



California

*Voter Registration &
Voter List Maintenance Guide*

Provided by

VOTER
REFERENCE 
FOUNDATION

Disclaimer: This is a guide to Arizona's laws relating to voter registration and voter list maintenance.

The statutes/codes cited in this guide may not be the most recent version. States may have more current or accurate information. We make no warranties or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in this guide or the information linked to on the state site.

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Who can I contact with election related questions?

CHIEF STATE ELECTION OFFICER:
SECRETARY OF STATE

Physical Address:

California Secretary of State
Elections Division
1500 11th Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mailing Address:

California Secretary of State
Elections Division
1500 11th Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone Number:

916-657-2166

Email Address:

webmaster@sos.ca.gov

Website:

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections>

How do I register to vote?

[Link to register to vote](#)

Qualifications to Register to Vote

To register to vote in California, you must be:

- A United States citizen and a resident of California (for information on voters in the military or overseas, please see [Military and Overseas Voters](#)),
- 18 years old or older on Election Day,
- Not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony (for more information, please see [Voting Rights Restored: Persons with a Prior Felony Conviction](#)), and
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court (for more information, please see [Voting Rights: Persons Subject to Conservatorship](#)).

Qualifications to Pre-register to Vote

To [pre-register to vote](#) in California, you must:

- Be 16 or 17 years old, and
- Meet all of the other eligibility requirements to vote.

You will automatically be registered to vote on your 18th birthday.

[CA Const. Article II, Section 2.](#)

(a) A United States citizen 18 years of age and resident in this State may vote.

(b) An elector disqualified from voting while serving a state or federal prison term, as described in Section 4, shall have their right to vote restored upon the completion of their prison term.

[2000. Voter Qualifications, General Provisions](#)

(a) Every person who qualifies under Section 2 of Article II of the California Constitution and who complies with this code governing the registration of electors may vote at any election held within the territory within which he or she resides and the election is held.

(b) Any person who will be at least 18 years of age at the time of the next election is eligible to register and vote at that election.

2000. Voter Qualifications, General Provisions CONTINUED

(c) Pursuant to Section 2102, any person who is at least 16 years of age and otherwise meets all eligibility requirements to vote is eligible to preregister to vote, but is not eligible to vote until he or she is 18 years of age.

How do I cancel my voter registration?

[Link to voter registration cancelation form](#)

If you are currently registered to vote in California and would like to cancel your voter registration, you can complete the [California Voter Registration Cancellation Request Form \(PDF\)](#) submit it to your [county elections office](#).

If you have any questions, you can contact your [county elections office](#) or the Secretary of State's Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

[2201. Cancellation and Voter File Maintenance. General Provisions](#)

(a) county elections official shall cancel the registration in the following cases:
(1) the signed, written request of the person registered.

How is voter list maintenance handled?

CHAPTER 3. Cancellation and Voter File Maintenance. ARTICLE 1. General Provisions 2200.

The registration of a voter is permanent for all purposes during his or her life, unless and until the affidavit of registration is canceled by the Secretary of State or the county elections official for any of the causes specified in this article.

2201.

(a) The county elections official shall cancel the registration in the following cases:

- (1) At the signed, written request of the person registered.
- (2) When the mental incompetency of the person registered is legally established as provided in Sections 2208, 2209, 2210, and 2211.
- (3) Upon proof that the person is presently imprisoned for conviction of a felony.
- (4) Upon the production of a certified copy of a judgment directing the cancellation to be made.
- (5) Upon the death of the person registered.
- (6) Pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 2220).
- (7) Upon official notification that the voter is registered to vote in another state.
- (8) Upon proof that the person is otherwise ineligible to vote.

(b) The Secretary of State may cancel the registration in the following cases:

- (1) When the mental incompetency of the person registered is legally established as provided in Sections 2208, 2209, 2210, and 2211.
- (2) Upon proof that the person is presently imprisoned for the conviction of a felony.
- (3) Upon the death of the person registered.

(c) (1) Between 15 and 30 days, inclusive, before canceling a person's registration for the reasons specified in paragraphs (2), (3), (5), or (6) of subdivision (a), the county elections official shall send a forwardable notice by first-class mail, including a postage-paid and preaddressed return form, to the person.

