choice on the ballot.
- **What is a ballot proposition or measure?** proposition or measure? Sometimes, your ballot will have ballot propositions or measures. A ballot proposition is a state law, issue, or question that you can vote on. A ballot measure is a city or county law, issue, or question that you can vote on. Voters get to decide if they agree or disagree with the ballot measure by voting yes to agree or no to disagree. You can learn about ballot measures on the California Secretary of State's [election website](#).
- **Can I look at my ballot before I go to vote?** Enter your home address in [Ballotpedia's Sample Ballot Lookup](#). This tool will give you a "sample ballot," which will show you what will be on your ballot when you vote.



## VOTING IN PERSON

- **Where do I need to go to vote?** Most voters in California vote by mail. Learn about voting by mail below. If you need help voting, or you want to vote in person, you can go to a polling place or vote center. You can find your local polling place or vote center through the California election website. [Find your polling place or vote center](#).

- **Can I vote before Election Day?** Most California counties offer early in-person voting opportunities. The Voter's Choice Act (VCA) expanded early voting access and is currently in use in 27 of California's 58 counties. Under the VCA, traditional polling places are replaced with vote centers and voters can cast their ballot at any vote center in their county. In VCA counties, early voting will be available at 11-Day and 4-Day Vote Centers throughout the county. 11-Day Vote Centers are open beginning October 29 and 4-Day Vote Centers are open beginning November 5. In counties using traditional polling places, voters are assigned to a specific polling place. Many traditional polling place counties offer in-person early voting before Election Day, typically the weekend before Election Day, but it depends on the county. Contact your local election office for more information about your county and what early voting options are offered.
- **Can I vote outside if the polling place is inaccessible?** Polling places must allow you to vote outside if the location is inaccessible. This is called curbside voting. All vote centers in VCA counties are required to be accessible. Many California counties offer curbside voting at all voting locations, whether or not they are accessible. Contact your local election office for more information.
- **What if I want help with filling out my ballot?** You may choose someone to help you vote. Your helper cannot be a candidate or your boss. If you are part of a labor union at work, the person who helps you vote cannot be a representative of that labor union. [What is a labor union?](#) You may also ask for help from poll workers at the polling place or vote center.
- **Do I need an ID?** In California, voters may be asked for a form of ID if they are voting for the first time in person and they registered to vote without a driver's license number, California identification number, or the last four numbers of their social security number. [Learn about voter ID.](#)



## VOTING BY MAIL

- **Can I vote by mail?** Any voter in California can vote by mail.
- **How do I request a mail ballot?** If you are registered to vote, California will automatically send you a mail ballot. You must register to vote by October 24, 2022.
- **Can I get an electronic vote by mail ballot?** California allows voters with disabilities to request an electronic vote by mail ballot that can be filled out electronically, printed out, and returned. [Learn about requesting an electronic ballot.](#)
- **When do I need to request my ballot?** If you are registered to vote, California will automatically send you a mail ballot. The last day to request an electronic vote by mail ballot is November 1, 2022.
- **Do I need to sign my ballot?** Be sure to sign the envelope since California requires this signature to match one of your past signatures. If you are unable to sign your name on the return envelope, [make a mark by the red X](#) on the return envelope. Have a helper print your name on the return envelope and sign as a witness.
- **What if I want help with filling out my ballot?** You should be allowed to choose someone to help you with filling out your ballot.
- **How do I return my ballot?** You can return your ballot by mail or deliver it to a polling place, vote center, county election office, or drop box. If you are returning your ballot by mail, it must be postmarked by November 8, 2022, and received by election officials on November 15, 2022. If you are returning your ballot in person, it must be received by 8 p.m. on November 8, 2022.
- **Can someone return my ballot for me?** Yes, you may choose to have someone return your ballot for you. They must write their name and relationship to you on the ballot envelope, and sign the ballot envelope.

- **Do I need an ID to vote by mail?** No, you do not need an ID when voting by mail unless you are voting for the first time in a federal election in California.
- **Can I track my ballot?** Yes, you can track your ballot online to see if the elections office has received it. You can do this on the California election website. [Track your ballot.](#)



## MORE VOTING HELP

- **Where can I find more info on how to vote?** Check out the California [state election website](#). Learn about [voting assistance for voters with disabilities](#) or your local P&A will have voting resources for people with disabilities.
- **What if I am having trouble voting or registering to vote?** If you have any trouble voting, [contact your local P&A](#). The hotline number for voters with disabilities is 1-888-569-7955.
- **What if I have more questions?** Check out these resources:
  - [California Official Voter Information Guide](#)
  - [Your local P&A will have resources about voting while in conservatorship.](#)
  - [Resources for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Voters](#)
  - [Resources for Blind and Low Vision Voters](#)
  - [Easy Read and Plain Language Voting Resources](#)
  - [ASL Hotline](#): 301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683)
  - [Election Protection Hotline](#): 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)



The 2022 State Voting Guides for Disabled Voters are made by the REV UP Voting Campaign at the American Association of People with Disabilities. This project was led by Sarah Blahovec with plain language support from Liz Weintraub at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities and input from REV UP organizers.