



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the deadline for registering for the Nov 2, 2010 election?

October 18, 2010. The deadline to register to vote is 15 days prior to each local and statewide Election Day.

What is the last day to register to vote by mail?

It varies by county but typically the request has to be received by the county registrar's office 7 days before an election. You can check with the county registrar's office for their deadlines.

Who can register to vote?

In order to register to vote, a person must:

- * Be a citizen of the United States;
- * Be a resident of California;
- * Be at least 18 years of age as of the day of the next election
- * Not be in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony; and
- * Not be deemed by an appropriate court to be mentally incompetent.

Do I have to re-register for each election?

No. However you must re-register if you have moved your permanent residence, changed your name since the last election OR changed political party affiliation.

What if I registered but didn't receive anything in the mail from the Secretary of State?

You should receive a card to confirm your registration within a few weeks of registering. You can check your registration status online at:

http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_d.htm

Where should a college student register to vote?

A student may register and vote at either their home address/permanent residence or at the address where they live at school.

I did not vote in the last election. Do I need to re-register?

In general, you are registered to vote for as long as you remain at the same address. However, if you have not voted in the last several elections, you may be sent a request to confirm that you have not moved.

Do I have to be registered to vote in order to register other voters?

No, you do not need to be a registered voter, be a particular age or even be a resident of the area in order to register voters. However, if you help someone fill out the registration card, you do have to fill in and sign the card in the spaces provided for that purpose.

Do I have to be deputized to register people to vote?

No, you do not have to be deputized to register people to vote.

How many voter registration affidavits can I get if I want to register people in my community?

There is no limit to the number of voter registration affidavits a person may obtain. However, depending on the number of cards the Secretary of State or a county elections official has on hand and the volume of requests they are receiving, the Secretary of State and county elections officials may ask a requestor to take fewer cards than they asked for and to return later should they need additional cards. The Secretary of State does require the requestor to complete a Voter Registration Card Statement of Distribution form and a county elections official may require a person who requests cards from their office to do something similar.



How can a person prove his or her citizenship?

California Elections Code section 2111 permits a person to prove they are a citizen who is eligible to register to vote by signing the affidavit of registration under penalty of perjury.

When is the last day to return my voted vote-by-mail ballot?

Vote-by-mail ballots must be received by the elections official no later than the close of polls at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

How do I turn in my vote-by-mail ballot on Election Day?

You may return it in person to any polling place in your county or to the county elections office on Election Day. If, because of illness or physical disability, you are unable to return the ballot yourself, you may designate a spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, or a person residing in the same household to return the ballot to the elections official or the precinct board at any polling place within the jurisdiction. The ballot must be received by the elections official or the precinct board before the close of the polls at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted.

Where is my polling place?

Your polling place location will be printed on the sample ballot you receive from your county elections official prior to an election. You may also contact your local county elections office for polling place information:

http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_d.htm

What hours are polling place locations open?

All polling place locations are open on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Can a VRC from One County be Used to Register a Resident of Another County?

Yes. If a resident of one county uses another county's VRC to register, the county that receives the card will forward it to the proper county elections office. (Elections Code § 2114.) However, it is best to use the county-specific cards whenever possible to avoid delays in getting the citizen registered to vote.

What Information Can Be Distributed While Registering Voters?

Any person may, while registering voters, disseminate informational materials including advocacy (e.g. support for legislation) and general (e.g. Educacy) materials. Note that Educacy cannot endorse particular candidates. The law does not restrict your free speech rights when conducting a voter registration drive. Common courtesy and common sense, however, should be practiced. If the voters registration drive is conducted on school/government or private property, local guidelines may apply so please check with the site leadership/management for any specific policies.

Restrictions on who can volunteer, e.g. school administration, if it's after-school hours?

Anyone can volunteer on his/her own time. If on school/government or private property and/or during work hours, always check with site leadership/management.

Can a Circulator Fill in the Blanks on VRCs?

The circulator may not fill in the blanks on the VRC unless the citizen registering to vote asks for that help. If asked for assistance, the circulator must complete the VRC in its entirety and exactly as the citizen requests.

Can I disclose Driver's License Number, Identification Card Number or Social Security Card Numbers?

If a person or an organization in charge of the voter registration drive discloses a driver's license number, identification card number and/or social security number from a voter registration card to someone other than an elections official or the person or organization in charge of the voter registration drive, that



person is guilty of an infraction. The infraction is punishable by a fine for up to five hundred dollars (\$500). (Elections Code §§ 2138.5, 18111.)

Can I return my filled-out Voters Registration Card to the library or post office?

No, they must be returned to the address on the Voters Registration Card (VRC). Although you can pick up a VRC at U.S. Post offices, public libraries, the Department of Motor Vehicles and other City and County offices, they must be returned to the Registrar of Voters office address on the VRC card.