

Voter Education and Registration for System-Impacted Individuals

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Agenda

- Introduction to LA Free the Vote and voting rights for system impacted individuals (15 min)
- Voting during Covid19 & Voter Registration(35 min)
- Questions + Quiz (5 min)

Ice-Breaker!

A couple
volunteers
share

Please *type* into the chat box:

Why is voting important to you?

What are the issues that impact you and your community that you have in mind when you participate in voting?

LA Free the Vote Background and mission

LA Free the Vote is an initiative born of two LA Board of Supervisors' motions in 2018 tasking County agencies to collaborate in a taskforce with stakeholders to civically engage and register to vote justice-involved individuals before the November 2018 general election and beyond.

*LA Free the Vote aims to make **LA County a national leader in systematically offering voter registration to the justice-involved population and encouraging this population to vote.** Recognizing that the justice involved-population sits at the intersection of multiple underserved communities, LA Free the Vote brings an intentional County government focus to proactively outreaching to this population whose voices are important to our civic life.*



Who is eligible to vote in CA?

Eligibility Requirements

- A United States citizen and a resident of California,
- 18 years old or older on Election Day,
- Not currently in state or federal prison, or in county jail awaiting transfer to state or federal prison,
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court

ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

- On parole
- In county jail:
 - serving a misdemeanor sentence (a misdemeanor never affects your right to vote)
 - Because jail time is a condition of probation (misdemeanor or felony)
 - Serving a felony jail sentence
 - Awaiting trial
 - For a parole violation
- On probation
- On mandatory supervision
- On post-release community supervision
- On federal supervised release
- A person with a juvenile wardship adjudication

INELIGIBLE

- Currently imprisoned in:
 - State prison
 - Federal prison
- Currently serving a state prison felony sentence in a county jail or other correctional facility
- Currently in county jail awaiting transfer to a state or federal prison for a felony conviction





Why are people confused about this?

- It's different state to state
- The election code was changed in 2016, and it was clarified those on PRCS could vote in 2015
- Passage of Prop 17 2020 allowed those on parole to vote

Evolution of voting rights for system-impacted individuals in California



- **Nov. 1849** - California Constitution establishes Criminal Disenfranchisement
- **May 24, 1966** - California Supreme Court in *Otsuka v. Hite* Defines the Term "Infamous Crimes", those "deemed to constitute a threat to the integrity of the elective process."
- **Nov. 5, 1974** - California amends Constitution to allow people with a felony conviction to vote after Completion of incarceration and parole.
- **April 2011**: AB420 ends the potential for prison-based gerrymandering by 2020
- **August 2015**: Voting rights restored to 60,000 formerly incarcerated Californians. Secretary of State Alex Padilla drops appeal on ACLU lawsuit from 2011 claiming that the disenfranchisement of post-release community supervision or mandatory supervision individuals was illegal.
- **January 2017**, AB-2466 put into effect, amending the California Election Code to clarify that only those in state or federal prison, or on state parole are ineligible to vote.
- **November 2020**, Proposition 17 passes, amending Section 2 and Section 4 of Article II of the California Constitution allowing people on parole for felony convictions to vote in California

If you are on state parole in California, you are eligible to vote!

There are 50,000 people on parole state-wide, including approximately 14,000 in Los Angeles County who are newly eligible to vote –

Let's get the word out!



Benefits of civic engagement for system impacted individuals

- 1. Health:** A study of 44 countries (including the United States) found that voter participation was associated with better self-reported health, even after controlling for individual and country characteristics. In another study, individuals who did not vote reported poorer health in subsequent years.
- 2. Racial Equity:** Black and Latinx individuals are disproportionately represented within the justice-involved population. Civically engaging the justice system-impacted community therefore promotes racial equity.
- 3. Reduced Recidivism:** Voting promotes a sense of belonging and ownership within society, reducing likelihood of recidivism



