



On Probation? Off Parole? Off Any Other Community Supervision? Frequently Asked Questions

What are my voting rights if I have a misdemeanor?

A misdemeanor conviction *does not affect your right to vote* at all. You can vote in all elections.

What are my voting rights if I have a felony?

If you have a felony conviction, **you can vote IF:**

- you are **on probation**, even if you are in jail as a condition of your probation, or
- you have **completed your probation**, or
- you are **awaiting a judge's decision on a probation violation**, or
- you have **completed mandatory supervision**, or
- you have **completed post-release community supervision**, or
- you have **completed your parole**.

The only time **you are not allowed to vote is IF:**

- you have a **felony conviction** and you are **still in state prison** or
- you are **serving a sentence in jail under Realignment**, or
- you are **awaiting transfer to a state prison**, or
- you are **on parole, on post-release community supervision, or on mandatory supervision**.

Once you have completed your prison sentence and parole or other community supervision, you can register to vote.

Can I vote while I am on probation?

Yes! You can vote at all times when you are on probation, regardless of whether your conviction is a felony or misdemeanor.

Can I vote while I am on parole?

No. You can vote only once you have completed your parole.

Can I vote while I am on mandatory supervision?

No. You can vote only once you have completed your mandatory supervision.

Can I vote while I am on post-release community supervision?

No. You can vote only once you have completed your post-release community supervision.

Can I vote while I am in jail?

Maybe. You **can vote IF** you are in jail:

- awaiting trial for any crime, or
- for a misdemeanor conviction, or
- on a probation violation, or
- on felony probation.

The **only time you lose the right to vote while in jail** is when you are:

- in state prison for a felony conviction, or
- in jail awaiting transfer to a state prison for a felony conviction, or
- serving a sentence in the county jail under Realignment, or
- in jail for a parole violation.

Can I vote if I have been to prison in the past?

Yes! The **only** time you are not eligible to vote in California is if you are in state prison, on parole, on post-release community supervision, or on mandatory supervision. Remember: On Probation? Off Parole? Off any community supervision? *You have the right to vote.*

Voting Rights for Californians with Criminal Convictions

How do I regain my ability to vote?

In California, you do not need to do anything to “restore” your right to vote. It is **automatically restored** once you have completed your parole and are no longer in state prison. However, you must register or re-register to vote in an upcoming election.

How do I register to vote?

There are lots of ways you can register to vote:

- **Register online with the Secretary of State.**

You can [register to vote online](#). (Puede inscribirse para votar en línea, [aquí en español](#).) If you have a California driver’s license or ID and your information is found and verified by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), an electronic signature will be attached to your registration and you will be done. If you don’t have a signature on file at the DMV, all the information you filled in will be transmitted to [your county elections office](#) and they will follow-up with you.

- **Download a registration form.** [[Descargue el formulario de inscripción.](#)]

Fill it out and mail the completed form to [your county elections office](#). Be sure to sign and date the form!

- **Pick up a registration form** at the DMV, post office, many public libraries, or [your local county elections office](#). Complete the form, sign it, put a stamp on it, and mail it to your county elections office.

Do I need to re-register if I move or change my name?

Yes. You need to re-register (using any of the methods above) if you move or change your name.

How do I vote? How do I find my polling place?

In California, you can vote two ways:

- **Vote-by-Mail:** Any registered voter may vote by mail. You can become a Vote-by-Mail Voter (formerly called “Absentee” Voter) by submitting a [Vote-by-Mail Ballot Application](#), or you can ask your county elections office for an application, or fill out the application that comes in your Sample Ballot.
- **At your local polling place:** Once you are registered to vote, you can vote at your local polling place on Election Day. Your polling place is listed on the Sample Ballot you receive in the mail. If for any reason you are unsure of your polling place, contact [your local county elections office](#) to find out where to vote.

When is the last day to register to vote?

You must register (or re-register, if you’ve moved or changed your name) to vote at least **15 days** before the next local, state, or federal election.