Easy Voter Guide

easyvoterguide.org

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CALIFORNIA EDUCATION FUND

YOUR VOTE. YOUR VOICE.

November 8, 2022 ▪ California General Election



ARE YOU SIGNED UP TO VOTE?

October 24, 2022 Last day to register to vote in this election.

November 8, 2022 **ELECTION DAY** Your polling place is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

GET READY:

- Register to vote by **October 24** at **registertovote.ca.gov**.
- Check your registration to make sure it's up to date. If your signature has changed over time, then re-register to update your signature at **voterstatus.sos.ca.gov**.
- If you want to get voting materials in a language other than English, make that choice at **voterstatus.sos.ca.gov**.

Esta guía también está disponible en español ▪ 本指南也有中文版

Hướng dẫn này cũng có sẵn bằng tiếng Việt ▪ 이 안내서는 한국어로도 제공됩니다

Visit **easyvoterguide.org** to download this guide in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean.

This guide is a collaboration of the League of Women Voters® of California Education Fund and the California State Library.

WHAT'S NEW FOR VOTERS

The state of California wants to make it easier to vote. **Now, every registered voter in California will receive a ballot in the mail** about a month before Election Day. You can choose to return the ballot by mail, drop it off, or instead vote in person. Read pages 7-8 for more details.

No Longer in Prison? Once you have been released from prison in California your right to vote is automatically restored – you just need to **register to vote**. You may vote while you are on parole, but cannot vote if you are currently serving a sentence in state or federal prison.

About the November 8, 2022 General Election

How the Statewide General Election Works in California

In this "general" election, voters will:

- Choose a Governor and other representatives for national, state, and local government.
- Decide if judges on the state's Supreme Court should keep their positions.
- Vote "YES" or "NO" on 7 proposed state laws.

You will also be asked to decide on local candidates and possibly local ballot measures. What's on your ballot depends on where you live. Every registered voter will get a Voter Information Guide in the mail that lists everything they can vote on.

You do not have to vote on everything.

Your vote still counts even if you choose to skip some things on your ballot.

For the following offices, only the two candidates who got the most votes in the June 2022 primary election will appear on your ballot. These two candidates could be from the same political party.

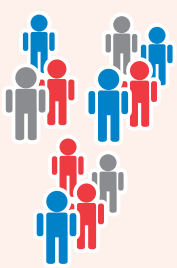
Offices that represent everyone in California (elected for a four-year term)



- Governor – **The highest elected official in California:** Oversees most state departments and agencies Prepares annual state budget. Approves or rejects new state laws.
- Lieutenant Governor – **Next in line:** Becomes Governor if the elected Governor leaves office. Has a tie-breaking vote in the State Senate. Serves on boards and commissions.
- Secretary of State – **Head of elections and record keeping:** Coordinates statewide elections and oversees election laws. Also keeps records about new corporations and businesses and other state databases.
- Controller – **The state's bookkeeper:** Keeps track of how the state's money is spent. Issues most checks from the state and manages collection of money due to the state. Reports on finances of state and local governments.
- Treasurer – **The state's banker:** Manages the state's investments and assets. Coordinates the sale of state bonds.
- Attorney General – **The state's top lawyer:** Makes sure laws are enforced the same way across the state. Manages the state Department of Justice. Oversees sheriffs and district attorneys.
- Insurance Commissioner – **Insurance overseer:** Manages the state Department of Insurance. Enforces laws that insurance companies must follow.
- Superintendent of Public Instruction – **Head of public schools:** Manages the state Department of Education. Provides leadership and assistance to all public schools in California. Enforces education regulations.

Offices that represent you in national government

- U.S. Senator (6-Year term)
- Representative in U.S. Congress (2-Year term)



Offices that represent you in state government

- State Senator (4-Year term; even-numbered districts will be voted on in this election)
- State Assembly Member (2-Year term)
- State Board of Equalization (state tax commission; 4-Year term)

HELP FOR VOTERS	
Voter's Edge, an online election guide from the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund and MapLight	Voter's Edge makes it easy to see your voting location and all the candidates and propositions that will be on your ballot. Just type in your home address at **votersedge.org**.
Official Voter Information Guide from the California Secretary of State	The Secretary of State's guide includes voting resources, detailed information about the state propositions, and statements from candidates. Find the Official Voter Information Guide online at **voterguide.sos.ca.gov**.
County Elections Offices	Find your County Elections Office online at **sos.ca.gov/county-elections-offices**.