VOTING IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

Community & Voter Outreach



L.A. COUNTY'S NEW VOTING SYSTEM



VOTER'S CHOICE CALIFORNIA

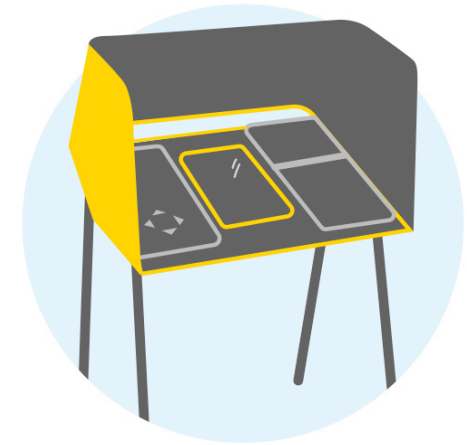
You choose **when, where, and how** to vote



**10 days of voting
before Election Day**



Vote Center model



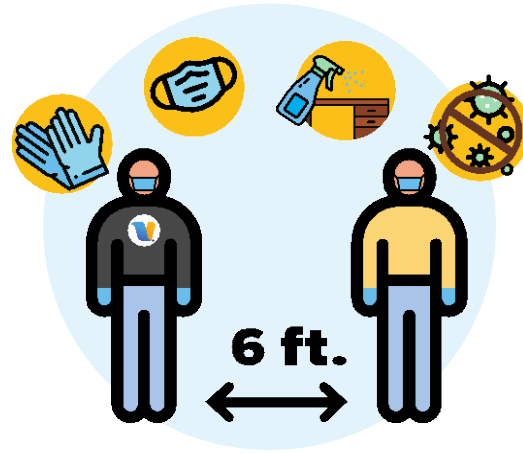
**Electronic Pollbooks &
Ballot Marking Devices**



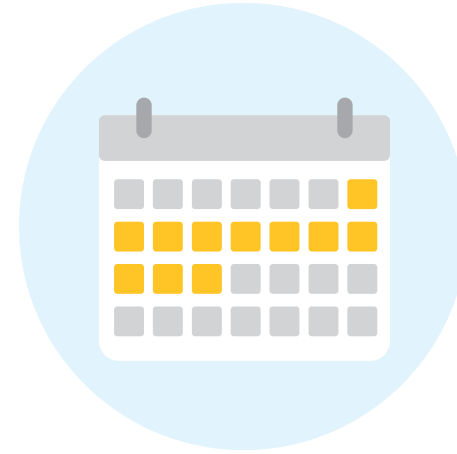
2021 Elections Snapshot



All registered voters will receive a Vote by Mail ballot



There will be safe in-person **Vote Centers** that will strictly follow State and County guidelines from public health and safety officials



We are planning to have **10 days** of voting available prior to Election Day



VBM Ballot Drop Box expansion





The Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder/County Clerk recommends returning a vote by mail ballot to either a mailbox, official drop box, or a ballot box at a vote center.

Before you submit your Vote by Mail ballot make sure:

- Place your voted ballot card(s) inside the Official Return Envelope
- Securely seal the Official Return Envelope
- Sign and date the back of the Official Return Envelope



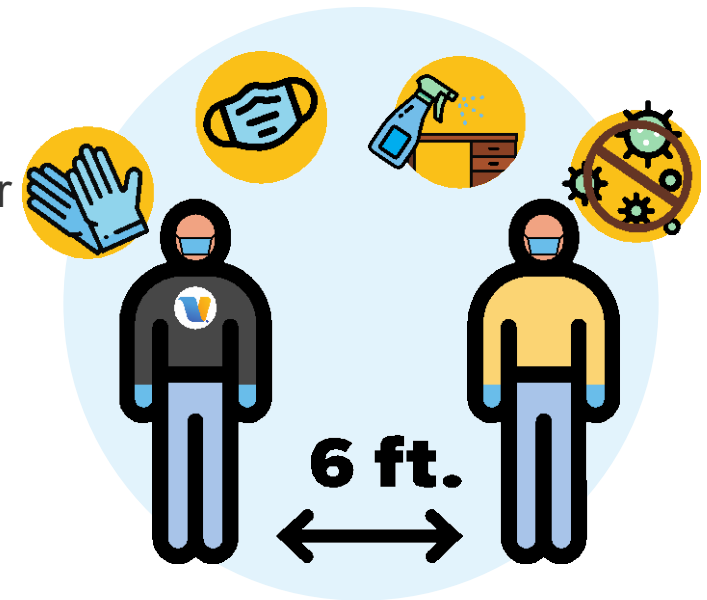
VOTER INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE RELATING TO COVID-19

All registered voters will be mailed a Vote by Mail ballot.

