



YOUNG VOTER'S VOTING GUIDE:

HOW TO REGISTER & VOTE

Voting can be confusing! Of all mailed in ballots in the 2016 election, the age group with the most rejected mail-in ballots were young adults.

Let's start talking about voting now! Young voters know all about the confusion that comes from trying to vote while living in a dorm, out of state, or with a constantly changing address. Doing so safely in this time of pandemic is as much part of the challenge as getting our registration and ballot completion right.

Here are the answers to the questions that young voters frequently have. This way we can all be prepared to have OUR voices heard.

REGISTRATION

How do I register to vote?

- » Click [here!](#) Please make sure that the address you register at is your physical address. There will be a separate field where you can add your PO box.

When do I need to register by?

- » This depends on the state. Search your state's deadlines [here](#).
- » All registered voters in California will be sent an absentee ballot.

Am I registered properly? I'm not sure because...

- » **I don't remember if I registered or not.**
 - Check your registration status [here!](#)
- » **I moved recently (or changed my name or political party).**
 - If you have changed your address or name or would like to change your political party, you will need to re-register [here](#) (**same as registering for the first time—you will not unregister**) before your state's registration deadline. There will be a field to indicate that you are changing your address.
- » **I am currently unhoused.**
 - If you are currently unhoused, you can use a shelter address or the address of where you most commonly sleep (street corner, park) as an address when you register.
- » **I am living in a different state than my family and/or drivers license.**
 - College students may choose to register to vote using the address of your current residence or your family's home address. See next question if you live in campus housing.
 - Some states require individuals to have lived in the state for 30 days before allowing them to vote in that state. You are not required to have a driver's license in the state where you plan to vote.
 - Make sure to [update your registration](#) if you will be voting at your new address for the first time.
 - More information about out of state and abroad voting in California's elections [here](#).
Find information about registering in each state [here](#).
- » **I live on campus in a college/university dormitory or housing.**
 - If you would like to register to vote while living on campus, you must register at your physical dorm address, including the room number. There is a separate section to indicate your mailing address, where you can add your PO box.
- » **I didn't vote in the last election**
 - Whether or not you voted in the last election doesn't affect your current registration status. Check your current registration status [here](#).

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GETTING AN ABSENTEE/ MAIL-IN BALLOT



How do I get a mail-in ballot?

- » In California, all registered voters will automatically get an absentee/mail in ballot sent to them. Please make sure that the address you are registered at is correct, or update your preferred mailing address.
- » Some states require an excuse to get an absentee ballot, such as attending college outside of that state. Check your state's rules for absentee voting [here](#).
- » Absentee ballot request form [here](#).

I still live at home. Do I need an absentee ballot?

- » **A mail in ballot is the same as an absentee ballot.** All voters who do not plan to vote in person will fill out and send in an absentee ballot. Make sure that you will get one by filling out [this](#) form!

When will I get my mail-in ballot?

- » Each state will begin sending out ballots at different times. In California, ballots will begin to be sent out on October third. Look for when your state will send them out [here](#).

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RETURNING YOUR ABSENTEE/ MAIL-IN BALLOT

How do I mail my absentee ballot?

- » You may return your absentee ballot in person at your nearest [polling location](#), a [drop box](#), or by [mail](#).
 - Find your nearest mailbox using [this tool](#).
 - Find your nearest California drop box or polling place [here](#). (I haven't found a hub for all states, please do an online search for "find ballot drop box [your zip code]" if you are out of CA).
 - [Here](#) is a list of polling place locators for each state.
- » [You do not need a stamp to mail your ballot if registered to vote in California](#). Once you have sent it off, you California voters can track where your ballot is and its status with [this tracking tool](#).

When do I need to mail my absentee ballot by?

- » Check the official due date to send in absentee ballots in your state [here](#). In California absentee ballots must be [postmarked by election day](#) and received within 17 days after the election.
- » Due to COVID-19, most people will rely on mail in ballots. To ensure your ballot's safe arrival, please send it in as soon as you can. [The post office expects](#) a ballot will take seven days to be delivered. They recommend that ballots are mailed seven days before the election (October 27), but ideally even earlier.
- » Once you have sent it off, you can track where your [ballot is and its status here](#).

Is there a chance my ballot will not be counted?

- » While uncommon, [absentee ballots that are not filled out properly have been disqualified from the count](#).
- » Please make sure to sign your ballot, and that it matches the signature on your state's records. You may reference your driver's license to be sure they match.

I missed my state's mailing deadline, or I don't want to put my ballot in the mail.

How can I vote and stay safe from COVID-19?

- » Please consider utilizing your absentee ballot on election day by bringing it to an official drop box in its return envelope. You can also drop it off at a polling location. This will take less time and save you from the line for in-person voting.
- » Find your nearest California drop box or polling place [here](#). please do an online search for "find ballot drop box (your zip code)" if you are out of CA.

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SAFE IN-PERSON VOTING

I just prefer to vote in person and also want to stay safe from COVID.

- » Some states offer early in person voting. In California, it's by county. Oftentimes fewer people take advantage so it is faster and easier to maintain social distancing. Check if/how your state does early voting [here](#). Please continue to follow public health guidelines such as keeping six feet apart from others, wearing a mask, and sanitizing hands.
- » You may also consider dropping off your prepared absentee ballot at a polling place when they are open. It won't be the same, but you'll get a similar experience while protecting your health and your community!

What kind of identification do I need?

- » This varies by state. Check your state's voter ID laws [here](#). In California, ID is not required to vote.

How can I find out where to vote in person?

- » [Here](#) is a list of polling place locators for each state.

How can I help even more if I am not part of a vulnerable population, nor do I live with someone who is vulnerable to COVID-19?

- » So glad you asked! You can become a poll worker! Traditionally, poll workers are older people who are now vulnerable to COVID-19. If you and those you live with are not vulnerable to COVID-19, you might consider taking on this essential role! You may even get a small stipend depending on location. Information [here](#).



Credits

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