

Making **Your Vote** Count

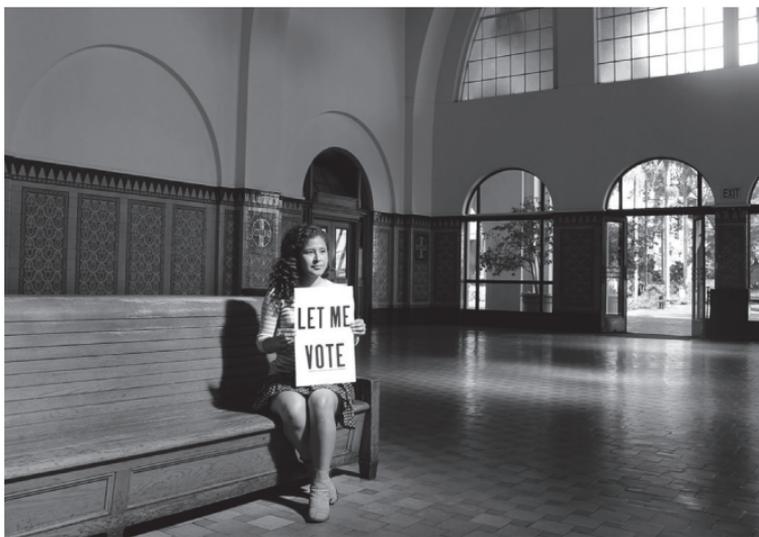
If you have never voted before, the process of registering to vote and casting a ballot may seem complicated. Here are the few steps you need to guide you from registering to voting!

1 REGISTER to Vote

- **Register to vote online** at <http://registertovote.ca.gov> **OR**
- **Get a voter registration form** at:
 - The DMV
 - Post office
 - Your county election office **OR**
- **Call 1-800-345-VOTE** [8683] and ask for a registration form to be mailed to you.

PRO TIPS

- You must register at least 15 days before an election.
- You must re-register every time you move (or change your name).
- You can go online to find out if you're already registered at: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/registration-status/.
- If you think it would be easier to **vote by mail** than to vote in person at a polling place on Election Day, just put your initials after question 15 on the registration form. You'll get your ballot in the mail and can take your time deciding how to vote on each race or initiative.



Got questions? Want to register to vote?
votingrights@acluca.org 619.232.2121
www.letmevoteca.org

2 STUDY UP to Vote

Once you've sent in your completed voter registration card, you'll receive a confirmation postcard that means you are now officially registered to vote! If you don't receive one or have questions, contact us.

Then, as each election approaches, you'll receive a sample ballot and voter pamphlet describing the candidates, initiatives, and issues to be voted on.

A lot of other people—usually candidates and political parties—will also be sending you materials for Election Day. The information can be overwhelming. Sometimes it's helpful, but sometimes it's just confusing or even misleading.

To prepare to vote, talk to people you trust about the candidates and ballot measures. Maybe you trust an elder or a close friend, an organization, or a political party you identify with.

PRO TIPS

- State and national elections are held in California on the first Tuesday of June and November in even-numbered years. Local and special elections may be held at other times of the year.
- Your sample ballot and voter pamphlet have written statements from the candidates and tell you who is for and against each ballot initiative. A lot of people **bring their sample ballots** with notes with them to the polling place on Election Day.
- Remember, **you don't need to vote on every race or issue**. You can choose which things are most important to you.
- Look up your ballot, polling place, and other important information from a trusted source like www.VotersEdge.org/ca.

3 VOTE on Election Day

On Election Day, if you're not a vote-by-mail voter, you need to vote at the polling place for your neighborhood. The address of your assigned polling place is on your sample ballot. Your county elections office can also tell you where your polling place is.

When you arrive, there will be volunteer poll workers to help you use the machines to cast your ballot. You'll sign in with them at a check-in table.

PRO TIPS

- Remember, **you do NOT need photo identification to vote** in California.
- If you vote-by-mail, you need to mail your ballot early so that it is received by the elections office by 8 pm on Election Day. If you're not sure it will arrive in time, you can drop it off at any polling site on Election Day.
- **Never leave the polling place without voting.** If someone tells you that you can't vote for any reason, demand a "provisional ballot," vote as you planned, and then contact us.

If you are being **harassed**, are asked to show an ID, or someone is saying you cannot vote, **call (866) OUR-VOTE (687-8683)**.