



MALDEF ELECTION GUIDE

CALIFORNIA – 2026



ELECTION DAY

Tues, Nov 3

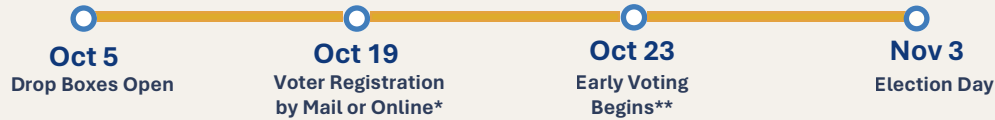
POLLS OPEN

7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

WAYS TO VOTE

Mail · Early · In Person

KEY DEADLINES — BE AWARE



*You can register and cast a provisional ballot in person at your County Elections Office during Early Voting and on Election Day.

**Early voting varies by county and can run from Oct. 23 through Nov. 3.



Who can vote?

U.S. citizen + Registered + 18+ on Election Day
+ CA resident



Can I vote by mail?

Yes. California mails ballots to all active registered voters. You return completed ballots at a drop box, in person, or by mail. At drop boxes or polls, ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Nov. 3. Mailed ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 3 and received by your county elections office by Nov. 10.



Do I need ID to vote in person?

In most cases, NO. You may need to show ID only if you're voting for the first time in a federal election, you registered by mail or online, and you did not provide your California ID or Social Security Number when registering.



If asked for ID, what can I show?

Acceptable ID includes any current photo ID (like a driver's license, passport, student or military ID) or a document with your name and address dated since the last general election (like a utility bill, bank statement, government check, lease, voter card, or vehicle registration).

ESP

Help in Spanish? ¿Ayuda en español?

You have a right to bilingual voting materials & Spanish assistance in Alameda, Colusa, Contra Costa, Fresno, Glenn, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tulare & Ventura counties.



Can someone help me vote?

Yes. If you are disabled or need help with English, you may bring anyone you choose to assist you—except your employer, union representative, or a candidate running in the election. The helper does not need to be a registered voter.



Not on voter list? Problem with ID?

Ask for a provisional ballot. If you vote provisionally, your ballot will be counted after election officials have confirmed that you are registered to vote in that county and that you did not already vote in that election.



What if I have a criminal conviction?

You can vote *if* you are not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony.

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION



Register /
Update Registration



Vote by Mail
Info



Find Dropboxes &
Early Voting Sites



ID Info



Find Polling Place



Recursos en
español



MALDEF

The Latino Legal Voice for Civil Rights in America.

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