

PLACER COUNTY ELECTIONS DIVISION

Frequently Asked Questions:

Provisional Voting

- What is provisional voting?
- How do I vote provisionally?
- How is a provisional ballot counted?
- Why was I asked to vote provisionally?
- I recently moved but have not re-registered, can I still vote?
- I became a United States citizen after the 15 day close of registration, can I still vote?
- I am a spouse, dependent or member of the Armed Forces who has been released from active service after the close of registration, can I still vote?
- Where can I vote provisionally?
- How do I find my polling place?
- Why are polling places assigned?
- How are polling places assigned?
- Do precincts and polling places change?
- If I go to the wrong polling place and vote provisionally will my ballot count?
- How can I find out if my provisional ballot was counted?
- Where can I find out more about provisional voting?

What is provisional voting?

Provisional voting is the process by which a voter claiming to be properly registered within his/her residing county, yet whose eligibility to vote cannot be immediately established may cast a ballot during an election. Provisional voting may also include individuals who have lost, misplaced or are otherwise unable to surrender their Vote-By-Mail ballot at a polling place on Election Day.

Variations of special provisional voting include casting a court ordered ballot (E.C. Code 14310 Section C(2)B), voting provisionally as a new citizen (E.C. Code 3500-3503) or as a special Vote-By-Mail voter who has recently been discharged from active military service (E.C. Code 3107). Special provisional voting is available only at the front counter of the Placer County Elections Division located at 2956 Richardson Drive, Auburn CA, 95603.

How do I vote provisionally?

In order to receive a provisional ballot, you must first complete a provisional voting packet. The provisional packet includes a voter registration form and a provisional voting packet located on the outside of your provisional envelope. In order to complete the provisional envelope you will need to provide the following information:

- Your full name.
- Your current Placer County residence address.
- Date of birth.
- Telephone number.
- Party Affiliation (during a Primary Election).
- Prior residence address.

You will be asked to complete a voter registration form and receive a ballot after the voting packet has been completed. Once voted, you will be asked to place the ballot into the provisional envelope. You will then seal and return the envelope to the elections official for processing.

How is a provisional ballot counted?

The information listed on the outside of the provisional envelope is checked against the voter's file in the Election's database. The ballot is counted once the voter's eligibility has been confirmed and it has been confirmed that the voter has not attempted to vote twice in the same election. In the case of court ordered voting, the ballot will be counted once the provisional packet has been approved by a Placer County Superior Court Judge.

If a voter casts a provisional ballot in a precinct other than the one in which he/she resides, only the races for which the voter is eligible to participate in will be counted towards the election.

Why was I asked to vote provisionally?

There are several reasons why a voter may be asked to vote provisionally during an election. If after reviewing the situational examples provided below you are still uncertain as to why you were asked to vote provisionally on Election Day, please contact the Placer County Elections Division at 530-886-5650 for more information.

Examples:

- The voter's name did not appear on the Polling Place Roster.
- The voter went to the wrong polling place.
- The voter is listed as a First Time Federal Voter but was unable to provide a valid form of identification.
- The voter moved within Placer County but did not re-register to vote at the new address.
- The voter moved to Placer County prior to Election Day but did not register to vote before the registration deadline, approximately 15 days prior to Election Day.
- The voter is a Permanent Vote-By-Mail voter and wishes to vote at a polling place on Election Day but is unable to surrender his/her ballot.
- The voter resides in a mail ballot precinct but wishes to vote at a polling place on Election Day.
- The voter resides in a mail ballot precinct but has lost or spoiled his/her ballot.

Examples of Special Provisional Voting:

Court Ordered Voters:

- Any U.S. citizen that registered to vote prior to the 15 day close of registration; who's voter registration form was not received by the Elections Division before the deadline.
- Any voter who has been temporarily displaced from his/her Placer County residence and desires to participate in the election but missed the 15 day close of registration.

New Citizen Voters:

- Any person who became a United States citizen after the 15 day close of registration but on or before the seventh day prior to that election.

Special Vote-By-Mail Voter:

- Any citizen of Placer County who is a spouse, dependant or member of the military, who is released from active military service and has returned to Placer County after the 15 day close of registration.

I recently moved but have not re-registered, can I still vote?

Yes. If you are registered to vote in Placer County and have moved within the County, you may vote provisionally at the polling place designated for your new address.

I became a United States citizen after the 15 day close of registration, can I still vote?

Yes. You may cast a provisional ballot at the Placer County Elections Division once you have:

- Provided a current form of identification and proof of citizenship (official naturalization documents).
- Completed a provisional voting packet.

I am a spouse, dependent or member of the Armed Forces who has been released from active service after the close of registration, can I still vote?

Yes. You may cast a provisional ballot at the Placer County Elections Division once you have:

- Provided a current form of identification and the official discharge/release documentation.
- Completed a provisional voting packet.

Where can I vote provisionally?

Provisional voting is available at the Placer County Elections Division after the registration deadline, 15 days prior to Election Day or at a Placer County polling place on Election Day. The Placer County Elections Division is located at 2956 Richardson Drive, Auburn CA 95603. Regular business hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. For added convenience the Elections Division may be open on weekends prior to an election. Contact the Elections Division at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California at 1-800-824-8683 for election specific business hours..

How do I find my polling place?

The address of your assigned polling place is printed on your Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet. Pamphlets are mailed beginning 40 days prior to an election. For a comprehensive list of polling places visit our website under **Where to Vote/Polling Place Locator** or contact the Elections Division at 530-886-5650 or toll free within California at 1-800-824-8683.

Why are polling places assigned?

Voters are assigned to a polling place based on the voting precinct in which they reside. Each polling place carries a ballot type that is specific to that area of Placer County. Ballots may be significantly different from one site to the next due to boundary lines for Placer County districts.

How are polling places assigned?

For election purposes the county has been divided into precincts. Prior to an election the precincts are grouped together based on common districts, regions and Election Code requirements. Polling places are located in each voting precinct unless there are fewer than 250 registered voters in that

area. Areas with less than 250 registered voters are called mail ballot precincts. Voters residing in a mail ballot precinct will automatically receive their ballot in the mail.

Do precincts and polling places change?

Yes. Although Placer County attempts to use the same locations for each election, polling places may change due to the availability of the site, whether it continues to meet state and federal regulations, whether the district lines have changed or precincts have been consolidated, and depending on what items will appear on the ballot for an election.

If I go to the wrong polling place and vote provisionally will my ballot count?

Yes. Provided that you are currently registered and eligible to vote within Placer County, all of the contests and measures for which you are eligible to vote will be counted. All other contests and measures will not be counted.

How can I find out if my provisional ballot was counted?

If you are a Placer County voter and wish to confirm the status of your ballot, please call the Placer County Elections Division 28 days after the election to confirm your voting activity. The Elections Division is available at 530-886-5650 or toll free within California at 1-800-824-8683.

If the Elections Division cannot determine eligibility and the provisional ballot cannot be counted a letter will be mailed to the voter explaining why the ballot was not counted and some suggestions to make sure the ballot can count in future elections.

Where can I find out more about provisional voting?

For more information, contact the Placer County Elections Division at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California 1-800-824-8683. You may also visit the Secretary of State website at www.sos.ca.gov for more information.