



California Motor Voter

Voter registration is now more convenient when completing specific transactions at the DMV

Overview

Eligible DMV customers will be able to update an existing voter registration or register or pre-register to vote after affirming their eligibility when completing one of the following transactions through the DMV:

- Driver's license or state ID application
- Driver's license or state ID renewal
- Change of address

Individuals who do not wish to register to vote can opt out.

Individuals completing other DMV transactions, including vehicle registration, will *not* be registered to vote through California Motor Voter. They can register to vote by requesting a paper voter registration form or by visiting registertovote.ca.gov.

California Motor Voter makes registering to vote and keeping voter registration up to date more convenient for voters and improves the accuracy of voter rolls, contributing to a smoother election experience.

How it Works

The Policy:

The California Motor Voter program requires the DMV to provide a seamless voter registration process for eligible voters who apply for or renew a driver's license or state ID card, or who notify the DMV of a change of address. U.S. citizens who affirm they meet the eligibility requirements will have their voter registration information securely and electronically transferred to the Secretary of State to register them to vote or update their voter registration record, unless they opt out.

How It Works:

- During the application, renewal, or change of address process, people will be required to affirm they are a U.S. citizen AND meet all of the voter eligibility requirements before their information can be used to register them to vote or update their voter registration.
- Individuals can opt out of voter registration during their transaction.
- DMV now offers a new online driver's license or state ID application online, but customers are still required to visit a DMV office in person to complete their application and their voter registration. Please note that the voter registration deadline is 15 days before an election, so customers who fill out an online application who will not visit the

*** This is an excerpt from the *2018 Election Reform Primer: What Voters Need to Know*. The full document is available at <http://futureofcaelections.org/electionprimer2018/>.**

DMV office to complete their transaction before the voter registration deadline should register to vote online at registertovote.ca.gov.

- DMV customers who register to vote or update their voter registration through California Motor Voter will be asked to provide their voter registration preferences, including their:
 - Party preference
 - Vote-by-mail status
 - Language for voting materials
- California Motor Voter will *not* automatically add all driver's license and ID holders to the voter rolls. People will only be registered to vote if they confirm their eligibility to vote when they apply for or renew a license or ID, or when they submit a change of address through the DMV.
- Both the DMV's electronic and paper applications have safeguards to ensure only people who are eligible to vote are registered. By law, the information of AB 60 license applicants and license holders will not be transmitted to the Secretary of State.

Additional Benefits:

- Eligible 16 and 17-year-olds will be pre-registered to vote at DMV when completing a qualified transaction. They can vote when they turn 18.
- Voter registration information is available in the following 10 languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.
- DMV offices will have dedicated accessible computers for customers with disabilities to complete applications and register to vote.

What Voters Need to Know

When you apply for or renew a driver's license or state ID, or if you notify DMV of an address change, you will be asked to confirm your eligibility to vote. If you confirm your eligibility, you will be registered to vote or your voter registration will be updated unless you check the opt-out box on the DMV form.

If you are 16 or 17 years old and eligible, you will be pre-registered to vote when applying for a driver's license, state ID, or learner's permit, or if you notify DMV of an address change, unless you check the opt-out box on the DMV form. You will have to wait to vote until you turn 18 before you can vote.

Voter Registration Eligibility Requirements

To register to vote in California, you must be:

- a United States citizen, and
- a resident of California, and
- 18 years old or older on Election Day, and
- not currently in state or federal prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony, and
- not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.

To pre-register to vote in California, you must:

- be 16 or 17 years old, and
- meet all of the other eligibility requirements to vote.

If you have pre-registered to vote, you will automatically be registered to vote on your 18th birthday.

Once your DMV transaction is complete, DMV will send your voter registration information to the Secretary of State. You will get a postcard in the mail that confirms you are registered to vote! You can check your voter registration status at <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/registration-status>.

Important Reminders:

- The voter registration deadline for any election is 15 days before Election Day. If you miss the deadline, you will need to register and vote at your county elections office or designated location. Contact your county elections office for more information.
<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices>
- By law, the information of AB 60 license applicants and license holders will not be transmitted to the Secretary of State and they will not be registered to vote.
- To pre-register, register, or to update your voter registration, you must complete the voter registration sections during your DMV transaction by affirming that you are a U.S. citizen and that you are eligible to vote. You will also be able to choose a political party, get voting materials in a different language, or become a permanent vote-by-mail voter.
- The voter registration questions are offered to DMV customers in 9 additional languages: Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.