



Future of California Elections Launches Newsletter

Spread the news!

Starting this month, Future of California Elections will launch a monthly newsletter highlighting developments in the field of elections for California as well as national news; the latest on the Future of California Elections initiatives; and the best new reports on elections.

If you would like your organization's work to be



SAVE THE DATE!
2015 CONFERENCE
February 2015 -
Sacramento
Details on the [Conference 2015 page](#) at the [FoCE website](#)

Want to use the new California Online Voter Registration (COVR) system to reach voters through your website? Check out the FoCE COVR toolkit at [LINK](#) and your

highlighted please send relevant articles and announcements to astrid@futureofcaelections.org

organization could join the OVR [Wall of Fame!](#)

UPDATED Online Voter Registration Toolkit

In keeping with Future of California Elections' twin goals of expanding voter participation and improving the state's election process, several members have been working closely with the Secretary of State's office to help promote the latest update to the California Online Voter Registration (COVR) system. Nationally, California ranks 45th out of 50 states in the percentage of eligible voters who are actually registered to vote. There are 6 million Californians who are eligible to vote, but have not taken the step of registering to vote. COVR is one tool that can contribute to increasing the state's low voter registration rate while helping election officials maintain quality voter rolls. What is COVR?

COVR allows voters to complete and submit their voter registration form online.

The system launched in Fall 2012 in Spanish and English. The website was recently upgraded in April 2014 translated into additional languages. It is now available in 10 languages, including English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.

COVR can be accessed via computer as well as mobile platforms such as smartphones and tablets.

FoCE Members COVR Toolkit

In order to assist community organizations with efforts to

promote use of COVR, several FoCE members have developed a Community Outreach Toolkit (updated September 5), including

- Sample Press Release in English and many other languages
- Sample Email for outreach
- Sample Social Media language
- Sample Flyer
- Instructions for adding an online voter registration link to your website
- Ideas for community outreach

You can access the Toolkit and other COVR resources [here](http://futureofcaelections.org/COVR) (<http://futureofcaelections.org/COVR>)

ACLU Releases New NVRA Toolkit

The ACLU is pleased to share a new National Voter Registration Act Toolkit, designed to be a one-stop reference for all parties who have responsibilities pertaining to Section 7 of the NVRA. It has separate sections for (1) frontline staff at public agencies with NVRA responsibilities (i.e. caseworkers, intake specialists, etc.), (2) NVRA coordinators at those agencies, and (3) county elections officials. It explains federal and state law in simple terms, provides best practices and examples from high-performing counties, addresses commonly held misconceptions about voting, answers frequently asked questions, and shares a variety of additional resources.

The toolkit is also available online: <http://www.aclusandiego.org/nvra-toolkit/>. There, you can find shortened versions appropriate for each of the three groups listed above.

Questions? Contact ACLU's Jonathan Stein at jstein@acluca.org.

Secretary of State Candidate Forum October 9 in Berkeley

From the ACLU, California Common Cause and the League of Women Voters Educational Fund:

We are pleased to announce that the fall Secretary of State Candidate Forum will be held on Thursday, October 9, at 6:30 PM at UC Berkeley's **Chevron Auditorium**. The forum will be moderated by John Myers of KQED. We are currently exploring our options for broadcasting and live streaming the event and they will be announced when they are available.

In addition to the upcoming forum, you can also access other resources related to the Secretary of State's race and our forums:

- You can watch the entire Los Angeles forum here.
- No time to watch an entire forum? Hear the candidates pitch themselves to a 13-year-old interviewer and future voter here.
- Read the Los Angeles Times's summary of the May 6th San Diego forum.
- Hear what Fox News had to say about the San Diego forum.
- Read ACLU's Lori Shellenberger's op-ed in the U-T San Diego.
- Read ACLU's Lori Shellenberger's blog post entitled: "What's the Matter with Democracy in California?" It tells the real life story of one California woman's struggle to register and vote.
- Read California Forward's blog entry.
- Read California Voter Foundation's blog entry.
- Check the ACLU of California's website for updates on the upcoming Secretary of State Candidate forums.
- Tweet with hashtags #myvotecounts #myvotemySOS

Questions? Contact Dora Rose at drose@acluca.org.

MAKE SURE EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

FoCE to Sponsor Event October 14 in

Sacramento

Confirmed Panelists:

- Kim Alexander, California Voter Foundation
- Jill LaVine, Sacramento County Registrar

- Mindy Romero, UC Davis California Civic Engagement Project

WHEN: Tuesday, October 14 from 12pm-1:30pm at the UC Center in Sacramento
(1130 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814)

RSVP - <http://vbmpanel.eventbrite.com>

Questions?

Contact FoCE's Stefani Jimenez at sjimenez@futureofcaelections.org or 213.346.3274.

Hope to see you there!