State Propositions

Propositions are proposed laws presented to the public to vote on. Propositions can make new laws, change existing laws, and sometimes they change California's Constitution. They can be placed on the ballot by people who collect enough voter signatures or by state lawmakers (the California Legislature). A proposition passes and becomes law if it receives more than 50 percent YES votes.

Propositions 1, and 26 through 30 are "initiatives." For an initiative:

- A YES vote means that you support the way the proposition would change things.
- A NO vote means that you want to leave things the way they are now.

Proposition 31 is a "referendum," which asks voters to decide on a law that was already passed. For a referendum:

- A YES vote means that you support the law and want to keep it.
- A NO vote means you do not want the law to go into effect.

There are 7 state propositions in this election. *You do not have to vote on everything.* Learn about propositions that are important to you and make your choice, YES or NO.

1 Reproductive Freedom

Legislative Constitutional Amendment

The way it is now: In California, the law says that you have the right to choose to have an abortion and you have the right to privacy about your personal reproductive decisions. But these rights are not specifically named in the California Constitution. The California Constitution is the state's highest law. Only a new amendment can change it. A new amendment requires a two-thirds vote of the legislature and also a vote of the people.

What Prop 1 would do if it passes:

- Name reproductive freedom as a right in the California Constitution.
- A right to reproductive freedom means that the state cannot deny or interfere with someone's right to choose an abortion, use or refuse birth control (contraceptives), and get other reproductive healthcare.

Effect on the state budget: Prop 1 would have no impact on the state budget other than the costs needed to place the measure on the ballot.

YES People for Prop 1 say:

- The California Constitution should protect reproductive rights so that they will not be at risk in the future.

NO People against Prop 1 say:

- Proposition 1 is an extreme, expensive, and pointless waste of tax money that will allow abortion at any time.

26 In-Person Sports Betting in Tribal Casinos

Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute

The way it is now: Tribal casinos in California can offer poker, bingo, and other games. But sports betting, roulette, and dice games are illegal in tribal casinos and everywhere else in California.

What Prop 26 would do if it passes:

- Legalize in-person sports betting, roulette, and dice games in tribal casinos.
- Legalize in-person sports betting at four horse racetracks.
- Allow private lawsuits against illegal gambling in some situations.

Effect on the state budget: Prop 26 could raise up to tens of millions of dollars each year in revenue from casinos, horse racetracks, and fines from lawsuits. Regulating in-person sports betting could reach the low tens of millions each year.

YES People for Prop 26 say:

- Prop 26 would allow California's tribes to provide vital services like health care, housing, infrastructure, and education to tribal members.
- Taxing sports betting would increase the state's revenue.

NO People against Prop 26 say:

- This measure would create a big increase in gambling that benefits only a few tribes.
- Gambling is addictive. Legalizing more types of gambling is bad for public health and safety.

27 Online Sports Betting

Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute

The way it is now: The United States Supreme Court has ruled that each state can decide whether to legalize sports betting. Sports betting is illegal everywhere in California, including on tribal lands.

What Prop 27 would do if it passes:

- Legalize online sports betting in California (not on tribal lands) for people 21 and over.
- Bets could only be placed through a gaming tribe or qualifying businesses.
- Most of the revenue from betting fees and taxes would address homelessness and the mental health needs of people who are homeless. The rest of the money would support Native American tribes.

Effect on the state budget: Legalizing online sports betting could raise up to the mid-hundreds of millions of dollars each year. Regulating online sports betting could cost up to the mid-tens of millions of dollars each year.

YES People for Prop 27 say:

- Regulating online sports betting would protect gamblers and end illegal online gambling operations.
- The measure would guarantee extra funding to address homelessness and mental health in California.

