



REGISTRAR OF VOTERS



What is the deadline to mail my vote-by-mail ballot back to the Riverside County Registrar of Voters office?

All ballots returned by mail must be post-marked on or before Election Day, November 3, 2020, and received by the elections official no later than 17 days after the election, November 20, 2020.

How can I request a replacement vote-by-mail ballot?

Voters can request a replacement ballot by calling (951) 486-7200. Voters can also go to any Voter Assistance Center in Riverside County to obtain a replacement vote-by-mail ballot.

Do I have to bring the vote-by-mail ballot that I received in the mail to a Voter Assistance Center if I want to vote in person?

No. Voters do not need to bring the vote-by-mail ballot they received in the mail in order to vote in-person at a Vote Center. Once you have voted at the Vote Center, your original vote-by-mail ballot will be voided.

When does my vote-by-mail ballot get counted?

Ballots returned via a secure drop box or through the mail are processed as soon as they are received at the Registrar of Voters office. The initial results on Election Night at 8:30pm reflect the majority of the vote-by-mail ballots that have been received at the office prior to Election Day.

What is Conditional Voter Registration?

Conditional voter registration extends the existing 15-day registration deadline in California to eligible voters, allowing them to register and vote provisionally 14 days prior to an election and on Election Day at the Registrar of Voters office or at any Voter Assistance Center Location during the early voting period.

Why did I receive 2 ballots?

There are a number of reasons why a voter may receive more than one ballot, including requesting a replacement ballot if it was lost or damaged. If more than one ballot is received, contact the Registrar's Office at (951) 486-7200.

If I leave something blank on my ballot, will my ballot be counted?

If a voter does not make a choice for a particular contest, no vote is recorded for that contest only. The rest of the ballot still counts. You can vote for as many or as few contests on your ballot as you choose.

I heard that provisional ballots are only counted if there is a close race. Will my provisional ballot be counted?

In California, provisional ballots serve as a fail-safe method of ensuring all voters who show up to the polls can cast a ballot. All eligible provisional ballots are counted. County elections officials carefully check every provisional ballot to ensure the voter was registered and did not cast a second ballot elsewhere. Due to the additional human review and verification needed for provisional ballots, they are typically counted after Election Day and vote-by-mail ballots.

I heard that vote-by-mail ballots are thrown out if they arrive after Election Day. Will my postmarked vote-by-mail be counted?

County elections officials will process and count all valid vote-by-mail ballots that are postmarked on or before Election Day and arrive no later than 17 days after the election.

What has changed in the ballot pick up and delivery law?

Previously, a voter could only designate a family member or household member to return their vote-by-mail ballot. California law now allows any person to return another voter's vote-by-mail ballot with the condition that the person returning another voter's ballot is not allowed to receive any form of compensation based on the number of returned ballots.

How does the elections office make sure only one vote is counted per registered voter?

Each voter is only allowed to vote one ballot. If a voter returns their ballot received through the mail and then votes in person at a Voter Assistance Center, our office will only count the first ballot received. Additionally, it is illegal to willfully vote more than once, and the voter's information would be turned over to the District Attorney's office to investigate.

What happens if my signature differs from my registration?

Vote-by-Mail ballots go through a series of signature verification tiers. You should sign your ballot as close as possible to the signature on your voter registration record. The election official who is verifying the voter's signature will review how precise the return ballot envelope signature is to the voter registration signature. If the signature is deemed not matching, it is sent for a second review. At the next level, the election official takes a closer look at the image and reference registration to decide whether to accept or reject the signature. If rejected, the ballot signature goes to a final tier review. The third review requires much closer inspection and often includes looking deeper into the voter file from previous registration updates. If a signature is deemed non-matching in the final tier, the voter is contacted via mail and given the opportunity to update their signature on file by completing a new affidavit. The new registration and letter are married with the challenged ballot.

What are my options if I made a mistake on my vote-by-mail ballot?

You can request a replacement vote-by-mail ballot by calling the Riverside County Registrar of Voters' office at (951) 486-7200 or by visiting a Riverside County Voter Assistance Center.

How much postage is needed to return my vote-by-mail ballot?

No stamp, no problem! Postage for vote-by-mail envelopes is pre-paid by the county and free for all voters in California.

How can I return my vote-by-mail ballot?

After marking your choices on your vote-by-mail ballot, place it in the official envelope provided by your county elections office and seal it. Sign the envelope where directed. You have multiple options for returning your ballot.

To ensure your ballot arrives by the deadline, return it either:

- By mail—must be postmarked on or before November 3 and received by your county elections office no later than November 20. No postage is required!

How can I return my vote-by-mail ballot (cont.)?

- In person—drop off at your county elections office, any voter assistance center in California, or any ballot drop-off location or drop box before the polls close at 8:00 p.m. on November 3.
- State law gives voters the freedom to designate anyone they choose to return their vote-by-mail ballots. However, we recommend that you only sign your completed ballot over to someone you trust. Never hand over your vote-by-mail ballot if you have not sealed and signed the back of the return envelope provided by your county elections office.

Do I need to show ID to vote?

In most cases, California voters do not have to show identification before they vote.

You may have to show one form of identification at the voter assistance center if you are voting for the first time after registering by mail or online and you did NOT provide the following on your application (or any other identification):

- State-issued driver license or identification number, or
- The last four digits of your social security number.

The following are some of the acceptable types of identification according to state and federal laws:

- Driver license or state-issued identification
- Passport
- Employee identification
- Military identification
- Student identification
- Health club identification
- Insurance plan identification
- Credit card or debit card

How do I know the county received my vote-by-mail ballot?

Voters can receive notifications on the status of their vote-by-mail ballot by signing up for the “Where’s My Ballot?” tool. Sign up at wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov to receive automatic updates on the status of your vote-by-mail ballot by text message (SMS), email, or voice call.

When you sign up for “Where’s My Ballot?” you will receive automatic updates when your county elections office: mails your ballot, receives your ballot, counts your ballot, or identifies an issue with your ballot.