(A) The notice shall be provided in the person's preferred language if the county is required to provide translated ballots in that language pursuant to Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10503).

(B) The notice shall include a statement substantially similar to the following:

"IMPORTANT NOTICE. Your voter registration record is scheduled to be canceled on [date]."

2201. CONTINUED

This cancellation is due to information the [county name] County elections office has received indicating your ineligibility to vote in that county due to a change of residence, death, mental incapacity to vote, or a prison commitment pursuant to Sections 2208, 2209, 2210, or 2211 of the California Elections Code, as applicable.

If you believe this cancellation is an error, please notify our office within 15 days from the date of this notice either by returning the attached postage-paid postcard or by calling [county elections office phone number] toll free.

If we do not receive your response to this notice, you may be required to reregister to vote in the next election or to vote using a provisional ballot. You can find more information about voter eligibility rules on the Secretary of State's internet website at [URL] or voter hotline at [phone numbers]. You can also check your current registration status at [URL]."

(2) The return form described in paragraph (1) shall include all of the following:

(A) Space for the voter to provide their current place of residence.

(B) Space for the voter to provide their current mailing address, if different from the place of residence.

(C) A box next to a statement substantially similar to the following: "I am not currently serving a state or federal prison term."

(D) Space for the voter to provide their signature and the date.

(3) The elections official may send additional written notices to a voter, and may also notify the voter in person, by telephone or email, or by other means of the planned registration cancellation.

2202.

(a) county elections official shall preserve all uncanceled affidavits of registration in a secure manner that will protect the confidentiality of the voter information consistent with Section 2194.

The affidavits of registration shall constitute the register required to be kept by Article 5 (commencing with Section 2183) of Chapter 2.

(b) lieu of maintaining uncanceled affidavits of registration, the county elections official may microfilm, record on optical disc, or record on any other electronic medium that does not permit additions, deletions, or changes to the original document, the uncanceled affidavits of registration. Any such use of an electronic medium to record uncanceled affidavits shall protect the security and confidentiality of the voter information. The county elections official may dispose of any uncanceled affidavits of registration transferred pursuant to this section.

2202. CONTINUED

The disposal of any uncanceled affidavits shall be performed in a manner that does not compromise the security or confidentiality of the voter information contained therein. For purposes of this section, a duplicate copy of an affidavit of registration shall be deemed an original. The Secretary of State may adopt appropriate regulations for the purpose of this section.

2205.

The local registrar of births and deaths shall notify the county elections official not later than the 15th day of each month of all deceased persons 16 years of age and over, whose deaths were registered with him or her or of whose deaths he or she was notified by the State Registrar of Vital Statistics during the preceding month. This notification shall include at least the name, sex, age, birthplace, birth date, place of residence, and date and place of death of each decedent.

The county elections official shall cancel the affidavit of registration of the deceased voter.

2206.

The Secretary of State shall adopt regulations to facilitate the availability of death statistics from the State Department of Health Services. The data shall be used by the Secretary of State or county elections officials in canceling the affidavit of registration of deceased persons.

2208.

(a) person is presumed competent to vote regardless of the person's conservatorship status. A person shall be deemed mentally incompetent, and therefore disqualified from voting, if, during the course of any of the proceedings set forth below, the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the person cannot communicate, with or without reasonable accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting process, and any of the following apply:

(1) conservator for the person or the person and estate is appointed pursuant to Division 4 (commencing with Section 1400) of the Probate Code.

(2) conservator for the person or the person and estate is appointed pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 5350) of Part 1 of Division 5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(b) the proceeding under the Welfare and Institutions Code is heard by a jury, the jury shall unanimously find by clear and convincing evidence that the person cannot communicate, with or without reasonable accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting process before the person shall be disqualified from voting.

2208. CONTINUED

(c) If an order establishing a conservatorship is made and in connection with the order it is found by clear and convincing evidence that the person cannot communicate, with or without reasonable accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting process, the court shall provide notice to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 2211.5.

