

Voting is as easy as 1-2-3!

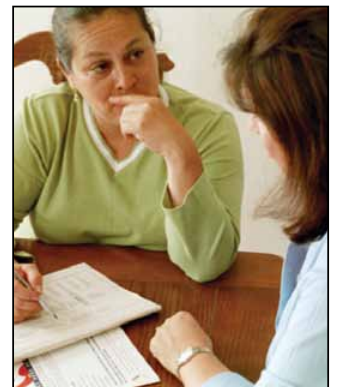


 **Easy Voter Guide**

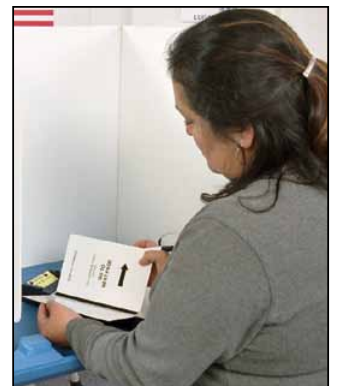
Visit www.easyvoter.org!



1. Sign up to vote



2. Get ready to vote



3. Go vote!

1. Sign up to vote

To sign up to vote, you have to be:

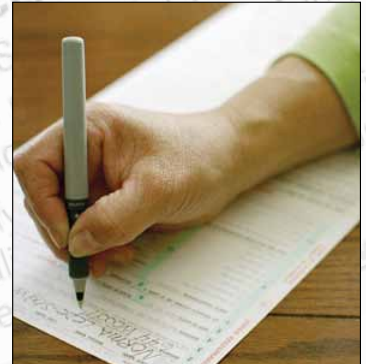
- 18 years or older
- a U. S. citizen
- not in prison or on parole for a felony



To get a voter registration form:

- Call **1-800-345-8683** to have a form sent to you.
- Pick one up at the library, post office, DMV, or other public places.
- Visit **www.ss.ca.gov**.

It's FREE! Fill out the form completely and include the requested identification number. Then, mail it in. You don't even need a stamp.



When should I sign up?

- Sign up (register) at least 15 days before an election.
- Be sure to register again if you move, change your name, or want to change your political party.

Do I have to join a political party?

- When you sign up to vote, you will be asked if you want to join a political party.
- A political party is a group of people who share the same ideas about what government should do.
- There are six parties in California.
- You can register with a party or you can choose "Decline to State" (sometimes called "Independent") and not be a member of a political party.

PARTY REGISTRATION—Check one box

- ☐ American Independent Party
- ☐ Democratic Party
- ☐ Green Party
- ☐ Libertarian Party
- ☐ Peace and Freedom Party
- ☐ Republican Party
- ☐ Decline to State
- ☐ Other (Specify) _____

June Primary Election:

Voters select candidates from their party for different elected offices.

November General Election:

Winners from the primary run against each other to see who will be elected. Voters can choose candidates from any party.

2. Get ready to vote

Get informed

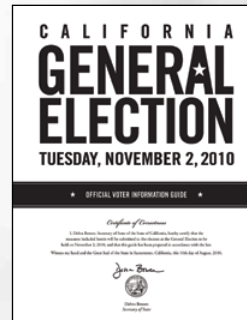
Before you vote, learn about what you will be voting on. **You do not have to vote on everything.** You can just vote on the things you care about.

To help you prepare, all registered voters get two booklets in the mail:

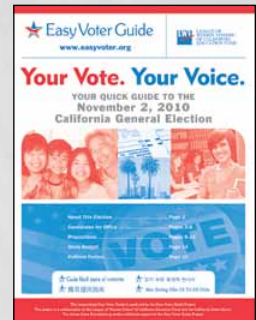
- a *Sample Ballot* that lists all of the candidates and measures that will be on your ballot. It also shows where you vote (your “polling place”).
- the *Voter Information Guide* about statewide candidates and ballot measures, from the California Secretary of State’s Office



Example of
Sample Ballot



Voter Information Guide



Easy Voter Guide

You can also use the *Easy Voter Guide* and www.easyvoter.org website which tell you about the statewide candidates and propositions in plain language.

All of these have **nonpartisan** information, which means they just give facts and do not take sides about how you should vote. You may also get mail from campaigns and hear advertisements trying to tell you how to vote. These are **partisan**.

Talk about the issues and candidates with your family and friends and follow the news about the election. Get information from many different places so you can make the choices that are right for you. Mark your choices on your Sample Ballot and use it when you vote.



Decide how you will vote

You can choose if you want to vote:

1. At your polling place
2. At home with a “vote by mail” ballot
3. In “early voting” before election day at locations chosen by your county elections office.

Find your polling place (“precinct”) by looking at the back cover of the Sample Ballot from your county elections office. Or, you can look it up at www.easyvoter.org or www.smartvoter.org.

3. Go vote!

What happens if I vote at my polling place?

- You will be asked your name and to sign a book that lists all the voters in your area.
- If you are a first-time voter, you may be asked to show identification.
- The pollworker will give you a paper ballot to mark in a private booth or a card to put into a voting computer.
- If your name is not on the list, you can still vote with a “provisional” ballot. You will be given a number to call to find out if your vote was counted.
- Do not feel rushed and ask for help if you need it.



Signing in at the polling place



Getting your ballot or computer card



Voting with a paper ballot



Voting with a computer

What if I want to vote at home?

- You must apply for a “vote by mail” ballot in writing. You can use the application on your Sample Ballot. Your request must be received by your county elections office at least one week before the election.
- If you want to be able to vote at home in every election, you can check the box for “permanent vote-by-mail voter.”
- Sign and mail in the completed ballot to arrive by election day. Or, you can drop it off at any polling place in your county.
- If you change your mind and want to vote at your polling place, you will be asked to hand in the vote by mail ballot first. Only one vote per person!

In many counties, you may also be able to vote before election day. Check with your county elections office for early voting locations.

PLACE YOUR ORGANIZATION CONTACT INFORMATION HERE

Visit www.easyvoter.org for more information about how to vote and about the next election.



The nonpartisan Easy Voter Guide Project is a collaboration of the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund and the California State Library, with additional support from The James Irvine Foundation. Supported 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. This guide was edited by adult literacy students and community members in the hope that more people will exercise their right to vote. Contact the Easy Voter Guide Project at easyvoter@lwc.org or 1-888-870-8683 to order this brochure and related materials, or with suggestions.