L.A. County will encourage voters to stay at home and vote using their mail-in ballot. Although, in this election we will offer in-person voting, and we will strictly follow the State and County's public health and safety guidelines to ensure we provide a safe voting environment.

COVID-19 Information for Voting In-Person:

1. Voters should wear a clean face-covering when visiting the Vote Center
2. Election Workers will be wearing protective gloves and masks
3. Social distancing will be enforced at the check-in and voting process
4. The Ballot Marking Devices will be sanitized after every voter
5. Gloves will be provided to voters upon request



Upcoming Special Elections

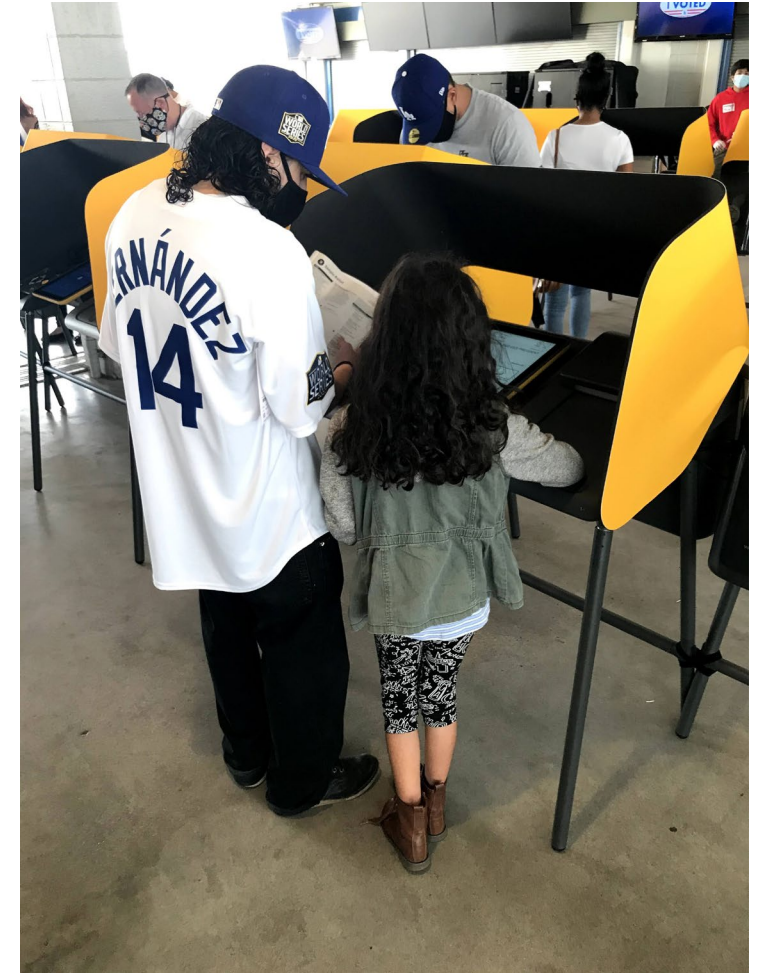
March 2, 2021 Senate District 30 Special Primary

April 13, 2021 Vernon City General Municipal

April 20, 2021 Compton City Primary Nominating

For a listing of scheduled elections click here:

https://lavote.net/docs/rrcc/Election-Info/scheduled_elections_2021.pdf?v=12





Voter Registration Training

Filling out the form in person and online

Do's & Don'ts

DO - Online

- Use lafreethavote.org as your starting place
- Encourage to register, even if they think they have already
- Remind clients to check lavote.net/vrstatus within 2 weeks of registering

DO – In person

- Use Blue or Black Ink
- Encourage to register, even if they think they have already
- Verify that all boxes have been completely filled out

