

# LET ME VOTE



## On Probation? On Mandatory Supervision? Off Parole? You Have the Right to Vote!

### 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 county 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 are on mandatory supervision, or
- you are on post-release community supervision, or
- you are serving a county jail sentence under Realignment or
- you have completed your parole.

The only time **you CANNOT vote is if:**

- you are currently serving a state or federal prison sentence, or
- you are awaiting transfer to a state prison, or
- you are on parole.

Once you have completed your sentence and parole, you can register to vote. If you are unsure what type of sentence you are serving check with your parole or probation officer.

#### **Can I vote when I am on parole?**

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

#### **Can I vote on mandatory supervision?**

Yes! You can vote at all times when you are on mandatory supervision.

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

Yes! You can vote at all times when you are on post-release community supervision.

#### **Can I vote when I am on probation?**

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

### Can I vote while I am in county jail?

Maybe. **You CAN vote if** you are in county jail:

- awaiting trial for any crime, or
- for a misdemeanor conviction, or
- on a probation violation, or
- on felony probation, or
- serving a county jail sentence under Realignment.

The only time **you CANNOT vote while in county jail** is when you are:

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

### How do I get back my right 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 sentence and are no longer on parole. **However, you must register or re-register to vote in an upcoming election.**

### How do I register to vote?

There are a few ways to register to vote:

- You can **register online:** [www.registertovote.ca.gov](http://www.registertovote.ca.gov)
- You can pick up a **paper registration form** at the DMV, post office, public libraries, or your county elections office. Complete the form, sign it, and drop it in the mail!
- If you are in county jail you can request a voter registration card.

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

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

### How and where do I vote?

In California, you can vote two ways:

**Vote-by-Mail:** This means that every election your ballot will be mailed to you and you can take your time to fill it out and mail back your vote. It's easy to become a vote-by-mail voter. Either:

- put your initials on line 15 on your voter registration application, or
- if you are already registered to vote, you will get a vote-by-mail application attached to the sample ballot you receive about a month before the election. Complete this application and mail back to your county election official.

Reminder! A vote-by-mail ballot will be mailed to the address you provide on your voter registration.

**At your local polling place:** Once you are registered to vote, you can vote at your local polling place on Election Day. Your local polling place is listed on the Sample Ballot you receive in the mail. If for any reason you are unsure of your polling place, you can look it up at [www.votersedge.org](http://www.votersedge.org) or contact your local county elections office to find out.

### When is the last day to register to vote?

The last day to register to vote online or mail in a paper voter registration card is 15 days before an election. If you miss the 15-day deadline, you can still register and vote in the two weeks before and on Election Day if you visit your county elections office or check their website for additional locations that might offer same day registration and voting.

For more information about voting with a criminal conviction visit

**letmevotecalifornia.org**

