



California

- **Chief election official:** Secretary of State Shirley Weber; elected in 2022 for a four-year term.
- **State election director:** Jana Lean
- **Who runs elections locally:** County Clerk, Registrar of Voters
- **State website:** www.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	42 states and D.C. have automatic voter registration
Pre-registration	16-year-olds may preregister	19 states 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	ID not required	35 states require ID
Early in-person voting	Begins 29 days before Election Day	47 states allow; national average is 26 days
Vote centers	Vote centers are used	29 states allow vote centers
No-excuse absentee voting	Permitted; ballots are mailed to all registered voters	27 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*	30 states require ballots returned by Election Day
Ballot collection laws	A voter’s designee	31 states have ballot collection laws
Ballot drop boxes	Permits drop boxes	Four states prohibit; 23 states permit; other states are silent
Ballot cure process	Ballot cure process offered statewide	25 states have a ballot cure process
When absentee/mail ballot processing begins	29 days before Election Day	32 states and D.C. begin processing before Election Day
Electronic ballot return	UOCAVA voters only	33 states allow for military and overseas voters; 13 states allow for voters with disabilities
OTHER		
Prohibits private funding of elections	Not specified	24 states prohibit; 26 states are silent
Pre-election audits (logic and accuracy testing)	Uses pre-election audit	47 states have pre-election audits
Post-election tabulation audits	Uses a post-election tabulation audit	46 states require post-election audits
State primary type	Top-two	Primaries range from fully open to fully closed
Member of Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)	No	25 states and D.C. are members of ERIC
Use jury lists for list maintenance	Not specified	Seven states use jury lists; other states are silent

*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.



Use this QR code to access links to NCSL's elections pages with details.



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



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