(d) A person shall not be disqualified from voting pursuant to this section on the basis that the person does, or would need to do, any of the following to complete an affidavit of voter registration:

(1) Signs the affidavit of voter registration with a mark or a cross pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 2150.

(2) Signs the affidavit of voter registration by means of a signature stamp pursuant to Section 354.5.

(3) Completes the affidavit of voter registration with the assistance of another person pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 2150.

(4) Completes the affidavit of voter registration with reasonable accommodations.

2209.

(a) For conservatorships established pursuant to Division 4 (commencing with Section 1400) of the Probate Code, the court investigator shall, during the yearly or biennial review of the conservatorship as required by Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 1850) of Part 3 of Division 4 of the Probate Code, review the person's capability of communicating, with or without reasonable accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting process.

(b) If the person has been disqualified from voting by reason of being incapable of communicating, with or without reasonable accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting process, or by reason of being incapable of completing an affidavit of voter registration, the court investigator shall determine if the person continues to be incapable of communicating, with or without reasonable accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting process, and the investigator shall so inform the court. If the investigator determines that the person continues to be incapable of communicating, with or without reasonable accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting process, a court hearing on the issue is unnecessary. If the investigator finds that the person is not incapable of communicating, with or without reasonable accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting process, the court shall hold a hearing to determine if, by clear and convincing evidence, the person cannot communicate, with or without reasonable accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting process. Unless the person is found incapable of communicating that desire, the person's right to register to vote shall be restored, and the court shall provide notice to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 2211.5.

2209. CONTINUED

(c) If the person has not been found incapable of communicating, with or without reasonable accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting process, and the court investigator determines that the person is no longer capable of communicating that desire, the investigator shall so notify the court. The court shall hold a hearing to determine if, by clear and convincing evidence, the person cannot communicate, with or without reasonable accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting process. If the court determines that the person cannot communicate that desire, the court shall order the person to be disqualified from voting pursuant to Section 2208, and the court shall provide notice to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 2211.5.

2210.

(a) If the person or the person and estate is under a conservatorship established pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 5350) of Part 1 of Division 5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, the person may contest their disqualification from voting pursuant to the procedure set forth in Section 5358.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(b) When the conservatorship described in subdivision (a) terminates after one year, the person's right to register to vote shall be automatically restored and the court shall provide notice to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 2211.5. If a petition is filed for the reappointment of the conservator, a new determination shall be made as to whether the person should be disqualified from voting.

(c) If the right to vote is restored pursuant to Section 5358.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code or if the conservatorship is terminated in a proceeding held pursuant to Section 5364 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, the court shall provide notice to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 2211.5.

2211.

(a) Any person who (1) has plead not guilty by reason of insanity and who has been found to be not guilty pursuant to Section 1026 of the Penal Code, (2) has been found incompetent to stand trial and whose trial or judgment has been suspended pursuant to Section 1370 of the Penal Code, (3) has been convicted of a felony and who was judicially determined to be a mentally disordered sex offender pursuant to former Section 6300 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, as repealed by Chapter 928 of the Statutes of 1981, or (4) has been convicted of a felony and is being treated at a state hospital pursuant to Section 2684 of the Penal Code shall be disqualified from voting or registering to vote during that time that the person is involuntarily confined, pursuant to a court order, in a public or private facility.

2211. CONTINUED

(b) Upon the order of commitment to a treatment facility referred to in subdivision (a), the court shall provide notice to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 2211.5.

(c) If the person is later released from the public or private treatment facility, the court shall provide notice to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 2211.5.

2211.5.

(a) By the first day of each month, and more frequently if the clerk so chooses, the clerk of the superior court of each county shall notify the Secretary of State pursuant to subdivision (b) of each of the following:

(1) All findings made by the court regarding any person's competency to vote, as specified in each of Sections 2208 through 2211, inclusive, since the clerk's last report.

(2) The total number of proceedings, as specified in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 2208, that occurred in that court since the clerk's last report.

