

VOTING IS YOUR RIGHT

AN ELECTION GUIDE FOR VOTERS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS



**Placer County Office of Elections
- Jim McCauley -**

**2956 Richardson Drive
Auburn, CA 95603**

530-886-5650 or toll-free in CA 1-800-824-8683

Website: www.placerelections.com

E-mail: election@placer.ca.gov

Placer County Office of Elections Mission Statement

Provide the public with courteous, prompt, and professional service. Work as a team, with loyalty and respect for each other. Strive to increase our knowledge and skills. Share ideas and information with others.

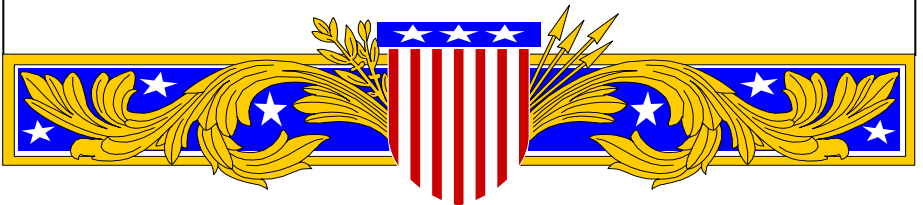


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General Information

Information regarding voter registration and election services is available from the Placer County Office of Elections. The office is located at 2956 Richardson Drive, Auburn CA 95603. Citizens can contact the office for information by telephone at 530-886-5650 or toll-free in California at 1-800-824-8683, or online at www.placerelections.com. Regular business hours are Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM, excluding legal holidays.



Voter Registration

Who may register and vote?

A person is entitled to register and vote if they are:

- A U.S. citizen
- A resident of California
- Not in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony
- At least 18 years of age on the date of the election

How and where to register to vote?

To register to vote, a person needs to complete and sign a voter registration card and mail it to the Office of Elections or the county in which he/she resides. The forms are pre-addressed and postage paid. Some forms carry the Secretary of State's address in Sacramento or the address of another county, and these forms can be used also as they will be forwarded to the correct county for processing.

Voter registration cards are available at

- Placer County Office of Elections
2956 Richardson Drive
Auburn CA 95603
- Post Offices
- Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV's)

- City Clerks Offices
- Public Libraries
- Chambers of Commerce
- High Schools

You may also telephone the Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 to have one mailed to you. The Placer County Office of Elections' website is www.placerelections.com, which has a link from the home page to register to vote.

Safe at Home The Secretary of State's Office allows victims of domestic violence to have their names removed from the voter file, but still enables them to participate in the election process. To sign up with an enrolling agency near you, please call toll-free 1-877-322-5227.

How to change name/address/political party

If you:

- Have recently married and/or changed your name or;
- Moved within Placer County and need to change your address or;
- Wish to change your political party;

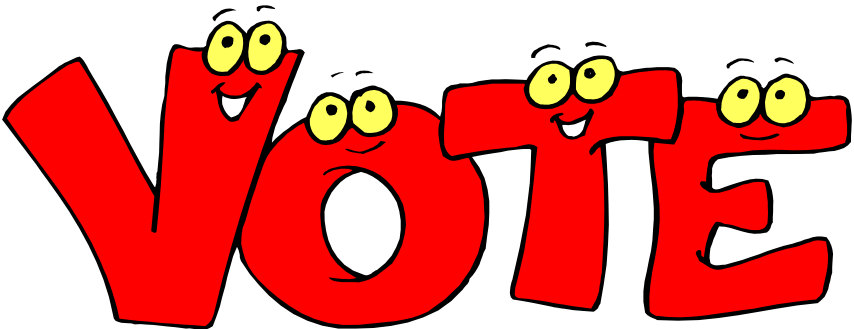
You will need to complete another voter registration card and mail it back to the Office of

Elections and we will update your registration to reflect the change.

A voter notification card is sent to each voter confirming a new registration or a change in registration in Placer County.

Deadline to register for an Election

You must be registered at least 15 days prior to an election in order to vote in that election. Once you are registered, you will remain on the rolls and be eligible to vote until you move out of the county or become ineligible. Failure to vote in an election does not make you ineligible.



IT'S THE LAW

The following federal and state laws are of special importance to voters who have specific needs.