NO People against Prop 27 say:

- Large out-of-state gambling companies would profit off of Californians and block smaller operations from the market.
- Online sports betting makes gambling more accessible than ever, and more people would become addicted to gambling.

28 Funding Arts and Music Education

Initiative Statute

The way it is now: Every year the state must set aside about 40 percent of its income (revenue) to fund public schools. But the state doesn't have another annual source of funding for arts and music education in public schools.

What Prop 28 would do if it passes:

- The state must set aside some of its revenue to fund arts and music education in K-12 public schools.
- All schools would receive some funding for each student. Schools serving many low-income students would receive a bit more money. Funding would allow schools to hire new staff and pay for training and supplies.

Effect on the state budget: Arts and music education would cost approximately $1 billion each year.

YES People for Prop 28 say:

- Arts and music education can improve a student's personal and academic life.
- Only one in five schools have a dedicated teacher for arts programs.

NO People against Prop 28 say:

- Prop 28 would limit the state funds available for other spending.

29 Kidney Dialysis Clinics Requirements

Initiative Statute

The way it is now: If a person's kidneys stop working, they may need a treatment called dialysis. In California, licensed dialysis clinics usually provide dialysis. When a person is receiving dialysis, their personal doctor must visit them at least once a month. Most patients have dialysis treatment paid for by Medicare and Medi-Cal. Sometimes private insurance is used. Private insurance pays higher rates for treatment than Medicare and Medi-Cal. Infections that might be caused by dialysis must be reported to the federal government.

What Prop 29 would do if it passes:

- Clinics must have at least one doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant present during all treatment hours.
- Clinics must report any dialysis-related infections to the state every three months.
- Clinics must disclose who owns the clinic to patients.
- Clinics need permission from the state before closing or reducing services.
- Clinics can't refuse to treat patients based on how they are paying for their treatment.

Effect on the state budget: Increased kidney dialysis clinic requirements would cost the government in the low tens of millions of dollars each year.

YES People for Prop 29 say:

- Dialysis is a dangerous procedure. Clinics should always have a healthcare provider available to help.
- Prop 29 would prevent discrimination and protect patients in rural communities.

NO People against Prop 29 say:

- Prop 29 would take healthcare providers away from hospitals and emergency rooms.
- Some dialysis clinics in the state may close due to increased costs.

30 Income Tax on Millionaires for Electric Cars

Initiative Statute

The way it is now: The state collects taxes on income made in California. In 2021, the state collected over $130 billion in income taxes. Most of this money goes into California's main budget, which is called the General Fund. The money in the General Fund supports state services like public schools and healthcare.

What Prop 30 would do if it passes:

- For every dollar a person makes over $2 million an additional 1.75% tax will be charged.
- The money from this tax would be put into a special fund that is separate from the General Fund.
- Most of this money would be used to increase the use of "zero-emissions" electric vehicles, and to keep the air cleaner. The rest of this money would be used to manage wildfires.

Effect on the state budget: Prop 30 would raise between $3.5 and $5 billion each year.

YES People for Prop 30 say:

- Greenhouse gas emissions from cars and other transportation are the largest contributors to climate change and we need to take action now.
- Wildfires are getting worse, and we need more money to manage them.

NO People against Prop 30 say:

- High earners may leave the state if California increases its income taxes.
- If these new projects are really important, they should be paid for with the General Fund, not new taxes.

31 Yes or No to Banning Flavored Tobacco Products

Referendum

Background: The state passed a new law in 2020 banning the sale of flavored tobacco products when they are bought in-person at stores and vending machines. Examples of flavored tobacco products include candy-flavored e-cigarettes or menthol cigarettes. This new law has not gone into effect.

What Prop 31 would do if it passes:

- Ban the sale of flavored tobacco products and allow the state's new law to go into effect.
- Flavored tobacco products would no longer be sold at gas stations, grocery stores, vending machines, and other places.