(b) In consultation with the Secretary of State, the Judicial Council shall adopt rules of court to implement this section and Judicial Council forms that shall be used by courts to furnish the notices described in subdivision (a). The forms shall contain clearly identified spaces for all of the following:

(1) Personal identification information for the affected person, including all of the following:

(A) All known first names.

(B) All known last names.

(C) All known middle names.

(D) All known name suffixes.

(E) Last known address.

(F) Date of birth.

(G) Last four digits of the person's social security number, if available.

(H) Driver's license or state-issued identification number, if available.

(2) The court case number.

(3) The date of the order affecting the individual's voting rights.

(4) Whether the court's order is made pursuant to Section 2208, 2209, 2210, or 2211.

(5) Whether the legal effect of the court's order is a disqualification or a restoration of the right to vote.

(6) A certification, if applicable, that the individual has been disqualified from voting due to the court's finding by clear and convincing evidence that the individual is incapable, with or without reasonable accommodations, to communicate a desire to participate in the voting process.

(c) The Secretary of State shall inform the clerk of the court when it receives a notice from the court that is missing any information required by subdivision (b).

2211.5. CONTINUED

(d) Upon receipt of all of the required information described in subdivision (b), the Secretary of State shall do both of the following:

(1) Identify any registration record in the statewide voter database that contains personal identifying information that matches each of the unique identifiers described in subdivision (b).

(2) Within three days of receiving the information from the court, for any matched records described in paragraph (1), provide the information described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), the corresponding unique identifier or identifiers contained in the statewide voter database, and a statement regarding whether the legal effect of the court's order is to disqualify or restore the right to vote, to the appropriate county elections official.

(e) Upon receiving information from the Secretary of State pursuant to subdivision (d), the county elections official shall do either of the following, as applicable:

(1) The elections official shall begin the cancellation procedures described in subdivision (c) of Section 2201 for any person whose registration information matches the unique identifier or identifiers provided by the Secretary of State and who, according to the information provided by the Secretary of State, has been disqualified to vote by a court.

(2) (A) If a person's right to vote has been restored and their address is within the county according to the information provided by the Secretary of State, the elections official shall notify the person that their voting rights are restored and that they may register to vote if they are otherwise eligible. The elections official shall also provide the person with information regarding the procedures for registering to vote.

If the address provided by the Secretary of State is different from the address contained in the county's voter registration file, the elections official shall provide the foregoing notice and information to the person at both addresses.

(B) The Secretary of State shall prepare a form that county elections officials shall use to provide the notice described in subparagraph (A).

(f) A county or county elections official shall not be liable for taking or failing to take the actions described in subdivision (e) when the county or county elections official has received erroneous information from the Secretary of State.

(g) If a person who is ineligible to vote receives a notice under paragraph (2) of subdivision (e), subsequently becomes registered or preregistered to vote, and votes or attempts to vote in an election held after the effective date of the person's registration or preregistration, that person shall be presumed to have acted with official authorization and shall not be guilty of fraudulently voting or attempting to vote pursuant to Section 18560, unless that person willfully votes or attempts to vote knowing that the person is not eligible to vote.

2212.

(a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Conviction" has the same meaning as set forth in Section 2101.
- (2) "Department" means the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
- (3) "Imprisoned" has the same meaning as set forth in Section 2101.
- (4) "Parole" means a term of supervision by the department.
- (5) "Statewide voter database" means the statewide voter registration database developed in compliance with the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.).

(b) The department shall provide to the Secretary of State, on a weekly basis and in a format prescribed by the Secretary of State, the identification information described in subdivision (c) for all of the following persons:

(1) Persons imprisoned for the conviction of a felony and under the jurisdiction of the department. To the extent available, identification information provided by the department regarding these persons shall include the date on which each person's term of imprisonment began.

(2) Persons on parole or persons released from imprisonment for the conviction of a felony and no longer under the jurisdiction of the department. To the extent available, identification information provided by the department regarding these persons shall include the dates on which each person's parole began and on which the person was discharged from the jurisdiction of the department.