DON'T - Online

- Sway or suggest political party preference

DON'T- In person

- Use pencil
- Make corrections
- Predate Registration Forms
- Refuse anyone a registration form
- Sway or suggest political party preference

BOX #	DESCRIPTION	QTY. SNAGGED
3	U.S. State or Foreign	663
	Country of Birth	
	Date of Birth	65,640
4	Home Address	52,011
8	Political Party Preference	3,445
10	Signature	40,841
	Total Snagged	162,600

DO NOT:



Predate registration forms



Refuse anyone a registration form



Make corrections

Box 1

Qualifications 1

I am a U.S. citizen and resident of California ☐ Yes ☐ No

I am 18 or older ☐ Yes ☐ No

I am 16 or 17 and want to pre-register ☐ Yes ☐ No

Annotations:

- A red arrow points from the "No" checkbox for "I am a U.S. citizen and resident of California" to a red box containing the text: "If 'No,' you CANNOT register."
- Two blue arrows point from the "No" checkboxes for "I am 18 or older" and "I am 16 or 17 and want to pre-register" to a blue box containing the text: "Only choose one."

Online Box 1



Classification - Voter Registration Application



All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

Classification

I am **one** of the following *

☐ A U.S. citizen and resident of California.

OR

☐ A U.S. citizen and a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty outside my county.
☐ A U.S. citizen and an eligible spouse or dependent of a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty outside my county.
☐ A U.S. citizen and an activated National Guard member on State orders outside my county.
☐ A U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S. temporarily.
☐ A U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S. indefinitely.
☐ A U.S. citizen and have never resided in the U.S.

Box 2: Legal Name

Print First name, Middle name or initial and Last name.

- You must use your legal name.
- An initial for **First name**, complete **Middle name** and **Last name** is acceptable *if* the person normally signs their name in this manner.
- Include JR. or SR., II, III, IV, etc., if it is part of the person's name.
- Check Mr., Mrs., or Ms., only if the person chooses one of these designations.
- **DO NOT** use titles such as Dr., Rev., LT., Capt., or Prof.
- **DO NOT** use nicknames.

Box 3: Identification

Federal and State law requires a person who registers or re-registers to vote to provide his/her California Driver's License or California ID number.

3	California driver license or ID card # <u>N1234567</u>	SSN (last 4 numbers) <u>XXX-XX- - - -</u>
---	--	---

No CDL or ID number?

The last **4 digits** of the Social Security Number are required instead.

3	California driver license or ID card # _____	SSN (last 4 numbers) <u>XXX-XX-1234</u>
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If none of the above can be provided, the state will assign a unique number for voter registration purposes.

Information provided is confidential and will only be used for election purposes and will not be printed on any public reports or printed materials.

Box 3: D.O.B. and P.O.B.

Date of birth

Numbers only.

2 digit month, 2 digit day, 4 digit year.

Date of birth	0	1	0	1	1	9	7	5
	M	M	D	D	Y	Y	Y	Y

U.S. State or foreign country of birth

U.S. Born: Print the name of the state or territory.

U.S. state or foreign country of birth	CA
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Foreign Born

Print the name of the country.

Do not abbreviate the name of the country.

U.S. state or foreign country of birth	VENEZUELA
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Box 4: Home Address

Print house number, street name, city, zip code and county.

Recommendations:

- Use numerals (Example: 1st St., 25th Ave.).
- Street direction abbreviation (N., S., E., W.) EXCEPT when the word is part of the street name
- Abbreviate street designations (St., Ave., Pl.).
- Apartment number, trailer space number, slip or berth number if person resides on a boat
- Use authorized abbreviations for street designations except when they are part of the street name (Example: Laurel **Canyon** Bl., not Laurel **Cyn** Bl.).
- Do not abbreviate the county name.

NOTE: P.O. Box as a home address are NOT ACCEPTED.

Box 4: No Home Address

Describe the location of the residence.

If box 4 is completed, box 5 must be completed as well.

