

VOTING RIGHTS

Persons with a
Criminal History



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

You can register to vote and vote if you are:

- A United States citizen and a resident of California,
- 18 years old or older on Election Day,
- Not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony, and
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court (for more information, please see [Voting Rights: Persons Subject to Conservatorship](#)).

PERSONS WITH A CRIMINAL HISTORY WHO CAN REGISTER AND VOTE:

- 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
- On probation
- On parole
- On mandatory supervision
- On post-release community supervision
- On federal supervised release
- A person with a juvenile wardship adjudication

PERSONS WITH A CRIMINAL HISTORY WHO CANNOT REGISTER AND VOTE:

Currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony imprisoned in:

- State prison
- Federal prison
- County jail or other correctional facility*

NOTE: Once you have finished serving your term, your right to vote is restored; however, you must register online at [RegisterToVote.ca.gov](#) or by filling out a paper voter registration card.

*California Penal Code section 2910 allows the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to make agreements with local governments to house felons in a county jail or other correctional facility. A person serving a state prison sentence who is housed in a local jail or other facility under these circumstances is not allowed to register and vote.

QUESTIONS

If you are unsure of what type of sentence you are serving, ask staff at your correctional facility.



California Secretary of State

Tel 916.657.2166 | Fax 916.653.3214 | [www.sos.ca.gov](#)

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

You may request a voter registration card from the Secretary of State or your county elections office. If you are in jail and you are eligible to vote, you are entitled to receive a voter registration card.

You may also apply to register to vote on the Secretary of State's website [RegisterToVote.ca.gov](https://www.sos.ca.gov). Your voter registration application must be received or postmarked at least fifteen (15) days before Election Day to be eligible to vote in that election. In elections conducted by your county elections official, you can "conditionally" register and vote provisionally at your county elections office after the 15-day voter registration deadline. For more information please go to the Secretary of State's webpage on same day voter registration and voting (<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/same-day-reg>) or contact your county elections official.

Voter registration cards and voting materials are available in English, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese. Voter registration cards are available at most public libraries and government offices. See the attached list for state and local elections office contact information.

VOTE BY MAIL

If you are already registered to vote at your current home address, you may request a vote-by-mail ballot application by contacting your county elections office. Once you receive your vote-by-mail ballot application, you must complete and return it to your county elections office at least seven (7) days before Election Day.

If you are not registered to vote at your current home address, you may register or re-register to vote and request a vote-by-mail ballot on the Secretary of State's website [RegisterToVote.ca.gov](https://www.sos.ca.gov).

RELEASE FROM CUSTODY

If you requested a vote-by-mail ballot but are released from custody before you receive your ballot, you can still vote. Just go to the polling place for your home address or any polling place in the county where you are registered and vote a provisional ballot.

If you change your name, home address, mailing address, or party preference you must complete a new voter registration card.

RESOURCES

For more information contact your county elections office or the California Secretary of State:

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE VOTER HOTLINES

English	(800) 345-VOTE (8683)
Español / Spanish	(800) 232-VOTA (8682)
Chinese / 中文	(800) 339-2857
Hindi / हिन्दी	(888) 345-2692
Japanese / 日本語	(800) 339-2865
Khmer / ខ្មែរ	(888) 345-4917
Korean / 한국어	(866) 575-1558
Tagalog	(800) 339-2957
Thai / ภาษาไทย	(855) 345-3933
Vietnamese / Việt ngữ	(800) 339-8163
TTY/TDD	(800) 833-8683