

CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS

for unhoused people & people with criminal records

TO VOTE IN CALIFORNIA, you must be:

- A United States citizen,
- A resident of California, and
- 18 years old or older on Election Day.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE, if you:

- Are unhoused or experiencing homelessness,
- Have a criminal record or conviction history, or
- Are in jail awaiting trial or serving a jail sentence.

VOTING WHILE UNHOUSED

When you register to vote, you can use both a **residential** (or “permanent”) address and a **mailing address**.

- **For your residential address:** You can use the **location where you spend most of your time**. This does NOT need to be an official address (for example, “123 Apple Street, Oakland, CA 12345”), but you must describe the location clearly enough for elections officials to establish your right to vote in a specific voting precinct or county (for example, “near the corner of Apple Street and First Avenue in Oakland, CA”).
- **For your mailing address:** You can use **any address where you can reliably receive mail**, such as a friend’s house, church, shelter, or P.O. Box. Important voter information and election materials will be sent here.

VOTING WITH A CRIMINAL RECORD

The only time you lose the right to vote in California due to criminal justice system involvement is if **you’re currently serving a state or federal prison sentence for a felony conviction (whether CDCR has housed you in prison or jail*)**.

You still have the right to vote while:

- You are in a juvenile hall, camp or ranch, or on juvenile probation of any type. **A juvenile case doesn’t impact your right to vote!**
- ***When you are in county jail:**
 - Awaiting trial,
 - Serving a jail sentence for a misdemeanor or felony, or
 - As a condition of your probation.
- When you are **on community supervision**, such as probation, parole, post-release community supervision (PRCS), or mandatory supervision.
- When you finish **serving a prison sentence for an adult felony conviction**. You will need to re-register to vote.

REGISTER TO VOTE

Find your voter status and information about upcoming elections at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov.

To register to vote, fill out a Voter Registration Form:

- Online at registertovote.ca.gov; or
- In-person at a local library, post office, DMV office, or county elections office; or
- By mail: call (800) 345-8683 and request the CA Secretary of State mail you a form to fill out and mail in.

You should register to vote at least 15 days before Election Day, but if you miss the deadline, you can still register and vote on the same day at your vote center (polling place) or county elections office.

You do NOT need a California Driver’s License or State ID Card to register to vote, and are not required to provide proof of identification when you vote. (See info on **Provisional Ballots on the back of this flyer.)**



You can cast a **PROVISIONAL BALLOT** on Election Day at any polling place if:

- You requested a vote-by-mail ballot while in custody, but are **released** before you received it.
- You believe you are registered to vote, but your name is not on the official voter registration list.
- You **register and vote on the same day** (called “same day” or “conditional” voter registration).
- You were mailed a vote-by-mail ballot and **lost** or **misplaced** it.
- You did not provide your driver’s license number, state ID number, or last 4 digits of your Social Security Number (SSN) when you registered to vote and are voting for the first time in a federal election.
 - *In this case, you may be asked to provide proof of identity at the polls (for example, a utility bill, bank statement, or official mail from a government agency). **If you’re unable to provide proof of identification, you can still cast a provisional ballot.***

..... **HOW TO VOTE FROM COUNTY JAIL OR JUVENILE HALL**

- **Register** to vote by writing the Secretary of State or your county elections office and requesting a paper **Voter Registration Form** and **Voter Guide**.
 - Complete the Voter Registration Form in **blue** or **black ink** and mail it in the postage-paid return envelope.
 - Use your prior address as your residential or “permanent” address; and use the jail’s address as your mailing address.
 - If you were unhoused prior to jail, you can use the location where you spent most of your time, such as a street intersection or community center, as your residential address.
- ***NOTE: If you’re 16 or 17, you can pre-register to vote using the process described above. You will automatically become registered to vote on your 18th birthday.***
- Once you’re registered, **request a vote-by-mail ballot** from your county elections office. Fill out your ballot in **blue** or **black ink**, and mail it in the postage-paid return envelope before or by Election Day.

When pre-registering or registering to vote for the first time, you will be asked to provide your driver’s license number or state identification number, if you have one. If you don’t have one, you can provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number (SSN). If you don’t know this information, you can ask for help from a family member on the outside, your attorney, or case worker.

COMPLAINTS

If you are in custody or living in a transitional living facility and someone is preventing you from exercising your right to vote, you can file a complaint with the CA Secretary of State and/or submit a grievance using your facility’s grievance process.

- To file a complaint with the California Secretary of State, fill out an Election Voter Complaint Form on the Secretary of State website or print a copy of the form and mail it in.
- The **Election Voter Complaint Form** is available online at: <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/fraud-complaints/pdfs/english-voter-fraud-complaint-form.pdf>

NEED HELP?

Call California Secretary of State’s toll-free voter hotline at 800-345-VOTE (800-345-8683).

You can also submit a question through the California Secretary of State’s website or by writing them by postal mail:

California Secretary of State, Elections Division
1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
www.sos.ca.gov

County Election Offices are located across California and provide voter information in many languages. Call the Secretary of State’s voter hotline to get the information for your local elections office, or find it on their website.

Join the movement to restore voting rights in California!

All Of Us Or None (AOUON) is a grassroots civil and human rights organization led for and by formerly and currently-incarcerated people. To learn more about AOUON and join the fight to restore rights, go to prisonerswithchildren.org/membership/.