Homeless Population

- A person does not need to have an address that includes a house number and street name in order to register to vote.
- Indicate a description of the location of their residence using
 - cross streets
 - landmarks
 - other information to pinpoint where the person lives

Literacy & Writing

- No literacy requirement. If a citizen cannot read or write in any language, they may be assisted in completing a VRC.

Domestic Violence Victims

- [Safe At Home](#) program in California protects you and offers alternative registration option.



Box 7: PVBM & VBM

I want to get my ballot by mail before each election.

☐ Yes* ☐ No

- Everyone is eligible to request VBM ballot
- Become a permanent VBM voter
- Automatically receive a vote-by-mail ballot for each election.
- Offers convenience and flexibility
- You can choose to still take VBM ballot to a polling place
- Note: If you do not participate in 4 (four) consecutive elections, you will be removed from the VBM list.

Box 8 : Political Party Preference

I want to choose a political party preference

☐ American Independent Party

☐ Democratic Party

☐ Green Party

☐ Libertarian Party

☐ Peace and Freedom Party

☐ Republican Party

☐ Other (*specify*): _____

I do not want to choose a political party preference

☐ No Party / None

“YES”: Check the box for political party of choice. **Only One.**

“No” Party Preference

DO NOT SUGGEST A POLITICAL PARTY

Box 10 : Declaration and Signature

Registrant should:

1. Review for completeness
2. Ensure all information is accurate
3. Read the declaration
4. Sign
5. Enter the date using numbers only (MM/DD/YY)

Registrant may sign in their primary language, only if all their legal documents are signed as such.

I swear or affirm that:
I am a U.S. citizen and a resident of California and at least 16 years old. I am not currently in state or federal prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony. I am not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court. I understand that it is a crime to intentionally provide incorrect information on this form. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information on this form is true and correct.

X *John Voter* 03 / 15 / 18

Signature Date Signed Month Day Year

I swear or affirm that:
I am a U.S. citizen and a resident of California and at least 16 years old. I am not currently in state or federal prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony. I am not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court. I understand that it is a crime to intentionally provide incorrect information on this form. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information on this form is true and correct.

X 존 유권자 03 / 15 / 18

Signature Date Signed Month Day Year

Box 10 : Signature Assistance

If the person cannot sign his/her name and requires assistance, have the person make an “X” instead of signing.

I swear or affirm that: I am a U.S. citizen and a resident of California and at least 16 years old . I am not currently in state or federal prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony. I am not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court. I understand that it is a crime to intentionally provide incorrect information on this form. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information on this form is true and correct.				
Their John (X) Voter Mark		05 / 18 / 18		
Signature	Date Signed	Month	Day	Year

You as the person assisting will: Place brackets around the “X”

Print the word “Their” above the “X”

Print the word “Mark” below the “X”

Print the first and middle name (or initial) of the person on the left side of the “X” and the last name on the right side enter the date using numbers only (mm/dd/yy)

Voter Registration Assistance

When you assist a person in completing a registration form you must fill out this section:

Did someone help you fill out or deliver this form?	
If "yes," the person who helped you must fill out and sign both parts of this blue box.	
Signature <i>Jane Smith</i>	Date 03 / 15 / 18
Name, address, and phone #: Jane Smith	
9876 7 TH PL. LA, CA 90000 (562)765-4321	
Org. name and phone #: Sunshine Party	

If you receive payment for registering voters, you must: Print name and phone number of the person, company or organization that hired you. **You must** accept the responsibility for returning completed registration forms within 72 hours of the signed date.

Keep it until you receive a notice from your county elections official.

91 BP 606054

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Name, address, and phone #: _____

Org. name and phone #: _____

(This part is the voter's receipt.)

You must complete the receipt in the upper right hand corner and give it to the voter.

If supporting online registration by phone:
Download and email the PDF confirmation to your client after successful registration.

Submitting Registration Forms

- You have three (3) days to turn in VRCs
- If a person accepts a completed card from a voter, that card must be returned within three (3) days of receiving it (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and state holidays)
- The card may be returned either:
 - a) in person
 - b) to the county elections official
 - c) to the Secretary of State
 - d) before the close of registration, whichever is earlier.

