



California

- **Chief election official:** Secretary of State Shirley Weber; elected in 2022 for a four-year term
- **Who runs elections locally:** County Clerk, Registrar of Voters
- **Number of jurisdictions:** 58
- **State website:** www.sos.ca.gov

ELECTION POLICY	STATUS	NATIONAL COMPARISON
VOTER REGISTRATION		
Online voter registration	OVR permitted	42 states and D.C. have online voter registration
Automatic/automated voter registration	AVR permitted	24 states and D.C. have automatic voter registration
Type of state voter registration database	Bottom-up	36 states and D.C. use top-down; seven states use bottom-up; seven states use a hybrid system
Pre-registration	16 and 17-year-olds may preregister	22 states and D.C. permit pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds
Election Day/same-day registration	Permitted	22 states and D.C. have same-day registration
Registration deadline	Election Day	National average is 20 days before Election Day
VOTING		
Voter ID for in-person voting	ID not required if presented at the time of registration	36 states require ID to vote in person
Early in-person voting	Begins 29 days before Election Day	47 states and D.C. allow early in-person voting; national average is 26 days
Vote centers	Vote centers are used	30 states and D.C. allow vote centers
No-excuse absentee voting	Permitted; ballots are mailed to all registered voters	28 states permit no-excuse absentee voting
Mails ballots to all registered voters (aka "mostly mail elections")	Ballots are mailed to all registered voters	Eight states and D.C. mail ballots to all registered voters
Deadline for absentee/mail ballot return	Seven days after Election Day*	31 states require ballots returned by Election Day
Laws governing who can return a voted ballot	A voter's designee	32 states have laws governing ballot collection
Ballot drop boxes	Permitted	Six states prohibit; 23 states permit; other states are silent
Ballot cure process	Ballot cure process offered statewide	30 states and D.C. have a ballot cure process
When absentee/mail ballot processing begins	29 days before Election Day	34 states and D.C. begin processing before Election Day
Electronic ballot return	UOCAVA voters only	33 states and D.C. allow for military and overseas voters; 13 states and D.C. allow for voters with disabilities
OTHER		
Pre-election audits (logic and accuracy testing)	Uses pre-election audits	47 states and D.C. have pre-election audits
Post-election tabulation audits	Uses post-election audits	48 states and D.C. require post-election audits
State primary type	Top-two	Primaries range from fully open to fully closed

*Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day.

Note: Neither NCSL nor the U.S. Election Assistance Commission advocate for or against any election policies.

For more information, contact NCSL at elections-info@ncsl.org or 303-364-7700. For information on federal grants see www.eac.gov/grants.



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Use this QR code to access links to the EAC's election resources.