Federal Laws

- **1965-Voting Rights Act** Any voter requiring assistance may receive it from a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union.
- **1984-Voting Accessibility for the Elderly & Handicapped Act** Promotes the fundamental right to vote by improving "access for handicapped and elderly individuals to registration facilities and polling places for Federal elections".
- **1990-Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** Requires public entities to provide auxiliary aids and services where necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of a service, program or activity conducted by a public entity.
- **1993-National Voter Registration Act (NVRA or "Motor Voter")** The NVRA makes it easier for persons to register to vote by requiring voter registration services be provided at any

state-funded program that serves people with disabilities.

- **2002-Help America Vote Act (HAVA)** Federal legislation enabling greater opportunities for access and participation in the election process, including provisions regarding accessible voting technologies in polling places.

California Laws, Regulations and Court Cases

- **Elections Code Sec. 12280** “when designating polling places, the elections official shall undertake necessary measures in the locating of polling places to ensure that polling places meet the guidelines promulgated by the Secretary of State for accessibility by the physically handicapped.”
- **Title 24** The standards for accessibility as defined by the ADA and California Building Code, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations is used in the Secretary of State polling place survey to determine whether or not a polling site is accessible.
- **2002-Accessible Voting Technology Act (AVTA)** Elections Code Sec. 19925 et. seq. The AVTA says blind and visually impaired voters have the right to vote without being assisted by another person. The law requires that voters:

Be able to use, choose, and move data and work the controls of the voting system; have the same access to voting technology as voters who are not blind or visually impaired; have access to at least one accessible voting unit at the voter's assigned polling place.

- **Proposition 41** Proposition 41 was passed by the voters in 2002. It authorizes counties to obtain bond funds to purchase new voting systems and establishes the Voting Modernization Board.
- **Voter Registration and Establishment of Domicile. Walters v. Weed (1988) AKA "UCSC Student Voting Case." 45 Cal.3rd.1.** In this California Supreme Court decision, the court held that the voters who have moved, but have not established new domicile, may vote in the precinct of their former domicile even though they have no intention of returning to live there.
- **Homeless Person's Right to Register to Vote. Collier v. Menzel (1985). AKA "Fig Tree Case." 176 Cal. App.3d 24.** In this Court of Appeal decision, the court held that a homeless person may register at and vote from a location deemed by the voter to be a dwelling place or place of habitation for that voter. A mailing address needs to be provided in order for the voter to receive election materials.

**VOTE IN THE CONVENIENCE OF
YOUR HOME FOR EVERY ELECTION
AND
SIGN UP TO BE A PERMANENT
VOTE-BY-MAIL (PVBM) VOTER
TODAY.**

***Receive your official ballot in the mail,
vote your ballot, and mail it back to
the Office of Elections or take your
ballot to any polling place in Placer
County on Election Day.***

***An application can be found at the
Office of Elections website:
www.placerelections.com OR call the
Elections Office at 530-886-5650.***



WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

- ❖ **100% participation of eligible voters in all elections**
- ❖ **100% polling place accessibility**
- ❖ **Provide options for all voters who seek independent and private voting**

Placer County and the State of California provide services to voters with specific needs including:

- ✓ Accessible polling places
- ✓ Wheelchair-accessible voting booths
- ✓ Magnifying devices at polling places
- ✓ TDD services for the deaf and hard of hearing
- ✓ Cassette tapes with State measures
- ✓ CD's with County sample ballot information
- ✓ Vote-by-mail voting options
- ✓ Poll worker assistance at any step of the voting process
- ✓ Delivery of ballots
- ✓ Voter outreach presentations and demonstrations

PRE-ELECTION DAY SERVICES



TDD

(Telecommunications Devices)

The California Secretary of State provides a telecommunication device to take calls from individuals with hearing impairments. For further information, please call 1-800-833-8683.



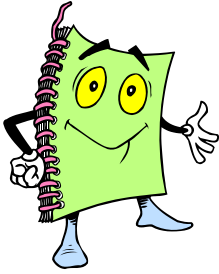
Cassette and CD Recordings of Voter Information



In California, cassette tape recordings of the information printed in the State Voter Information Guide are available for visually impaired voters or others upon request. The County of Placer offers CD recordings of the information printed in the Sample Ballot including local measures as well as local candidate statements. The cassette and CD's are available upon request at the Office of Elections, and are made available approximately four weeks before the election.