Online Voter Registration

Lafreethevote.org



[Home](#) [Who Can Vote](#) [What We're Voting On](#)
[Why We Should Vote](#) [About](#) [Contact](#)



In California, almost everyone can vote.

On probation? **You can vote.**

On parole? **You can vote.**

In jail? **You can vote.**

[Register To Vote Here](#)

Register to vote online at:

<https://www.lafreethevote.org/>

Language & Goal

- Select your preferred language, and click Register to Vote Now
- Choose an option to register or to check your current registration status
- At this point you are re-directed to the CA Secretary of State's website

California Online Voter Registration

Welcome to the California Online Voter Registration website.

Language Preference

If you wish to continue in a language other than English, please select your language below.

[Español Spanish](#)

[हिन्दी Hindi](#)

[中文 Chinese](#)

[日本語 Japanese](#)

[ខ្មែរ Khmer](#)

[한국어 Korean](#)

[Tagalog](#)

[ภาษาไทย Thai](#)

[Tiếng Việt Vietnamese](#)



Register to Vote Now

Pre-Register to Vote

**Check Your Registration
Status**



Alex Padilla California Secretary of State



Website Help | English - Change Language ▼

Personal Information - Voter Registration Application



All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

Qualifications

☒ I am a U.S. citizen and resident of California. *

Registration/pre-registration *

- ☒ I am 18 or older.
☐ I am 16 or 17 and want to pre-register.

Eligibility

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

Qualifications

☐ I am a U.S. citizen and resident of California. *

Registration/pre-registration *

☐ I am 18 or older.

☐ I am 16 or 17 and want to pre-register.

All fields marked with an "*" are mandatory. If the registrant is unable to check either of these fields, they are not eligible to register to vote.

Legal Name

- First and Last name are required
- If your name is common adding a middle name (if applicable) may help with record revival in the future
- Email and Phone Number are optional

Prefix	<input type="text" value="Select prefix"/>
First name *	<input type="text"/>
Middle name	<input type="text"/>
Last name *	<input type="text"/>
Suffix	<input type="text" value="Select suffix"/>

Email address	<input type="text"/>
Confirm email	<input type="text"/>
Phone number	<input type="text"/>

Phone numbers are posted at polling places on election day.

DOB/POB

Enter your date of birth


Enter the U.S state in
which you were born or

Enter the name of
the country in which you
were born.

Select month  Select day 
 (YYYY)

*If you are 16 or 17 years old pre-registering, you
will automatically be a registered voter once you
turn 18.*

☐ U. S. State/Territory

Select place of birth 

☐ Foreign Country/Region

Select place of birth 

Identification

Identification*

New voters may have to show a form of identification or proof of residency the first time they vote, if a driver license or SSN was not provided when registering.

California driver license or California identification card number

☐ I do not have a California driver license or California identification card.

Social security number (last 4 numbers)

☐ I do not have a social security number.

My ethnicity/race is

My language preference for receiving election materials is

[Home and Mailing Address](#)

- Only one of the identification methods is required.
- You must select “I do not have a California DL or ID card” if you intend to only use the last four of your social. Otherwise you will see an error asking you to fill in that box

Home and Mail

- These addresses are used to determine which elections a voter is eligible to vote in based on where they physically live.
- Mailing address can be a PO Box but the physical cannot.
- If the voter is updating registration they must check the box and enter the past address in that following field.

Home and Mailing Address

Home Address *

☒ I have a street address. ☐ I do not have a street address.

Street address *

Not a P.O. Box or business address (Number, Street, Ave., Drive, etc. Include N, S, E, W)

Apartment or unit number

City *

State

Zip *

County *

☐ My mailing address is different from my home address.

☐ I was previously registered or pre-registered to vote.

Party Preference

- Voters can Decline to State or register no party preference by selecting the second box shown

Political Party Preference

Do you want to choose a political party preference? *

☐ Yes, my political party preference is Other (specify):

☐ No Party/None, I do not want to choose a political party preference.

(If you choose "No Party/None," you may not be able to vote for some parties' candidates at a primary election for U.S. President, or for a party's central committee.)

