

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 5, 2024

VOTE

THE POWER OF YOUR VOTE



YOUR VOICE, YOUR VOTE, IT COUNTS!

In today's democratic process, every ballot must be considered, and it is important now more than ever to get out to vote because **"Every Vote Matters!"** On November 5th, go vote and take a friend!

When we collectively raise our voices, we are heard! Two years ago, we saw history when California Governor Newsom signed SB 731 into law on September 29, 2022. Safe Return Project, along with many other organizations and concerned citizens, came together to support this piece of legislation that would allow anyone the opportunity to seal their conviction record after serving their time and being crime-free for 4 years. It also allows the opportunity to seal arrest records 3 years after the date of arrest.



VOTING RIGHTS RESTORED

In 2020, Californians voted **YES** on **Proposition 17** to **restore the voting rights of people on parole.**

- Nearly 60 percent of California voters approved [Proposition 17](#), which [amended the state constitution](#) to automatically restore voting rights to people on state parole upon leaving prison. Before Prop 17, California's constitution prohibited people with felony convictions from voting while in prison or on parole, which [disenfranchised nearly 50,000 people](#) on parole. By allowing people on parole to become registered voters, Prop 17 also allows them to [run for office under current state law](#), as long as they have not been convicted of perjury or bribery.¹
- Black and Latinx Californians lose their right to vote at higher rates because they are [more likely](#) than white people to be arrested, prosecuted, convicted, and incarcerated. These racial and ethnic disparities are rooted in [over-policing, disproportionate sentence lengths, and generational disadvantages](#) that increase exposure to the legal system. Black and Latinx people have also faced other racist [barriers to voting](#), such as poll taxes and literacy tests.¹

VOTER REGISTRATION

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN CALIFORNIA

- **Online Registration** - Registering online is easy. Simply visit [Voter Registration: California Secretary of State](#).
- **In-person Registration** - You can pick one up at your county elections office, library, Department of Motor Vehicles offices, or U.S. post office. ***It is important that your voter registration application be filled out completely and postmarked or hand-delivered to your county elections office at least 15 days before the election.***
- **The deadline to register to vote for any election is 15 days before Election Day, so please register early! Your registration must be postmarked or submitted electronically no later than **October 21st, 2024.****

- **In-person Registration Deadline is November 5th.**
- If you have any questions, visit [Frequently Asked Questions](#) or contact the Secretary of State's Elections Division at (800) 345-VOTE (8683) or by [email](#).

TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN CALIFORNIA, YOU MUST BE:

- 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 (for more information on the rights of people who have been incarcerated, please see the Secretary of State's [Voting Rights: Persons with a Criminal History](#)) and
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court (for more information, please see [Voting Rights: Persons Subject to Conservatorship](#)).

In California, you only lose your right to vote if you are currently incarcerated in a prison for a felony conviction. Your rights are restored, and you can register to vote immediately after your release. Pretrial detention, misdemeanors, federal convictions, and out-of-state convictions do not restrict your voting rights.

IMPORTANCE OF VOTING DOWN BALLOT

Although down-ballot races may not receive as much coverage as the headliner, they are often just as important.²

LOCAL IMPACT

Candidates elected to local and county positions are the closest interaction most individuals have with their government. The policies they propose can have an immediate impact on our lives.

For example, the District Attorney's decision to prioritize violent and non-violent crimes differently could have a significant impact on your

community. Likewise, a Sheriff's plan to build trust in the community by investing in initiatives to increase diversity in the organization may have an immediate effect on the county.

STATE IMPACT

At a state level, elected representatives and senators vote on legislation concerning the budget, education, energy, environment, taxes, and much more. They make decisions that can affect your individual rights and other issues that directly impact your everyday life.

GET OUT TO VOTE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY









[Contra Costa County Elections](#)

[Find Your Polling Place](#)

[Official List Of Outdoor Drop Box Locations 24/7](#)