(c) Personal identification information for the purposes of subdivision (b) includes all of the following:

- (1) All known first names.
- (2) All known last names.
- (3) All known middle names.
- (4) All known name suffixes.
- (5) Last known address.
- (6) Date of birth.
- (7) Last four digits of the person's social security number, if available.
- (8) Driver's license or state-issued identification number, if available.

(d) Upon receipt of the information described in subdivision (b), the Secretary of State shall do all the following:

(1) Identify any registration record in the statewide voter database that contains personal identifying information that, for each of the unique identifiers described in subdivision (c), as available, matches information pertaining to the person described in subdivision (b).

2212. CONTINUED

(2) For any matched records described in paragraph (1), provide the information described in subdivision (b) and the corresponding unique identifier or identifiers used in the statewide voter database to county elections officials within three days of receipt of the information from the department.

(e) Upon receipt of information from the Secretary of State pursuant to subdivision (d), a county elections official shall do all of the following:

(1) Cancel the affidavit of registration of any person described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) whose registration information matches the unique identifier or identifiers used in the statewide voter database provided by the Secretary of State to the county.

(2) Using the form prepared by the Secretary of State pursuant to subdivision (f), notify a person described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), and whose last known address is within the county based on the unique identifier or identifiers used in the statewide voter database provided by the Secretary of State to the county, that the person's voting rights are restored and advise the person that if the person is otherwise entitled to register to vote, the person may register to vote. The county elections official shall also provide the person with information regarding the procedure for registering to vote.

(f) The Secretary of State shall prepare a form to be used by county elections officials to provide the notice described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (e).

(g) A county or county elections official shall not be liable for taking or failing to take the actions described in subdivision (e) when the county or county elections official have received erroneous information from the Secretary of State or the department.

(h) If a person who is ineligible to vote receives a notice under paragraph (2) of subdivision (e), subsequently becomes registered or preregistered to vote, and votes or attempts to vote in an election held after the effective date of the person's registration or preregistration, that person shall be presumed to have acted with official authorization and shall not be guilty of fraudulently voting or attempting to vote pursuant to Section 18560, unless that person willfully votes or attempts to vote knowing that the person is not entitled to vote.

2213.

Any person may proceed by action in the superior court to compel the county elections official to cancel any registration made illegally or which should be canceled by reason of facts that have occurred subsequent to the registration. If the voter whose registration is sought to be canceled is not a party to the action, the court may order him or her to be made a party defendant.

The county elections official and as many persons against whom there are causes of action may be joined as defendants.

2213. CONTINUED

(a) Each month, the Secretary of State shall post on its internet website a report showing, for the preceding period, the number of voting rights disqualifications and the number of voting rights restorations pursuant to each of Sections 2208 through 2212, as applicable, that were ordered within each county and the number of proceedings specified in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 2208 that occurred within each county.

(b) In consultation with the Judicial Council, the Secretary of State shall prepare and deliver a training via a remote web-based learning platform that is accessible through the Secretary of State's internet website. The training shall contain information about the responsibilities of superior courts and county elections officials, as specified in this chapter, and information about the legal standards for voting rights disqualification, the duties of court investigators, and the reporting requirements for courts related to voting rights disqualification and restoration.

(c) At least annually, each court executive officer and each county elections official shall complete the training described in subdivision (b). The trainings completed by court executive officers and county elections officials shall be tracked through the remote web-based learning platform provided by the Secretary of State.

2220.

(a) The county elections official shall conduct a preelection residency confirmation procedure as provided in this article. This procedure shall be completed by the 90th day immediately before the primary election. The procedure shall be initiated by mailing a nonforwardable postcard to each registered voter of the county preceding the direct primary election. Postcards mailed pursuant to this article shall be sent "Address Correction Requested, Return Postage Guaranteed," and shall be in substantially the following form:

"We are requesting your assistance in correcting the addresses of voters who have moved and have not reregistered.

"1. If you still live at the address noted on this postcard, your voter registration will remain in effect and you may disregard this notice.

"2. If the person named on this postcard is not at this address, please return this postcard to your mail carrier."

(b) The county elections official, at the county elections official's discretion, shall not be required to mail a residency confirmation postcard pursuant to subdivision (a) to any of the following:

(1) A voter who has voted at an election held within the last six months preceding the start of the confirmation procedure.