[Previous](#) [Next](#)

Vote-By-Mail

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

Vote by Mail in All Elections (Permanent Vote-by-Mail Voter)

I want to get my ballot by mail before each election. *

☐ Yes ☐ No

- Vote by mail registration is a simple one button selection.
- This places a voter on Permanent Vote By Mail meaning they will receive a ballot by mail each cycle unless they request a change in status

Mailing and Volunteer Options

- While each of these choices is optional:

- [State Voter Information](#)
- [County Voter Information](#)

boxes must have selections in order to move forward.

State Voter Information Guide

I want to get my state voter information guide by mail before each statewide election *

☐ Yes ☐ No

County Voter Information Guide

I want to get my county voter information guide by mail before each election. *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Volunteer on Election Day

☐ I want to be a poll worker and assist voters on election day.

☐ I can provide a polling place on election day.

Assistance

Help Filling Out This Form

Did someone help you fill out this form?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, the person who helped you must fill out the questions below.

Name *

Address *

Phone Number

Organization name and telephone number (if any)

- This box is checked if a person other than the individual registering to vote filled in parts of the form.
- The menu shown will only appear after the yes button has been selected.
- If no help was provided select No.

Affirmation

Affirmation

- ☒ I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that: *
- I am a U.S. citizen and a resident of California and at least 18 years old.
 - I am not currently in a state or federal prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony.
 - I am not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.
 - I understand that it is a crime to intentionally provide incorrect information on this form.
 - The information on this form is true and correct.

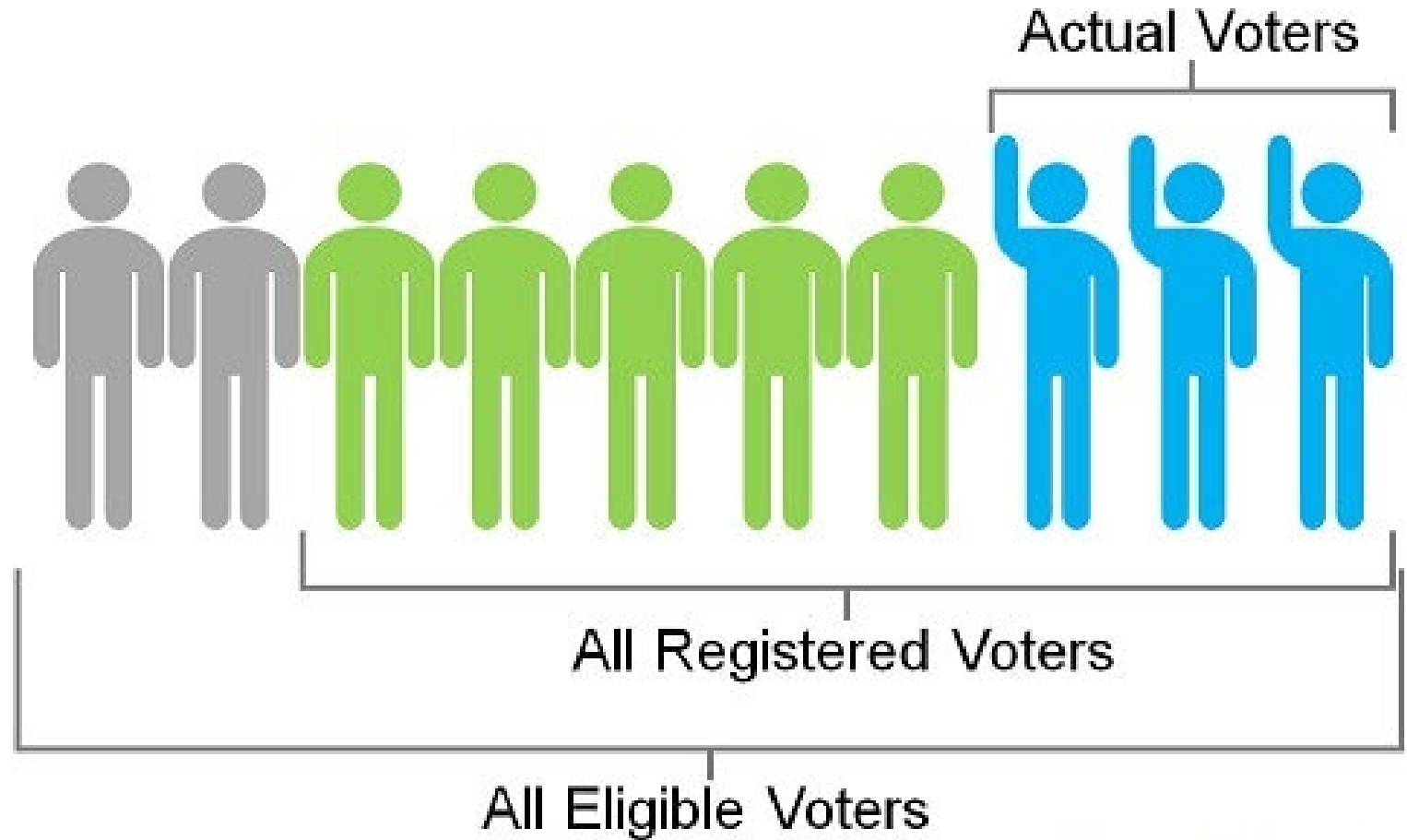
Read over the the five statements listed.

