

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!



How to prepare someone to vote. How to vote. Where to vote. When to vote. And more!

REGISTERING TO VOTE

It is possible to register to vote in a number of ways:

- 1) **Online:** <http://registertovote.ca.gov>.
- 2) **Text:** Text “2vote” and put “Contra Costa” in the text line and you can register using your phone.
- 3) **Submit a paper application** form in the mail. Paper applications are available at the Martinez county elections office, libraries, U.S. post offices or Department of Motor Vehicle offices. Applications must be postmarked or hand-delivered to the county elections office at least 15 calendar days before the election. To request that a paper voter registration application be mailed to you, call (800) 345-VOTE (8683) or email Elections Division staff at <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/contact/email-elections-division>


BE RESPONSIBLE
AND

VOTE

WHO CAN REGISTER TO VOTE IN CALIFORNIA?

- A United States citizen & resident of California;
- 18 years or older on Election Day;
- Not currently in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony; and
- Not found by a court to be “mentally incompetent.”

Voters must register 15 days prior to an election. **However, if they miss the deadline, they can go to the County Election Office and vote a provisional ballot.**



Question: “Why should I vote?
My vote doesn’t matter!”

A: There are places where a race was determined by a single vote!

ELECTIONS CAN BE CLOSE!

2017 Virginia House of Representative.....	Tie vote
2014 North Carolina District Court.....	5 votes
2002 Washington House of Representatives.....	1 vote

ACCESSIBILITY OF VOTING

There are a number of ways to vote.

- A voter may request an **absentee ballot** which will be mailed to them 29 days before the election and can be returned by mail or dropped off at a polling site on Election Day.
- Walk into your **polling place** (will be listed on your sample ballot)
- A voter may vote **one week ahead of time** at one of the county’s new “**Regional Early Voting**” program sites (Richmond, El Cerrito, Concord, Walnut Creek, Bay Point, Antioch, San Ramon, Martinez). For a site list: <http://www.cocovote.us/registration-and-voting-options/vote-before-election-day/>
- A voter may drop off their ballot starting **29 days before** election day at one of 27 **drop-off locations** throughout the county. <https://www.cocovote.us/ballot-drop-off/>
- If anyone ever has a problem not being able to vote at their polling site, they can cast a provisional ballot which will be later reviewed.
- Employers have to allow 2 unpaid hours for employees to go and vote.

Election Date: November 6, 2018

Last Day to Register: October 22, 2018



LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY

- The Secretary of State offers voter information and assistance (State Voter Information Guide) in English and nine additional languages: Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Thai. <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/voting-california/>
- Every county has a different federal mandate for the languages they must offer. Contra Costa ballots are available in English, Spanish and Chinese and they offer a ballot translation guide, available at polling sites and for vote-by-mail voters, in Vietnamese, Korean and Tagalog. For more assistance contact the county Elections Department at eo@vote.cccounty.us or call the office at: 925.335.7800.
- For voter assistance in a specific language, call one of the toll-free Voter Hotline numbers: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/voting-california/voter-hotlines/>



Question: "There are too many issues so I don't know what to vote on!"

A: Voters do not have to vote the entire ballot and may vote for only those issues that they want to.

Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder Elections Department

To get your Voter
Registration Forms please visit:

**555 Escobar Street,
Martinez, CA 94553
8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.**

E-Mail:
voter.services@vote.cccounty.us

Website:
www.cocovote.us

MAKE VOTING EASY! PERMANENT VOTE-BY-MAIL VOTING

Any registered voter may become a permanent vote-by-mail voter. As a permanent vote-by-mail voter, you will automatically receive a vote-by-mail ballot for each election.

To become a permanent vote-by-mail voter, you may fill out a **Vote-By-Mail application** (available in multiple languages) online at: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail#perm> or you can obtain an application from your county elections office.

**Question: "Why should I vote?
My vote doesn't matter!"**

A: Power resides in the people and the government is ruled by leaders elected by the people.



RESOURCES FOR ELECTION DAY

Contra Costa's Election Department provides information on local measures and candidates/offices up for election. <https://www.contracostacore.us/>

Voter's Edge California, an online election guide from the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund and MapLight, provides information on the entire ballot, with national, state, and local contests. Find Voter's Edge California online at <https://votersedge.org/>

Official Voter Information Guide from the California Secretary of State provides detailed information about the state ballot measures, statements from the candidates running for constitutional office, and voting resources. Find the Guide online at: voterguide.sos.ca.gov

Easy Voter Guide in multiple languages with information about why we vote, how to vote and what's on the ballot, a collaboration of the [League of Women Voters of California Education Fund](#), the [California State Library](#) and the [Common Knowledge Group](#). <http://www.easyvoterguide.org/>



The information contained in this pamphlet was provided by the County Elections Department at the January 26, 2018 FESP meeting along with some additional research by FESP.