

VOTER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

You are eligible to vote if you:

- Are a citizen of the United States;
- Are a resident of California;
- Are at least 18 years of age or older as of Election Day;
- Have registered to vote at least fifteen (15) days prior to Election Day (**THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP**);
- Are awaiting trial or on trial for any crime;
- Are in jail for a misdemeanor;
- Are on probation, even if you are in jail as a condition of your probation;
- Are awaiting a judge's decision on a probation violation.

If you meet the above requirements, you have the right to vote! Additionally, once you complete your prison sentence, parole, or any community supervision, your voting rights are automatically restored. However, you still need to fill out a voter registration card in order to be able to vote.

VOTING MATERIALS

In order to vote from jail, you will need to request, complete, and submit the following materials:

- Voter Registration Form
- Vote-By-Mail Ballot Application

You are entitled to receive these materials in jail.

Once you have submitted your Voter Registration Form, your county elections official will process and mail you a Voter Notification Card to inform you that you are now registered to vote. If you have properly registered and not yet received your Voter Notification Card, you can still vote.

Once you have submitted your Vote-By-Mail Ballot Application, you will receive your Vote-By-Mail Ballot by mail.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

- Many people in jail are eligible to vote. See the Voter Registration Requirements inside this brochure to find out if you are eligible.
- During each election, there are issues on the ballot that could directly affect you and your family.
- When you vote, you make a difference. Your vote is your voice. Make it count.

Contact the ACLU of California
Voting Rights Project

VotingRights@acluca.org

*Affix contact information
for the local county
Elections Official here.*

Your Voting Rights

What You Should Know About Voting From Jail

Updated September 2012



How to Register to Vote

In order to vote, you must complete a **Voter Registration Form**. If you're already registered to vote in any California county, you only need to complete a **Vote-By-Mail Ballot Application**. If you're unsure if you're registered, complete BOTH forms.

To complete your Voter Registration Form, follow the instructions below:

Box 1 — Name

Circle the correct salutation (Mr. Mrs. Miss. or Ms.) and write your full name in this order: Last, First, Middle. Do not use nicknames or initials.

Box 2 — Home Address

If you have a street address, write it in Box 2. OR, if you don't have a street address, write the cross streets closest to where you live. Do *not* put your mailing address here.

Box 3 — Mailing Address

Write the address of the jail facility that you are currently in, or will be in thirty (30) days prior to the election.

Box 4 — Date of Birth

Write your date of birth in this order: Month, Day, Year. Be careful not to write today's date!

Box 5 — Telephone (Optional)

This box is optional. You can register even if you do not have a phone number.

Box 6 — Identification (ID Number)

Write your California Driver's License or California ID Card Number. OR, if you do not have either of these, write in the last four (4) digits of your Social Security Number. If you do not have either of these, say so on the form and a number will be assigned to you.

Box 7 — Political Party

If you would like to register/become a member of a political party, write in the full name of the party of your choice. This will allow you to vote in the Primary Election of that party. If you do not want to register with a party, write "no party" or leave blank.

Box 8 — Race or Ethnic Group

Write in your racial or ethnic background.

Box 9— Signature, Declaration & Date

SIGN AND DATE THE FORM! You must sign and date the form to validate that the contents are truthful in order for your registration to be processed. Sign your name using the same name you printed in Box 1 and enter the date in this order: Month, Day, Year.

How to Complete Your Vote-By-Mail Ballot Application

Item 1 — Date and Type of Election

On the 1st line, write the date of the election (month, day, year) and on the 2nd write the type of election (Primary, General, or Special).

Item 2 and 3 — Name and Date of Birth

Write your full name in this order: First, Middle, and Last names as they appear on your Voter Registration Form. Do not use nicknames or initials. On item 3, write your date of birth in this order: Month, Day, Year. Be careful not to write today's date!

Item 4 and 5 — Home and Mailing Address

If you have a street address, write it in item 4. OR, if you don't have a street address, write the cross streets closest to where you live. On item 5, write the address of the jail facility that you are currently in, or will be in thirty (30) days prior to the election.

Item 6—Telephone (Optional)

This box is optional. You can register even if you do not have a phone number.

Item 7— Primary Election (Only complete if Presidential Primary Election)

If you would like to vote in the Primary Election of a political party, check the box and write in the political party.

Item 8— Permanent Vote-By-Mail Voter

If you would like to become a permanent vote-by-mail voter, check the box and initial the line.

Item 9— Signature

Write your signature and today's date in this order: Month, Day, Year. You must SIGN AND DATE THE APPLICATION in order for it to be processed and to receive a Vote-By-Mail Ballot.

Check List

- Step 1:** Request a **Voter Registration Form** and **Vote-By-Mail Ballot Application** from jail staff, or from a local Elections Official (County Registrar of Voters/Clerk).
- Step 2:** Complete the **Voter Registration Form** and complete the **Vote-By-Mail Ballot Application**, at least 15 days before the next Election Day.
- Step 3:** Submit each of these forms to the local Elections Official (County Registrar of Voters/Clerk).
- Step 4:** You will receive a **Vote-By-Mail Ballot** by mail. When you do, get to know the candidates and issues.
- Step 5:** **Cast your vote!** Complete and submit your **Vote-By-Mail Ballot** to the local Elections Official (County Registrar of Voters/Clerk).