Make sure the blue check appears in the box indicating those statements to be correct. Just like with the physical form, mis representing this information constitutes an act of perjury.

Your vote is your
power – Use it!



Average Los Angeles County Voter Turnout



Los Angeles Almanac Image

Motivating discouraged voters:

If they say...	You can say....
I can't vote (ineligible)	Only those in state or federal prison are not yet allowed to vote! Even if you have a felony on your record, or are on probation or parole, you're still eligible to vote!
I don't care.	What do you care about? (Stop and listen – most times people care about things that impact them, their kids, their housing situation, their communities' health. For most interests, there is an elected office or law which is impacting those things people do care about. Try to connect those dots. Remember, oftentimes – "If you are not at the table, you're on the menu"
The electoral college makes it so that my opinion doesn't matter	Local elections (city council, mayor, board representative) and state elections, which are not governed by the electoral college, have a huge impact on our daily life and often have lower voter turn-out than presidential races – so your vote is <i>*especially*</i> important in these races. Even turn-out for presidential races is often less than 60%, so if everyone who said their vote doesn't matter showed up they could swing any election.
My vote doesn't matter. Voting makes no difference.	In the past 20 years over a dozen races have been decided by a single vote . Many of the local and state races and ballot measures you can vote on are decided by a small margin of votes. Voters who show up end up making those decisions. Don't let others make the decision for you!
I don't trust the government.	The government is not a single organization, but <i>*many*</i> agencies, branches and people which, whether you vote or not, will continue to have power over your life and that of your community. You have power to shape government through civic participation and voting. Voters decide who the government will be. Voters have the power to unseat representatives they don't feel serve their interests and voters can elect representatives and approve ballot measures which allow for greater transparency and trust.

LA Free the Vote Resources



TRAINING & VIDEO

- LA Free the Vote Toolkit
- LA Free the Vote Registration Training
 - *Request additional training with Phil Verbera from RRCC!*
- LA Free the Vote informational video



WEBSITES

- lafreethevote.org
- *Coming soon: LA Free the Vote participating organizations directory!*
- Lavote.net – for all other LA County voter information
- Votersedge.org/ca – Nonpartisan California Voter Guides



SOCIAL MEDIA

- @LAFreetheVote on facebook, Instagram and twitter!
- Follow, Like, Share!



Quiz & Questions?

Questions about the LA Free the Vote Campaign?

Contacts

- Jessica Sarriot, Program Manager with ODR, is the best point of contact for other questions pertaining to LA Free the Vote: Jsarriot@dhs.lacounty.gov, (301) 337-5792
- Phillip Verbera, Head of Community Outreach for the Registrar Recorder's Office, is the best point of contact for requesting voter registration training
pverbera@rrcc.lacounty.gov, (562) 345-8368

Thank you!