2220. CONTINUED

(2) A voter who has confirmed the voter's voter registration records on the internet website of the Secretary of State within the last year preceding the start of the confirmation procedure.

(3) A person under 18 years of age who has submitted a properly executed affidavit of registration pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 2102 and who will not be 18 years of age on or before the primary election.

2221.

(a) Based on the postal notices on the returned residency confirmation postcards received pursuant to Section 2220, the county elections official shall take the following actions:

(1) The voter registration status of a voter whose residency confirmation postcard is returned by the post office as undeliverable and who has no forwarding address shall be updated by the county elections official to inactive pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 2226, and the voter shall be mailed a confirmation notice, as described in subdivision (c) of Section 2225.

(2) The voter registration record of a voter for whom a forwarding address within the county or outside the county is received shall be immediately updated by the county elections official to reflect the new address provided by the post office, the former address shall be maintained with the voter registration record, and the voter shall be mailed a confirmation notice, as described in subdivision (b) of Section 2225.

(b) All updates to a voter's registration record made pursuant to this section shall be reflected on the voter list as required by Section 2191.

2222.

In lieu of mailing a residency confirmation postcard, as prescribed in subdivision (a) of Section 2220, the Secretary of State or a county elections official may contract with the United States Postal Service or its licensees to obtain use of postal service change-of-address data, such as the National Change of Address System (NCOA) and Operation Mail. The data received by the Secretary of State pursuant to this section shall be shared with county elections officials through the statewide voter registration database.

2223.

(a) In lieu of mailing a residency confirmation postcard to each registered voter in the county, the county elections official may include the return address of the county elections official's office on the outside portion of the county voter information guide or county voter information guide envelope mailed to the voter for an election conducted within the last six months preceding the start of the confirmation process, along with the statements "Address Correction Requested" and "Notice: If the person named on the county voter information guide is not at the address, please help keep the voter rolls current and save taxpayer dollars by returning this county voter information guide to your mail carrier."

(b) A voter not eligible for an election during the last six months preceding the start of the confirmation process, or a voter not mailed a county voter information guide with an address correction requested, shall have his or her address confirmed by either a residency confirmation postcard or an address verification mailing conducted pursuant to this article using NCOA/Operation Mail data pursuant to Section 2222 or consumer credit reporting agency data pursuant to Section 2227.

2225.

(a) (1) Based on change-of-address data received from the United States Postal Service or its licensees, the county elections official shall send a forwardable notice, including a postage-paid and preaddressed return form, to enable the voter to verify or correct address information.

(2) If notification received through NCOA or Operation Mail or a returned mailing indicates that a voter has moved and has given no forwarding address or indicates that a voter has moved out of the state, the county elections official shall send a forwardable notice in substantially the same format as the notice set forth in paragraph (2) of subsection (d) of Section 20507 of Title 52 of the United States Code.

(b) If postal service change-of-address data indicates that the voter has moved to a new residence address in California, the forwardable notice shall be in substantially the following form:

"We have received notification that you have moved to a new residence address in California. Your voter registration record has been updated to this new address. If this is correct, you do not have to take any action. If this is incorrect, you can notify our office by either returning the attached postage-paid postcard, or by calling toll free; you must notify us at least 15 days prior to the next election or you may be required to vote using a provisional ballot."

2225. CONTINUED

(c) If postal service change-of-address data received from a nonforwardable mailing indicates that a voter has moved and left no forwarding address or indicates that a voter has moved out of the state, a forwardable notice shall be sent in substantially the same format as the notice set forth in paragraph (2) of subsection (d) of Section 20507 of Title 52 of the United States Code.

(d) The use of a toll-free number to confirm the old residence address is optional. Any change to the voter address must be received in writing.

(e) Upon the mailing of the forwardable address confirmation notice described in subdivision (b) to a voter, the county elections official shall not update the status of the voter's registration to inactive.

(f) Upon the mailing of the forwardable address confirmation notice described in subdivision (c) to a voter, the county elections official shall update the status of the voter's registration to inactive.

