



Student Voting Guide for California

2014 Registration Deadlines and Election Dates

- General Election Registration Deadline: Applications must be postmarked or received 15 days before Election Day.—October 20. Additionally, students with a valid California driver's license or state ID card may register to vote online at <http://registertovote.ca.gov>.
- Early Voting Period (if applicable): All registered voters may vote early by mail without an excuse. Your completed mail-in ballot must be received by your county elections official by the time polls close on Election Day.
- General Election: November 4

Voter registration forms, polling place locations, and more information can be found at <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections>

Register at School or Home?

Students have a choice about where to register to vote:

School residence:

- Students attending college in California may register to vote at their school address if they presently intend to make it their residence and to return there after any temporary absence like summer vacation. They do not have to plan to reside at that address permanently or after graduation.

Home residence:

- Some students may choose to register or remain registered at their home (prior) address in California or outside the state if they intend to return there after college. In this case, a student may need to vote by absentee ballot.
- California residents who move away for college can keep their California voting residency so long as they still consider California the location of their primary residence and do not register or declare residency elsewhere. These students may request to vote early by mail.

For other state's registration information visit:
www.campusvoteproject.org/studentguides

What Type of ID Do I Need to Register?

- California's voter registration form asks for your California driver's license or ID number, or the last four digits of your Social Security Number. Failure to provide this information could lead to you having to show additional identification when you vote that shows your picture or your name and address. Make sure to provide this information on the registration form so the state can verify your identity and you don't run into problems when you cast your ballot.

What Type of ID Do I Need to Vote?

You do not need any ID to vote early or on Election Day in California. The only exception is for first-time voters who registered by mail or during a voter registration drive and failed to provide a California driver's license number, state ID number, or the last 4 digits of their Social Security Number.

Where Do I Vote?

- Polling place locator online at <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/find-polling-place.htm> through the Secretary of State's website.
- Voters must cast their ballots in the correct precinct. Sometimes there are multiple precincts in one polling place, so confirm your precinct ahead of time and get in the correct line!

www.campusvoteproject.org

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How Can I Vote?

By Mail

- Any registered voter may vote by mail in California. Students who wish to vote by mail must first submit an application in order to receive a mail-in ballot. Applications for a mail-in ballot sent by mail must be received by the county elections official no later than seven days before the election; otherwise you will need to apply in person at your county elections office to receive a vote-by-mail ballot for that election.
- Completed ballots must be returned before the close of polls on Election Day.

Early In Person

- All registered voters may vote early in person without an excuse. Early voting begins 29 days before an election. Check with your [County Clerk's office](#) for specific location and times.

On Election Day at the Polls

- The polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

The Higher Education Act requires most colleges and universities to make a good faith effort to distribute voter registration forms to every student. Does yours?

According to the U.S. Supreme Court, students have the right to register and vote in their college towns if they meet the same requirements as everyone else. Misinformation, such as claims that registering to vote at school may jeopardize eligibility for financial aid or insurance, are sometimes used to discourage students from voting locally.

Common Questions

Will voting in California affect my federal financial aid?

Where you register to vote will not affect federal financial aid such as Pell Grants and Perkins or Stafford loans or your dependency status regarding FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Will I lose my scholarship if I register to vote in California?

Generally, no. If you receive scholarship money from a state, county, town, or a private entity (i.e., an entity other than the federal government) you should confirm that residency in a particular place is not a requirement of the scholarship and/or that voter registration in California will not affect your eligibility.

Will registering to vote in California affect my driver's license or car registration?

Registering to vote in California does not necessarily change your driver's license and motor vehicle registration. However, as a full-time student in California, you may have to make these changes regardless of whether you register to vote in California. For more information, you may wish to contact the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

Will registering to vote in California prevent my parents from claiming me as a dependent on their taxes?

No. Students are often told that registering to vote in a different state from their parents will make them lose their dependency status. This is not true. Where you register to vote will have no effect on your parent's tax status.

Does being an in-state or out-of-state student for tuition purposes affect my right to vote?

No. You may choose to vote in your college community or back home regardless of your tuition status.

This Guide was prepared by FELN staff who are not licensed to practice law in California and FELN intends that the information contained herein is used only as a general guide. This document should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a licensed California legal professional.

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