Website: www.placerelections.com

The Placer County Office of Elections' website offers a wealth of information and is a good resource for voters.



Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet

A Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet is mailed to each registered voter in the county approximately four weeks prior to each election. The booklet provides a copy of the ballot as well as information on local measures and candidate statements of qualifications. In addition, it contains voter instructions on how to vote a ballot, polling place location, important voter information, and a vote-by-mail application for voters to mail, e-mail, deliver, or fax to the Office of Elections.

EARLY VOTING OPTIONS

Vote-by-Mail

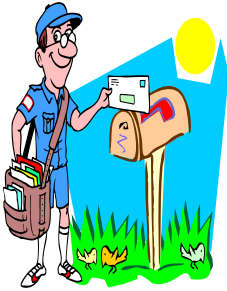
State law provides that any voter may apply for a vote-by-mail ballot. If a voter wants to maintain the option of voting by mail or at the polls, the voter can apply for a vote-by-mail ballot for any election in which he/she would like the ballot mailed to him/her. Applications must be received by the Placer County Office of Elections seven (7) days prior to the election.



Applications for vote-by-mail ballots can be found on the back cover of the sample ballot and on our website at www.placerelections.com in the “How to Vote” area. Applications can be mailed to you by contacting the Office of Elections at 530-886-5650. You can also request a vote-by-mail ballot in writing by sending us your name, residence address, mailing address (if different than your residence address), and your signature to PO Box 5278, Auburn CA 95604. All applications can be returned by mail, hand delivered, or faxed to 530-886-5688. An individual application is needed for each person requesting a ballot.

Beginning 29 days prior to each election, the Placer County Office of Elections in Auburn serves as a voting center during regular business

hours, 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday. Contact our office or visit the website for special weekend hours.



Permanent Vote-by-Mail (PVBM)

Due to changes in the law in 2002, any voter may apply for permanent vote-by-mail status (PVBM). As a PVBM voter, a voter will no longer have to apply to receive a ballot for future elections. A ballot will automatically be mailed to the voter with PVBM status for each election in which they are eligible to vote. The application to become a permanent vote-by-mail voter is part of the regular vote-by-mail voter's ballot application found on the back cover of the sample ballot booklet. You may also print the application from our website at www.placerelections.com in the "How to Vote" area or call the office at 530-886-5650 and we will mail you an application.


If you would like to be a PVBM voter, just check the box on the form, sign and return the form to our office. Once we receive your request, we will mail you your vote-by-mail ballot for all future elections. The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed to you is seven days prior to an election.

Your permanent vote-by-mail status will remain active unless you fail to participate in two consecutive Statewide General Elections or you submit a written request to cancel this status. A new application would then need to be submitted to reinstate your PVBM status. This does not affect your voter registration status.

PBVM status is convenient for voters who may find it difficult in getting to a polling place to vote a ballot. With PVBM status, your ballot will automatically be mailed to you for every election. If a voter wants to terminate his/her status, they can do so by contacting the Office of Elections.

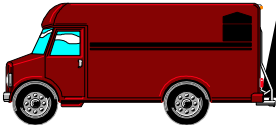
If a voter wishes to cast a ballot at a polling place on Election Day rather than by mail, he/she may do so however, the VBM ballot must be surrendered to a polling place worker. If the ballot has been lost or is otherwise unavailable, the voter may cast a provisional ballot at the polling place or at the Placer County Office of Elections on Election Day.

Further information regarding PVBM voting may be obtained by calling the Office of Elections at 530-886-5650, by visiting our website at www.placerelections.com, or by writing to the Placer County Office of Elections, PO Box 5278, Auburn, CA 95604.



EMERGENCY VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS

If, in the seven days prior to the election, you find that you will be unable to vote in person on Election Day due to illness or disability resulting in confinement to a hospital, nursing home, place of residence, or due to conditions resulting in your absence from your voting precinct on Election Day, you may still request a vote-by-mail ballot. You must make your request in writing, signed under penalty of perjury, and deliver it to the Placer County Office of Elections located at 2956 Richardson Drive in Auburn. You may designate your spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, or a person residing in your household to return the ballot to the Office of Elections or to any polling place within the County on Election Day.



DELIVERY

We Deliver!

