

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What are the requirements to be eligible to vote?

You must be (all of the following):

- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of California
- At least 18 years of age on the day of the election
- Not in prison or on parole for conviction of a felony
- Not declared to be mentally incompetent by a court
- Registered to vote

### How will I find out where to go to vote?

All registered voters in California receive a sample ballot which tells voters where their polling place is located (see the back cover of your sample ballot). Polling places may change from election to election, you can also verify your polling location by clicking on [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net).

### Why would I need to re-register?

- If you move
- If you change your name
- If you wish to change your political party

### I didn't vote in the last election, do I need to re-register?

No, you do not need to re-register, as long as you remain at the same address. However, your registration may be canceled for failure to respond to an address confirmation mailing or if you have not voted for four or more years.

### I am a U.S. citizen living abroad. How do I vote?

You must request an absentee ballot. Contact a U.S. embassy, consulate, designated military personnel or your state election authority or log onto the internet site [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net).

## FAQs – continued

### I am a college student living away from home. Where should I register?

You can register at either your home or school address. It is important to update your registration each time you move; even if it's just a room change on campus. If you are registered at your home address while you're at school, remember to request an absentee ballot at least 30 days before the election. Applications for absentee voting must be received 7 days before the election. For more information on absentee voting see the League of Women Voters brochure.

### Is it true that voter registration lists are used for jury duty?

Yes. California State statutes require that lists of registered voters be provided to the Jury Commissioner to be used for jury duty selection. However, jurors can also be selected by motor vehicle records.

### I registered to vote at a Department of Motor Vehicles office. Why does the County say I'm not registered?

A number of citizens who thought they had registered at the DMV offices are not actually registered to vote. Although the box on the DMV form indicating they wanted to register to vote was checked, the attached voter registration form may not have been completed. A voter registration form must be completed and signed in order to become a registered voter.

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities gratefully acknowledges the content and design of this brochure, which was prepared by the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles. (Sept 2004)

# GUIDE TO VOTER REGISTRATION



**League of Women Voters  
of the Beach Cities**

701 13th St, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
(310) 793-0569

[www.beachvoter.org](http://www.beachvoter.org)



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of the Beach Cities**

## HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

To register to vote, you must fill out a voter registration application form and mail it to the L.A. County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's office.

You can do any of the following:

- pick up a voter registration form at post offices, public libraries, fire stations, city halls and state motor vehicle offices;
- call a toll-free number and request that a form be mailed to you: L.A. County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk: (800) 481-8683;
- fill out a form online that will be mailed to you for signature  
[www.ss.ca.gov/elections/votereg1.html](http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/votereg1.html);

**NOTE:** You may not register for someone else. You may help someone fill out the form, but that person must sign the form.

### You must provide the following information:

Your full name: first, middle, last.

Your complete residence address, not a post office box. (If there is no street address you may describe where you live.)

The address where you get your mail, this may be a post office box.

The address at which you were last registered to vote (if any).

Your complete date of birth - month, day, year (using four digits).

Your California driver's license number or identification card number or the last four digits of your Social Security Number (SSN). If you do not include this information you will be required to provide identification the first time you vote.

The name of the state in the U.S.A. or foreign country where you were born.

Your political party preference; you may check 'decline to state' if you wish.

Your signature and the date you signed the form. By signing the form you certify that the information is truthful and correct under penalty of perjury. If you are unable to write your name you may make a mark or an 'X'. Someone may fill out the form for you. That person must sign and date the form below your mark.

### Information you may provide if you wish; you are not required to give this information:

- Mr., Mrs., Miss or Ms.
- Your telephone number (this number will become public record).
- In which language you prefer to receive election materials. Language choices vary by county.

You will receive a notice by mail that you are registered to vote. If you do not receive the notice within three weeks of mailing your registration form, call the L.A. County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office (562) 466-1310, and ask if you are registered.

## WHAT IS YOUR RESIDENCE?

Where are you legally entitled to register and vote?

The statute refers to your "domicile" - the place where your family lives, where you physically reside, the place you intend to return to whenever you are gone from it, the address on your California driver's license, where you claim your homeowner's property tax exemption or renter's tax credit.

You can have only one domicile, even if you have more than one house or residence. If you own more than one residence you must decide which one is your "domicile" and register and vote at only one place.

If you are homeless you may register as long as you maintain a fixed location where you can receive mail (perhaps a shelter address) and at which you can be assigned to a precinct.

If you are a college student living away from home you may register at your college residence address (on or off campus) or at your permanent home address, but only at one of those places.

If your college residence is out of state and you have registered at that address, you will receive a ballot from that state.

## HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES

- Voter Registration Verification/  
Sample Ballot Inquiries  
(562) 466-1323  
(562) 466-1310
- Election Information  
(562) 466-1310
- Absentee/Vote-by-Mail Ballot Inquiries  
(562) 466-1323
- Bilingual Assistance (Toll Free)  
Secretary of State Kevin Shelley's Office  
English: (800) 345-VOTE (8683)  
Spanish: (800) 232-VOTA (8682)  
Chinese: (800) 339-2857  
Vietnamese: (800) 339-8163  
Japanese: (800) 339-2865  
Tagalog: (800) 339-2957  
Korean: (866) 575-1558
- League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities  
(310) 793-0569 [www.beachvoter.org](http://www.beachvoter.org)

L.A. County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk  
[www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net)

League of Women Voters Smart Voter:  
[www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)