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FILLING OUT A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM:

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

*Many people in jail believe they are not eligible to vote...That's **not** true!*

In California:  **You CAN vote if you are on probation or PRCS**
 **You CAN vote if you have a felony conviction**

MANY people in CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CAN vote.

WHO CAN VOTE:

- You must be a citizen of the United States.
- You must be at least 18 years old.
- You **cannot** be currently on parole.
- You **cannot** be currently serving a state or federal prison sentence.
- You **cannot** be currently deemed mentally incompetent by the Court.

OTHERWISE, YOU CAN VOTE. USE YOUR VOICE AND VOTE!

Have a question about voting? Contact:

- 1) Contra Costa County Elections Division at (877)335-7802; or**
- 2) Submit an "Inmate Request" slip to staff for the County Librarians to assist you or a loved one currently in custody; or**
- 3) The Contra Costa County Public Defender's Office can also assist with registering people in county jail to vote. Call us at (925) 517-3577 if you have questions about how your legal status affects your right to vote.**

Instructions

Fill out the voter registration card (pencil is okay if in custody). Please write very clearly, so that it is easy to read. Please see the final page of this guide for a sample completed registration form.

ITEM 1: Qualifications

- **“I am a U.S. citizen and resident of California”**- You must mark “yes” or “no.”
- **“I am 18 or older”**- You must mark “yes” or “no.”
- **“I am 16 or 17 and want to pre-register”**- You can leave this blank.

ITEM 2: Your legal name

- **“Mr.” or “Ms.” or “Mrs.” or “Miss”**- This is optional- you can check one or leave it blank.
- **“First”**- Write your first name. Use your official name-- the one that is on your birth certificate or driver's license. Do not use a nickname.
- **“Middle”**- Write your middle name if you have one.
- **“Last”**- Write your last name. Include “Junior” or “Senior” or “III.” Use your official name, the one that is on your birth certificate or driver’s license.

ITEM 3: Identification

- **“Date of birth”**- Write the month, day, and year of your birthday. Make sure this is the same birthday that is on your ID or Driver’s License.
- **“California Driver license or ID card #”**- Write the number for your California license or ID card, if you remember it. If you cannot remember, leave this blank.
- **“SSN (last 4 numbers)”**- Write the last four numbers of your social security number. If you do not know your social security number, think about whether there is anyone in your life who you could call who could give you this information. If you cannot find it, leave it blank.
- **“U.S. state or foreign country of birth”**- If you were born in the United States, write down the state where you were born. If you were born in a country outside of the United States, write the name of that country.

ITEM 4: The address where you live (home address)

- **“Home address”**- Write the address where you live when you are not in jail, or where you will most likely stay when you leave jail. This address will help the Registrar of Voter send you the right ballot, because the ballots are based on where you live. **Do not put the address of Contra Costa County Jail, and do not put a PO Box.** You can put an address anywhere in California, and your registration form should be forwarded to the county where you live. If you are homeless, and do not have an address, leave this blank, and complete the sections as indicated below.
- **“Apt or Unit #”**- Write the apartment number here.
- **“City”**- Write the city where you live. If you are homeless and do not have an address, write the city where you spend the most time.
- **“State”**- This is already filled in with “CA.”

- **“Zip”**- Write your zip code here.
- **“California county”**- Write the county where you live. (*Example: If you live in Richmond, write “Contra Costa.” If you live in Oakland, write “Alameda,” etc.*) If you are homeless and do not have an address, write the county where you spend the most time.
- **“If you do not have a street address, describe where you live including cross streets, Route, N, S, E, W, etc.”**- If you are homeless and do not currently have a home address, write the cross streets of the area where you spend the most time. (*Example: 14th Street and Broadway, Oakland*)

ITEM 5: The address where you receive mail (mailing address)

- **“Mailing address- if different from above or a P.O. Box#”**- If you want to receive your ballot and other election mail at an address that is different from your home address, complete this section. If you believe you will be in a Contra Costa County Jail shortly before the next election, and you want to vote by mail from Contra Costa County Jail, you can write the Facility address here. It will look like this:
 - **West County Detention Facility, 5555 Giant Highway Road, Richmond, CA 94806**
 - **Martinez Detention Facility, 901 Court Street, Martinez, CA 94553**
 - **Marsh Creek Detention Facility, 12000 Marsh Creek Road, Clayton, CA 94517**

ITEM 6: Registration History

- If you were previously registered to vote and you want to change your address, name, or political party preference, complete this section. If you cannot recall your previous information, you can leave this section blank.

ITEM 7: Vote by Mail

- Even though all California voters will be receiving a ballot by mail in 2020, you still have the option to change your status to permanent vote by mail. Mark “yes” or “no.”

ITEM 8: Political Party Preference

- Mark a box to choose any of the political parties listed. If you DO NOT want to choose a particular political party preference, mark the "No Party/None" box. There can be only ONE mark in Item 8 with NO CORRECTIONS or ALTERATIONS.

ITEM 9: Optional Voter Information

- This part is optional- you can write as much as you want or leave it blank. *Note: information provided in this section will become public information.*

ITEM 10: Affidavit

- You must sign this section. Your registration form will not be valid unless you sign here. Please include the date of signing.

DID SOMEONE HELP YOU FILL OUT OR DELIVER THIS FORM?

- If someone helped you fill out your Voter Registration Card (they wrote on your form for you), that person must complete this box.

APPLICANT'S RECEIPT

- The bottom portion of the application is your receipt. Tear this off and keep it for your records. You will use that registration number if you want to call the Contra Costa County Registrar of Voters Office with questions.

Important Dates

Monday, 10/19/20: The last day to register to vote for the November 2020 election.

Tuesday, 11/3/20: Election day.

Other Notes

State law imposes penalties of imprisonment for anyone who knowingly and willfully completes affidavits of registration for non-citizens, non-existent or fictitious persons, or any ineligible elector (Elections Code § 18100, 18101, and 18102).

ONCE YOU HAVE FILLED OUT YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION, MAIL IT TO THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. YOU **DO NOT NEED AN ENVELOPE OR POSTAGE- IT IS FREE. You should receive your ballot soon after. Please mail your completed ballot as soon as possible, for free. You do not need to vote on everything on the ballot- just vote for whatever is important to you and leave the rest blank.**

Make sure you SIGN the ballot envelope before returning the ballot.

Note: if you are released from Contra Costa County jails before you receive your ballot, you can still register and vote in-person on election day. Once you are out of custody, you can change your registration mailing address online or at the office of the Registrar of Voters (555 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553).

Thank you!!