If a voter is homebound, in the hospital, in a residential care facility, or otherwise unable to go to the polls, the Placer County Office of Elections will arrange to deliver and/or pick up a ballot for the voter. Normally this service is available two (2) weeks prior to an election. Voters who call for personal assistance will be accommodated as long as time and staff permit. Certainly, calls for assistance are easier to meet when they are made in advance rather than an hour before the polls close.

On Election Day we are prepared with election “runners” who can deliver and pick up ballots for voters who are unable to make it to the polls. Ballot delivery begins at 7 AM and ends at 8 PM. Contact us at 530-886-5650 or toll-free in California at 1-800-824-8683 for assistance.

REACHING OUT...
Placer County Office of Elections
Voter Outreach Program

Placer County considers our senior citizen and disabled population as some of the most valuable individuals who exercise their right to vote. They keep up-to-date on political issues and have been faithful voters throughout the years. In order to keep their registrations current, we have implemented an outreach program for those senior or disabled citizens who have moved into senior residential homes and assisted care homes. Election staff assist these voters with completing voter registration cards and offers permanent vote-by-mail status. Election personnel can determine if voters are registered at their current residence by looking at the registration rolls. This innovative outreach program has been very successful and rewarding.

ASSISTANCE WITH VOTING

If you are in need of assistance in reading or marking your ballot, you may choose a friend to help you vote or you may request assistance from the Election Officials.



If you do not understand the language being spoken in the polling place or in which the ballot is written, you may bring an interpreter into the polling place.

CURBSIDE VOTING

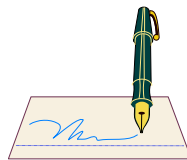
**at
your
Service**



If you are physically unable to enter the polling place, you may remain in your vehicle and vote curbside.

VOTERS WHO CANNOT SIGN THEIR NAME

A voter who cannot sign his/her name may vote after the poll worker confirms his/her name as listed in the Roster of Voters. The voter must make his/her mark in the Roster and have one poll worker sign next to the mark as the witness.



VOTERS WITH IMPAIRMENTS

Every polling place has wheelchair accessible voting booths, large print instructions on how to vote, easy grip pen adapters, and magnifying sheets to assist voters on Election Day. Trained poll workers are there to assist all voters.



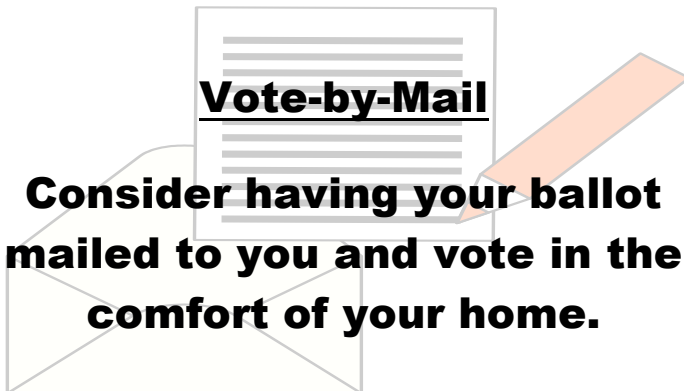
INABILITY TO GO TO THE POLLING PLACE

If you find it difficult to vote at your assigned polling place on Election Day, you may choose to vote at a more convenient time and location by voting early in person at the Office of Elections in Auburn beginning 29 days prior to the election or you may choose to vote by mail.

The poll workers have telephone access to the Office of Elections on Election Day allowing them to instantly obtain information or advice to effectively assist the voter.

No matter how you vote, in person or by mail...

**VOTE TO HAVE
YOUR VOICE HEARD!**



Consider having your ballot mailed to you and vote in the comfort of your home.

TSX System Serves Voters with Specific Needs



Voters appreciate the TSX's bright screen with its large, easy-to-read fonts and large voting target area. Voters are served by the screen's clear indication of the voters' choices, the ease of navigation from screen

to screen with a simple touch, the summary of the voters' choices at the end, and a printed copy of the voters' selections prior to casting their ballots. The large 15" screen size allows for multiple races on a single screen to further ease ballot navigation and processing.