Effect on the state budget: This ban on flavored tobacco would cost tens of millions to around $100 million in lost tax revenue every year. Government health care savings from reduced tobacco usage is unknown, with possible increased costs over the long term as healthier people live longer.

YES People for Prop 31 say:

- Kids are drawn to sweet-flavored tobacco products.
- Nicotine is very addictive and flavored tobacco could cause life-long addiction.

NO People against Prop 31 say:

- Adults who choose to use flavored tobacco products will no longer have a choice as to what products they buy.
- People will buy flavored tobacco products illegally, taking money away from local businesses.

Ways to Vote

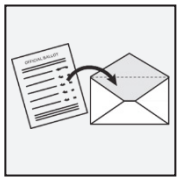
This year you have more options to vote safely and easily. The biggest change is that **every registered voter in California will receive a ballot in the mail** a month before the election.

There are **3 ways to vote**. You can choose to **mail back your ballot, or drop it off, or you can vote in person** at a Voting Location.

1 VOTE-BY-MAIL

MAIL YOUR BALLOT BACK EARLY! You can fill it in and mail it back as soon as you receive it.

No stamp? No problem. You do not need a stamp to mail back your ballot.



Mark your ballot and seal it inside the envelope provided

Follow the directions on the ballot to mark your choices.

Check that you are using the return envelope with your name on it.

Put your ballot into the envelope & **seal**. Only 1 ballot in each envelope.



Sign and date the envelope

Date and sign your name carefully on the back of the envelope using ink.

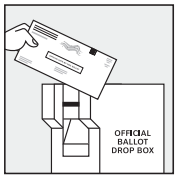


Return your ballot on time

Mail your ballot back early because it must be *postmarked* by Election Day, November 8.

2 OR DROP OFF YOUR BALLOT

If you decide to hand in your ballot instead of mailing it, you must drop it off no later than **8PM on Election Day, November 8**.



Drop off your ballot **at any Voting Location** or **secure Ballot Dropbox** in your county.

For details and locations check **caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov**.

Visit votersedge.org to see what will be on your ballot. It's easy. Just enter your home address.

VOTER'S EDGE CALIFORNIA

MADE A MISTAKE? YOU CAN GET A REPLACEMENT BALLOT.
To get a new ballot contact your **County Elections Office** before Election Day or go to your Voting Location when it opens and ask for a replacement.

3 VOTE IN PERSON



At in-person Voting Locations you can:

- Vote in-person.
- Drop off your completed ballot.
- Vote with an accessible voting machine.
- Get help and voting materials in multiple languages.

Early voting, starting before Election Day, will be available in some locations.

Find **Early Voting and Ballot Dropbox** locations at **caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov**.

Find your **Voting Location** at **findmypollingplace.sos.ca.gov**.

DO YOU LIVE IN A "VOTER'S CHOICE ACT" COUNTY?
Check here: bit.ly/VotersChoiceCounties.

If so, then you may vote at any voting location in the county. Many will open starting Saturday, October 29 but some will open earlier. Or drop off your ballot at any secure Ballot Dropbox starting Tuesday, October 11. Check locations and hours at **caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov**.

TRACK MY BALLOT

After returning your ballot, check **WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov** to find out where your ballot is in the process and when it has been accepted.

MISSED THE OCTOBER 24 VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE? NO PROBLEM! YOU CAN STILL VOTE IN THIS ELECTION!



If you missed the deadline, go to any Voting Location. You can register and vote on the same day – all the way up through Election Day.

- If possible, find your assigned location at **findmypollingplace.sos.ca.gov**. Go to that Voting Location to make sure you get a ballot with all your local contests.
- **Same-day register and vote from home**. If you need to register after October 24 and want to vote from home, contact your County Elections Office to find out how to register and get a vote by mail ballot through Election Day. Check **sos.ca.gov/county-elections-offices**.

ABOUT THE EASY VOTER GUIDE

The *Easy Voter Guide* is made possible in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. The League of Women Voters® of California Education Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues. Please send questions or suggestions about this guide to **easyvoter@lwvc.org**.



Give your opinion about this guide at easyvoterguide.org