



Frequently Asked Question - 2020 Primary Elections

What is a Voter's Choice Act county?

The counties of Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Tuolumne will conduct their elections under a new voting model established by the Voter's Choice Act. The new voting experience provides voters greater flexibility by expanding early in-person voting to 10 days, including weekends, transitioning to vote centers with improved services for voters, and increasing available ballot drop boxes to return vote-by-mail ballots. Additionally, every county (except Los Angeles county) will send voters a vote-by-mail ballot automatically, even if they did not request one. Learn more at voterschoice.org. [Click here for the Los Angeles County FAQ.](#)

Can I still vote if I'm not registered or my registration is not current?

Yes. Visit any vote center Feb.22-March 3, including weekends, to register or update your registration and vote the same day. Visit your county election office website to find a vote center near you www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place

Can I vote early?

Yes, please do! Avoid the lines and vote early. Visit any vote center starting February 22. Vote centers are open weekends. Find a vote center near www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place. If voting by mail, you can return your ballot at any time. Vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked or delivered to a vote center or ballot drop box by 8 p.m. on March 3.

How do I vote in-person?

Visit any vote center in the county Feb. 22-March 3 to vote in-person. You are no longer limited to voting in one place on a single day. You choose when and where to vote. Find a vote center near you www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place

What is a vote center?

Vote centers are the places where you can vote and get assistance with your ballot. They replace neighborhood polling places, are accessible and offer expanded services to voters. Eligible voters can visit any vote center in the county to:

- Register and update voter registration, such as address or political party preference
- Vote
- Drop off a vote-by-mail ballot
- Use accessible voting equipment
- Receive language assistance in covered languages



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How do I vote by mail?

To vote by mail you must be registered as a permanent vote-by-mail voter, or you must request a vote-by-mail ballot by February 25. Contact your election office to request a vote-by-mail ballot. www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail/

Sign your envelope and return it by U.S. mail, at a ballot drop box or at any vote center. You don't need a postage stamp. If close to Election Day, drop off your ballot at a drop box or vote center.

What is Accessible Vote by Mail?

Voters with disabilities can request an accessible vote-by-mail ballot to use their own assistive technology. To receive an Accessible Vote by Mail ballot, you must request one and be registered as a permanent vote-by-mail voter or request a one-time, vote-by-mail ballot by February 25. Contact your election office to learn more www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices/

I am not registered with a political party; how do I vote for president?

If you are not registered with a political party, you are a No Party Preference voter and your ballot will not list candidates for U.S. President unless you request a party ballot.

- To request a party ballot by mail, contact your election office and request a vote-by-mail ballot by February 25. www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail/
- To request a party ballot in-person, visit any vote center Feb. 22-March 3. Find a vote center near you www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place.

There are special rules on voting for president for No Party Preference voters:

- The Democratic Party, American Independent Party and Libertarian Party allow voters who are not registered with a political party to vote their party's ballot. Requesting one of these party ballots for the presidential primary does not change your voter registration.
- The Green Party, Peace and Freedom Party, and Republican Party allow only voters registered with their party to vote in their presidential primary. To vote for one of these parties' candidates, you need to change your voter registration.

Why does it take so long to get final election results in California?

California election laws help ensure every vote gets counted and this takes time. For example, election officials must give vote-by-mail voters with a mismatched signature an opportunity to provide a clearer signature, and given postal delays, vote-by-mail ballots that are postmarked by Election Day or earlier are counted if received within three days after Election Day. Additionally, California has more voters than any other state in the nation.