Visually impaired voters are able to cast secret, unassisted ballots using a simple headset and keypad. Audio is played for them to make their selections if needed. The voter has the option to have the screen completely blank to ensure his/her privacy. Visually impaired voters can listen to an **audio ballot** and make their selections with the **Braille keypad**.

Voters may vote on the touch-screen and choose the **Large Text** option to view a magnified version of the ballot as well. They also have the option of choosing **High Contrast** for additional visual enhancement.

Voters in wheelchairs have easy access to the TSX with its fully adjustable screen angle.

Voters with limited dexterity can use the **VIBS' tethered keypad**, which can be placed in the voter's lap for use without the need to raise his/her arms. The adjustable screen angle enables him/her to position himself/herself close to the touch-screen. The screen and the wide voting target enable him/her to vote with confidence and secrecy.

Voters unable to vote through touch or by keypad have the option to be able to vote with a mouth stick.



Polling Place Accessibility

In Placer County, considerable progress has been made over the years in surveying, recruiting, modifying, and retaining accessible poll sites. Our goal is to ensure all polling places are 100% accessible. Significant modifications and improvements have been made each election toward this goal.

One type of metal ramp installed at a polling place for accessibility.



The Office of Elections' Technicians continually strive to develop, implement, and maintain Placer County's accessibility guidelines and standards. Rigorous training and extensive research offers the

opportunity to provide polling places for all voters.

Our survey team continues to survey sites on a regular basis to determine accessibility. Architectural barriers that prohibit entry by persons with disabilities include uneven terrain, low hanging or protruding objects, curbs, narrow doors, steps, door thresholds with a height variance, inadequate parking space size, lack of signage directing voters to the accessible parking and entrance, and other path of travel issues.

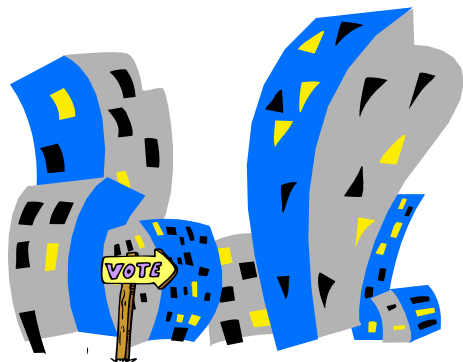


Placer County assesses each site using a survey compiled by various federal and state entities. These entities include California Secretary of State, US Department of Justice, ADA Compliance Standards, and State & Federal Building Codes.

Public Accommodations

Public accommodations must comply with basic nondiscrimination requirements that prohibit exclusion, segregation, and unequal treatment. They also must comply with specific requirements related to architectural standards for new and altered buildings; reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures; effective communication for people with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities; and other access requirements. Additionally, public accommodations must remove barriers in existing buildings where it is easy to do so without much difficulty or expense, given the public accommodation's resources.

-ADA Title III





Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC)

The Placer County Office of Elections' staff meet quarterly with its Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) to discuss ways to improve voting accessibility. Persons interested in serving on the committee should contact the Office of Elections at 530-886-5650.

Become a Poll Worker

The Placer County Office of Elections recruits Poll Workers for each election. A stipend is paid for each position. Listed are the positions.

INSPECTOR:

The Inspector is the head of the precinct board. The responsibilities include, but are not limited to, attending mandatory training, receiving official ballots, precinct supplies, and lifting and moving voting equipment, the day before and the day after the election. The Inspector must be able to lift over 30 lbs and have a reliable, secure and accommodating vehicle to transport all supplies and equipment.

JUDGE:

The Judge is second in command of the precinct board. If the Inspector is unable to serve, the Judge must assume the duties of the Inspector.

CLERK:

Clerks work under the direction of the Inspector who will assign duties on Election Day. First time poll workers normally start in this position.

FUNDRAISING FOR GROUPS

Applicable for service clubs, school booster clubs, church groups, etc. The club mans the entire precinct board and one stipend check is issued to the club.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Placer County Poll Worker, please call us at (530) 886-5671 or (530) 886-5667.

CONTACT INFORMATION

PLACER COUNTY OFFICE OF ELECTIONS

**2956 Richardson Drive
PO Box 5278
Auburn, CA 95604**

**Phone 530-886-5650
Toll Free in CA 1-800-824-8683
Fax 530-886-5688**

**www.placerelections.com
election@placer.ca.gov**

**Regular Business Hours:
Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 5 PM**

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