Voter and Pre-Registration Information

Assistant Chief Deputy Secretary of State, Lizette Mata
Public–private effort led by the California Secretary of State’s office in partnership with the California Lieutenant Governor’s office, and three nonprofit organizations; CalPIRG, California Common Cause, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus.

These groups recognize that a healthy democracy must include the voices of California’s next generation. The California Students Vote Project is advocating for the implementation of student voter registration best practices at all of California’s public colleges and universities.

These include: asking students during optimal time periods or via their student portals to register to vote, sending all-campus emails and notifications about the importance of voting before voter registration deadlines and elections, signing an MOU that outlines best practices for voter registration efforts, and implementing said practices for on-the-ground voter registration efforts.
Civic Engagement Activities

- **Steering Committee: Power of Democracy**
  - The Committee works together to improve civic awareness, learning and engagement in California. The committee includes representatives from all three levels of the California courts as well as state and local education organizations.
  
  - The Commission for Impartial Courts was charged with studying and providing recommendations to the Judicial Council, the policy making body of the judicial branch, on ways to strengthen our court system, increase public trust and confidence in the judiciary, and ensure judicial impartiality and accountability for the benefit of all Californians.
  
  - The Making Democracy Work: Civic Learning Summit was organized to bring attention to the need for civic engagement and literacy in California, including in K–12 schools, and featured Retired United State Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor as the keynote speaker.
  
  - The Steering Committee is staffed by the Judicial Council Operations and Programs Division, and funding for the Power of Democracy Steering Committee’s civic learning initiatives is generously provided by a grant from the California Bar Foundation.
Pre-Register at 16 Vote at 18

Who can pre-register to vote?
- You can pre-register to vote in California if you are 16 or 17 years old and meet the following requirements:
  A United States citizen, and a resident of California.
  Not currently imprisoned or on parole for the conviction of a felony (for more information on the rights of people who have been incarcerated, please see the Secretary of State's Voting Rights for Californians with Criminal Convictions or Detained in Jail or Prison).
  Not prohibited from voting by a court because of mental incompetency (for more information, please see Voting Rights: Persons Subject to Conservatorship).

Are pre-registration voter registration applications available in languages other than English?
- The California Secretary of State's online application is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.
Pre–Register at 16 Vote at 18

Do I need a California driver license or California identification card to apply online? What happens if the Department of Motor Vehicles does not have my signature on file when I try to submit an application online?

- All Californians who are eligible to pre–register to vote may fill out a voter registration application through the Secretary of State's website. California military and overseas voters may also use the Secretary of State's website to fill out a voter pre–registration application. If you do not have a California driver license or identification card number, but you enter your other information, the website will create a pre–filled voter registration application for you to print, sign, and mail. All of your information will be sent directly to your county elections office so that when your signed application arrives in the mail, the county elections staff will simply add your signature to your voter pre–registration record.

What happens after I pre–register to vote?

- After you pre–register to vote you will receive a postcard confirmation notifying you that your application was received and processed.

What should I do if I have moved? Am I required to re–register?

- Your voter pre–registration record should always reflect your current residence. However, if you have moved from your home into a temporary residence (not your permanent residence), you can continue to use your prior permanent residence where you were pre–registered to vote.

What happens when I turn 18?

- When you turn 18 years old, the county elections office will mail a confirmation postcard to you stating that your voter registration is now active. At the time of the next election, your county elections official will automatically mail your election related materials to your registered address. If your confirmation postcard is returned undeliverable, possibly because you have moved, the county elections office may inactivate your record until a new Voter Registration Application is submitted.
Pre-Register at 16 Vote at 18

Pre-register at sixteen. Vote at eighteen.
16 and 17 year olds can now pre-register to vote online.

Pre-register at 16.
Vote at 18.
Youth ages 16 and 17 can now pre-register to vote online. Those who pre-register will have their registration become active once they turn 18.
Additional Civic Engagement Activities

- California Student Mock Election – Fall 2018
  - To encourage students to become active voters once they are old enough to cast a ballot, Secretary of State Alex Padilla and Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson invite high school and middle school students, teachers and principals to participate in the California Student Mock Election, which will take place in Fall 2018, for the Gubernatorial General Election.

- High School voter Education Week
  - The California Education Code designates the last two full weeks in April and September to be High School Voter Education Weeks. This provides an opportunity for high schools and their students to partner with county elections officials to promote civic education and participation on campus and foster an environment that cultivates lifelong voters and active citizens.

- High School Poll Workers
  - California Elections Code section 12302 allows eligible high school students to serve as poll workers on Election Day. Student poll workers learn firsthand how elections are run, and provide much needed support at polling place locations. They end their day with a better understanding of the importance of voting and the vital role poll workers play in making our elections run smoothly.
  - County elections officials may assign up to five high school students to serve as poll workers in each election precinct. Students work under the direct supervision of appointed adult poll workers.
iPad, Tablet, or Smartphone Application Available to Fill Out Voter Registration Online!

Available in English and Spanish: VOTE CALIFORNIA
Sign Up to Receive E-Updates!

Sign up below to receive electronic updates to your inbox that provide you the latest news, changes in the law, and other helpful information from the California Secretary of State’s office. Please note: you can subscribe to one or more options to receive electronic information, or you can select "Agency-wide" to receive information related to all areas.

* Email Address

* First Name

* Last Name

Phone Number

* Address

Zip Code

Company

Email Lists

☐ Agency-wide

☐ Business Programs Division- General Business Information