2226.

(a) Based on change-of-address information received pursuant to Sections 2220 to 2225, inclusive, or change-of-address information provided directly by the voter, the county elections official shall take the following actions as appropriate:

(1) If the information indicates the voter has moved to a new residence address in California, the county elections official shall immediately update the voter's registration record.

(2) If the mailings have been returned as undeliverable, or if NCOA, Operation Mail, a returned mailing, or postal service change-of-address data received from a nonforwardable mailing indicates that the voter has moved and left no forwarding address, or if any of these sources indicate that a voter has moved out of the state, the county elections official shall update the status of the voter's registration to inactive. Voters with an inactive voter registration status do not receive election materials and are not included in calculations to determine the number of signatures required for qualification of candidates and measures, precinct size, or other election administration-related processes.

(3) If a voter's registration status is inactive based on the voter's failure to confirm the voter's address pursuant to Section 2224, the county elections official shall send a forwardable address verification mailing, as set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 2225. The voter registration record of a voter who fails to respond to the address verification mailing, and who does not offer to vote or vote at any election between the date of the mailing described in Section 2225 and two federal general elections after the date of that mailing, shall be canceled.

2226. CONTINUED

(b) The voter registration record of a voter whose status is inactive for failure to respond to an address verification mailing required by subdivision (c) of Section 2225, and who does not offer to vote or vote at any election between the date of the mailing and two federal general elections after the date of that mailing, shall be canceled.

(c) A voter who has a registration status of inactive, who offers to vote at any election between the date of the verification mailing required by subdivision (c) of Section 2225 and two federal general elections after the date of that mailing, or who notifies the elections official of a continued residency, shall have the voter's voter registration status updated to active.

(d) All address updates, cancellations, and active and inactive transactions made to voter registration records pursuant to this section shall be reflected on the voter list as required by Section 2191.

(e) This section shall remain in effect only until the date that the Secretary of State certifies that the state's statewide voter registration database, which was developed in compliance with the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.), has been modified to notify county elections officials when a voter confirms the voter's registration record on the Secretary of State's internet website, and as of that date is repealed.

(b) The voter registration record of a voter whose status is inactive for failure to respond to an address verification mailing required by subdivision (c) of Section 2225, and who does not offer to vote or vote at any election between the date of the mailing and two federal general elections after the date of that mailing, shall be canceled.

(c) A voter who has a registration status of inactive, who offers to vote at any election between the date of the verification mailing required by subdivision (c) of Section 2225 and two federal general elections after the date of that mailing, who notifies the elections official of a continued residency, or who has confirmed the voter's voter registration record on the internet website of the Secretary of State, shall have the voter's voter registration status updated to active.

(d) All address updates, cancellations, and active and inactive transactions made to voter registration records pursuant to this section shall be reflected on the voter list as required by Section 2191.

2227.

(a) In lieu of mailing a residency confirmation postcard, as prescribed in subdivision (a) of Section 2220, the county elections official may contract with a consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees to obtain use of change-of-address data in accordance with this section.

2227. CONTINUED

(b) If the county elections official contracts with a consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees pursuant to subdivision (a), all of the following shall occur:

(1) For each registered voter in the county, the county elections official shall initiate a search for change-of-address data with the consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees by providing the name and residence address of each registered voter in the county to the consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees.

(2) The consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees shall search their databases for each name and address provided by the county elections official and shall report to the county elections official any information indicating that the registered voter changed the voter's residence address.

(c) (1) Notwithstanding Section 2194 of this code or Section 7924.000 of the Government Code, and except as provided in paragraph (2), a county elections official may disclose a registered voter's name and residence address to a consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees pursuant to, and in accordance with, this section.

(2) A county elections official shall not disclose to a consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees the name and residence address of a registered voter if that information is deemed confidential pursuant to Section 2166, 2166.5, or 2166.7 of this code, or Chapter 3.1 (commencing with Section 6205) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

(d) A consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees shall use the information provided by a county elections official only pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), and shall not retain any information received from the county elections official pursuant to this section.