IMPORTANT MEASURES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

 <p>2024 QUEST FOR DEMOCRACY</p> <p>SAFE RETURN PROJECT</p> <h1>ACA 8</h1>  <h2>Slavery</h2> <p>This resolution proposes to the people of the State of California an amendment to the State Constitution by amending Section 6 of Article I thereof relating to slavery. This measure would instead prohibit slavery in any form, including forced labor compelled by the use or threat of physical or legal coercion.</p>	 <p>2024 QUEST FOR DEMOCRACY</p> <p>SAFE RETURN PROJECT</p> <h1>AB 1186</h1>  <h2>Juveniles: Restitution</h2> <p>This bill would remove the ability of the court to require the minor to pay monetary restitution to the victim. The bill would authorize the court to instead order the minor to make amends nonmonetary restitution by participating in a restorative justice community-based restoration program, performing community service, or participating in an educational, employment, youth development, or mental health program, as specified. The bill would require the court to determine the amount of economic loss suffered as a result of the minor's conduct and issue a restitution order, which would then be transmitted to the California Victim Compensation Board. The bill would require the California Victim Compensation Board, upon appropriation by the Legislature for these purposes, to compensate the victim for the amount in the order.</p>
<p>Bill Info: bit.ly/ACA8-One-Pager2024</p>	<p>Bill Info: bit.ly/AB1186-One-Pager2024</p>
 <p>2024 QUEST FOR DEMOCRACY</p> <p>SAFE RETURN PROJECT</p> <h1>AB 2959</h1>  <h2>Incarcerated Family Support and Nutrition Act "Vending Machines"</h2> <p>This bill would reduce markups on items sold in California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) prison visiting room vending machines, providing critical immediate relief for incarcerated people and their families. These savings will help to establish more financial stability for families impacted by incarceration and ultimately strengthen community health, public safety, and re-entry outcomes.</p>	 <p>2024 QUEST FOR DEMOCRACY</p> <p>SAFE RETURN PROJECT</p> <h1>SB 1254</h1>  <h2>CalFesh: Enrollment of Incarcerated Individuals</h2> <p>This bill would require the State Department of Social Services (CDSS) to partner with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and county jails to enroll otherwise eligible applicants for the CalFresh program to ensure that an applicant's benefits may begin before the reentry of the applicant into the community from the state prison or county jail. The bill would require county eligibility workers to regularly enter any state prison or county jail in the county to conduct interviews and assist individuals that are within 90 days of release with completing a CalFresh benefits application.</p>
<p>Bill Info: bit.ly/AB2959-One-Pager2024</p>	<p>Bill Info: bit.ly/SB1259-One-Pager2024</p>

Frequently Asked Questions¹

On Probation? On Mandatory Supervision? Off Parole? You Have the Right to Vote!

What are my voting rights if I have a misdemeanor?

A misdemeanor conviction does not affect your right to vote at all. You can vote in all elections.

What are my voting rights if I have a felony?

If you have a felony conviction, you **CAN vote if:**

- you are on probation, even if you are in county jail as a condition of your probation or
- you have completed your probation or
- you are awaiting a judge's decision on a probation violation or
- you are on mandatory supervision or
- you are on post-release community supervision, or
- you are serving a county jail sentence under Realignment or
- you have completed your parole.

The only time you **CANNOT vote is if:**

- you are currently serving a state or federal prison sentence or
- you are awaiting transfer to a state prison or
- you are on parole.

Once you have completed your sentence and parole, you can register to vote. If you are unsure what type of sentence you are serving, check with your parole or probation officer.

Can I vote when I am on parole?

No. You can only vote once you have completed your parole.

Can I vote on mandatory supervision?

Yes! You can vote at all times when you are on mandatory supervision.

Can I vote while I am on post-release community supervision?

Yes! You can vote at all times when you are on post-release community supervision.

Can I vote when I am on probation?

Yes! You can vote at all times when you are on probation, whether your conviction is a felony or a misdemeanor.

Can I vote while I am in county jail?

Maybe. You **CAN vote if** you are in county jail:

- awaiting trial for any crime or
- for a misdemeanor conviction or
- on a probation violation or
- on felony probation or
- serving a county jail sentence under Realignment.

The only time **you CANNOT vote while in county jail** is when you are:

- in jail awaiting transfer to a state prison for a felony conviction or
- in jail for a parole violation or
- serving a state prison sentence under a contract with a county jail.

How do I get back my right to vote?

In California, you do not need to do anything to “restore” your right to vote. It is automatically restored once you have completed your sentence and are no longer on parole. **However, you must register or re-register to vote in an upcoming election.**

How do I register to vote?

There are a few ways to register to vote:

- You can register online: www.registertovote.ca.gov
- You can pick up a paper registration form at the DMV, post office, public libraries, or your county elections office.
Complete the form, sign it, and drop it in the mail!
- If you are in county jail, you can request a voter registration card.

Do I need to re-register if I move or change my name?

Yes. You need to re-register (using either of the methods above) if you move or change your name.

How and where do I vote?

In California, you can vote two ways:

Vote-by-Mail: This means that every election, your ballot will be mailed to you and you can take your time to fill it out and mail back your vote. It's easy to become a vote-by-mail voter. Either:

- Put your initials on line 15 on your voter registration application or
- If you are already registered to vote, you will receive a vote-by-mail application attached to the sample ballot about a month before the election. Complete this application and mail it back to your county election official.

Reminder! A vote-by-mail ballot will be mailed to the address you provide on your voter registration.

At your local polling place: Once you are registered to vote, you can vote at your local polling place on Election Day. Your local polling place is listed on the Sample Ballot you receive in the mail.

When is the last day to register to vote?

The last day to register to vote online or mail in a paper voter registration card is 15 days before an election. If you miss the 15-day deadline, you can still register and vote in the 15-days before and on Election Day if you visit your county elections office or check their website for additional locations that might offer same-day registration and voting.

¹Frequently Asked Questions Source, Let Me Vote California:

<https://www.letmevoteca.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/FAQ-LetMeVote-2017.pdf>

