



YOUR VOTE. YOUR VOICE.

March 5, 2024 - California Primary Election

ARE YOU SIGNED UP TO VOTE?

February 20, 2024 Last day to register to vote in this election.

March 5, 2024 **ELECTION DAY** Your polling place is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

GET READY:

- Register to vote by **February 20** 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.

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 page 4 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.

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

ABOUT THE EASY VOTER GUIDE

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Give your opinion about this guide at easyvoterguide.org



★ About the March 5, 2024 Primary Election

Signing up to Vote

You must register to vote to get on the list of voters for the March election. The deadline to register for this election is February 20. You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, not currently in state or federal prison for a felony, and not court-determined to be mentally incompetent to vote. Fill out the registration form online at registertovote.ca.gov or call **1-800-345-8683** to get a form.

When you sign up to vote, you decide if you want to choose a “political party.” There are six political parties in California. Or you can register without choosing a political party.

If you missed the deadline, then go to any polling place or vote center. You will be able to register and vote on the same day - all the way up through Election Day. If you go to your assigned location, then your ballot will be sure to include all the contests on which you’re allowed to vote. Find your location at sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place.

About the March 5, 2024 Primary Election

In this “primary” election, voters will choose candidates to run against each other in the November election. In this election you can vote for:

- President
- U.S. Senator
- Representatives in U.S. Congress and the California State Legislature
- A proposed law for California, Proposition 1 Mental Health Care and Addiction Treatment Reform & Bonds to Build Places for Treatment and Housing
- Other candidates and proposed laws depending on where you live

★ Voting for President

The political party you choose will decide which candidates for President appear on your ballot.

If you register without choosing a political party, there is still a way you can vote for a candidate for President:

- Three of the political parties, American Independent, Democratic, and Libertarian, will allow voters with “no party preference” to ask for their ballots in the March 5 election.
- But if you want to vote on presidential candidates for the Green, Peace & Freedom, or Republican Party then you **must** re-register and select that party.

	HOW WE ELECT The President	HOW WE ELECT U.S. Senator U.S. Representative California State Senator California State Assembly Member
MARCH PRIMARY ELECTION	Voters will have candidates for President from their political party on their ballot in March.	Voters will have all candidates for these offices on their ballot and can vote for any candidate from any party in March.
NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION	The winner from each political party will run against the winners from other parties in November.	The top two candidates with the most votes will run against each other in November. It is possible that these two candidates could be from the same political party.

The way it is now: California is expensive, and many people can't afford to pay for housing. Almost 172,000 Californians are homeless. Studies show that being homeless hurts people's mental health. There are not enough places for mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment in California. The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) is a law that taxes people who earn over \$1 million per year. The money raised from those taxes is used to treat and prevent mental illness, and to provide drug and alcohol treatment to people with mental illness. Most of this money goes to counties. Counties make choices about how to provide services. They use the money for things like outpatient care, crisis response teams, preventative programs, and other services.

What Prop 1 would do if it passes: Allow the state to sell \$6.38 billion in new bonds to build:

- Places for mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment.
- Supportive housing for homeless people with behavioral health challenges like mental health, drug, or alcohol issues. A portion of the money for this will be set aside for veterans.

More of the MHSA tax money would go to the state and less to counties. Counties will have to spend more of their MHSA money on housing and support services like education and employment. They would have less to spend on treatment, crisis response, and outreach. Counties would be able to spend MHSA money on drug and alcohol treatment for anyone who needs it - not only people with a mental illness.

Effect on the state budget: Prop 1 does not change the tax on people with incomes over \$1 million per year. The total cost to pay off the bonds plus interest would be \$6.38 billion plus several more billion, depending on the interest rate. The state would pay around \$310 million each year for the next 30 years to repay the bond.

YES People for Prop 1 say:

- Prop 1 will help with California's homelessness, mental health, and addiction crises.
- Prop 1 will not raise any taxes.

NO People against Prop 1 say:

- Prop 1 will cut funding to county programs that are working well, and would hurt communities that need help the most.
- Prop 1 promotes forced treatment that is not effective and increases suicide risk.

What is a bond? State and local governments ask voters to approve bonds to raise money for things that will last a long time, like schools and bridges. The government sells the bonds to get a large amount of money now and pays investors back over many years. In this election there is a proposition about a "General Obligation Bond (Prop 1)". General Obligation Bonds are paid back from the state's General Fund which gets money from income taxes and sales taxes. Bond payments reduce what the state can spend on other budget items like education and health care.



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.



Visit VOTE411.org to see what will be on your ballot. It's easy. Just enter your address.

VOTE 411



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.

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.



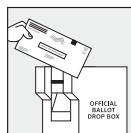
Return your ballot on time

Mail your ballot back early because it must be *postmarked* by Election Day, March 5.

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, March 5.



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

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

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.