(e) Based on change-of-address data received from a consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees, the county elections official shall send a forwardable notice, including a postage-paid and preaddressed return form, which may be in the form of a postcard, to the registered voter to enable the voter to verify or correct address information. The forwardable notice shall be in substantially the following form:

"We have received notification that you have moved to a new residence address in _____ County. You will remain registered to vote at your old address unless you notify our office that the address to which this card was mailed is a change of your permanent residence. Please notify our office in writing by returning the attached postage-paid postcard. If this is not a permanent residence, and you do not wish to change your address for voting purposes, please disregard this notice."

(f) The county elections official shall take all of the following actions as appropriate:

2227. CONTINUED

(1) If a voter responds to the forwardable notice sent pursuant to subdivision (e) or otherwise verifies in a signed writing that the voter has moved to a new residence address in California, the county elections official shall verify the signature on the response by comparing it to the signature on file for the voter and, if appropriate, immediately update the voter's registration record with the new residence address.

(2) If a voter does not respond to the forwardable notice sent pursuant to subdivision (e) and does not otherwise verify in a signed writing that the voter has moved to a new residence address, the elections official shall not update the status of the voter's registration to inactive or cancel the voter registration.

(g) For purposes of this section, "consumer credit reporting agency" has the same meaning as set forth in subdivision (d) of Section 1785.3 of the Civil Code.

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993

Congress enacted the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (also known as the "NVRA" and the "Motor Voter Act"), to enhance voting opportunities for every American. The Act has made it easier for all Americans to register to vote and to maintain their registration. Section 8 of the NVRA contains requirements with respect to the administration of voter registration by States and requires States to implement procedures to maintain accurate and current voter registration lists.

For more information about the NVRA, please visit the [Department of Justice website](#).

List of voter registration statuses and their definitions

Registration Status	Statute
<p>Active - person has met all eligibility requirements to vote and is a registered voter.</p>	<p><u>2000.</u></p>
<p>Inactive - The voter registration status of a voter whose residency confirmation postcard is returned by the post office as undeliverable and who has no forwarding address shall be updated by the county elections official to inactive pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 2226, and the voter shall be mailed a confirmation notice, as described in subdivision (c) of Section 2225.</p>	<p><u>2221.</u></p>
<p>Canceled - County elections office has received information indicating ineligibility to vote in that county due to a change of residence, death, mental incapacity to vote, or a prison commitment.</p>	<p><u>2201.</u></p>
<p>“Conditional voter registration” - means a properly executed affidavit of registration that is delivered by the registrant to the county elections official during the 14 days immediately preceding an election or on election day and which may be deemed effective pursuant to this article after the elections official processes the affidavit, determines the registrant’s eligibility to register, and validates the registrant’s information, as specified in subdivision (c).</p>	<p><u>2170.</u></p>

How do I file a HAVA complaint?

[Link to HAVA Complaint Process](#)

[Link to HAVA Complaint Form](#)

Any person who believes that there has been a violation, there is a violation, or a violation is about to occur of any provision of Title III may file a complaint.

Writing and Notarization. As required by HAVA, a complaint shall be in writing and notarized, signed and sworn by the Complainant.

A complaint shall be filed within 60 days after the occurrence of the actions or events that form the basis for the complaint, or within 90 days after the Complainant becomes aware of the actions or events, whichever is later.

How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?

[Link to non-HAVA Election Complaint Process](#)

[Link to non-HAVA Election Complaint Form](#)

Investigative Services investigates election related criminal violations, as provided by the California Elections Code.

View some of the more [common Elections Code violations](#) or view all of the penal provisions of the [Elections Code \(sections 18000 through 18700\)](#).

If you believe that you are a victim of election fraud or have witnessed a criminal violation of the California Elections Code, you may use the [Election Voter Complaint Form](#) to report the violation to our office.

Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

Secretary of State's Office – Elections Division

Physical/Mailing Address:

California Secretary of State
Elections Division
1500 11th Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone Number:

916-657-2166

Email Webform:

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/contact/email-elections-division>

Complaint Webform:

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/election-voter-complaint-form>