

Get Informed! Resources for Voters

California Primary Election, June 2, 2026 - Key Dates

Monday, May 18: Last day to register to vote. After this date, efforts to register eligible voters or update their registrations must be conducted in person at any voter center. *First-time* voters can register and vote “conditionally” on the same day. Their ballots will be processed and counted once the county elections office has completed the voter registration verification process. See the California Secretary of State, [Same Day Voter Registration \(Conditional Voter Registration\)](#).

Saturday, May 23: Vote centers are open for early in-person voting in all [Voter’s Choice Act counties](#) and remain open until June 2 at 8 p.m.

Monday, May 25: Vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by June 8, 2026. To ensure your ballot is received by the county elections office no later than seven days after Election Day, we recommend mailing no later than May 25. After this date, drop your ballot in a drop box or deliver it to a vote center.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2—ELECTION DAY:

Last day to vote in person or return a ballot by 8:00 p.m. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked no later than June 2.

If you mail your ballot on Election Day, get a hand-stamped postmark from a postal employee inside a United States Post Office.

Resources – Be an informed voter!

When consulting websites, be sure to scroll the entire page to ensure that you find all useful information and links.

Is Your Registration Up to Date?

Make sure your registration information is current on or before May 14, 2026. If you have had a name change (such as getting married and taking your spouse’s name), political party change, or address change, update your information with the Los Angeles County [Registrar of Voters](#).

L.A. County and Pasadena Area Cities

For county and city races and measures, consult the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters:

- [L.A. County Registrar of Voters](#): Access voter registration status, vote center locations, and download an interactive sample ballot and much more. This site contains both statewide and local election information.
- [Find My Election Information](#): This page contains links to everything you need to vote.
- [Interactive Sample Ballot](#): Work on a sample ballot as you make your decisions and save it securely on your personal device to continue working on it later. Then you can use it as a guide to complete your official VBM ballot. If you prefer to vote in person, you can

take your sample ballot with you to a vote center, either by printing it out at home or by accessing it from your cell phone using a QR code.

- [Where's My Ballot?](#) Sign up here to receive notifications of when your ballot was mailed, received, and counted.
- Ballot measures: See the L.A. County Registrar's [Measures Appearing on the Ballot](#) summaries, as well as page 6 of this issue of the *Voter* for more information on local measures, including descriptions as well as proponents and opponents of the measures. Robbie Davis has provided an article on the data center measure that Monterey Park voters will decide; see page 7 of the 2026 May *Voter*.

California State Races

- [California Secretary of State](#): This Elections page lists key deadlines and links to election information in English, Spanish, and many other languages.
- [Upcoming Elections](#): Contains links to statewide elections, county elections, special elections and even prior (archived) election information.
- [Official Voter Information Guide Primary Election, June 2, 2026](#) (PDF file).
- [CalMatters 2026 California Voter Guide](#): The League of Women Voters Pasadena Area (LWV-PA) suggests this site as a supplement to official government resources. While we do not endorse all statements presented, we generally consider the information to be reliable.

Information on Candidates

- The California Secretary of State issues a [certified list of candidates](#) for state office.
- The L.A. County Registrar issues a [certified list of candidates](#) for county and local races. Be sure to set the year to 2026 and select the June primary election.
- We recommend that you conduct an internet search to make sure your candidate is still running for office before voting. Also, conduct a search after the May 19 deadline for write-in candidates.
- Candidate party preference history: Go to the California Secretary of State's "[Candidate Party Preference History for the last 10 years](#)" to determine if the candidate is a dedicated party follower, independent, or recent convert to their declared party.
- Los Angeles County Bar Association: For judicial races, consult the [Judicial Elections Evaluation Committee's report](#), which ranks each candidate by qualification level. More information on how to evaluate candidates for seats appears in this issue of the *Voter* on page 9.
- Videos:
 - Candidate forums: LWV-PA and other Leagues sponsored a candidate forum for **Insurance Commissioner**, which you can [view here](#). Also, see page 9 of the 2026 May *Voter*.
 - Several **gubernatorial debates** have aired on [KTLA](#), at [Pomona College](#), [CNN](#), and [KNBC4](#).
- Candidates' websites: Each candidate maintains a campaign website, which you can Google to find their campaign promises. While this information is clearly biased, it does provide their platforms and will list their policies vision. Approach these websites with skepticism and read between the lines. Look for who is endorsing and, more important,

financially backing the candidate. Remember that campaign promises do not predict action or delivery.

- Other sources: Both [Ballotpedia](#) and [CalMatters](#) are nonprofit sources of nonpartisan information, including leading candidates.

Election Resources from the League of Women Voters



- [VOTE411](#): This is the League’s nationwide one-stop-shop for getting information on your personal ballot by entering your home address. This page also links to online registration and check-your-registration pages, along with much more basic voting information.
- League of Women Voters of California Education Fund: [Easy Voter Guide](#). How to vote, along with a list of hotlines. This guide can be downloaded in one of several languages. The LWVCEF also offers a link to “Pros & Cons” for ballot measures. Because there will be no statewide measures on the June 2 ballot, this feature is not active (although it will be useful for the November election).

The Power of Strategically Timing Your Vote in the Primary

California’s “top two” primary requires that the top two vote-getters (in this case, for governor), irrespective of party, creates a structural reality: When many candidates compete, votes can fragment in ways that shape—not just reflect—the outcome. In that context, **timing** can matter. Waiting to cast a ballot, especially in an election with multiple viable candidates, can give voters access to more complete information. Late-breaking polling, debate performances, and campaign momentum often clarify which candidates are gaining traction and which are falling behind. That information can help voters make a more informed and strategic decision about which candidate both aligns with their values *and* has a realistic path to advance to November.

This isn’t about abandoning principles or treating voting like a game. It’s about recognizing that elections operate within systems. In California’s primary, where only two candidates move forward, voters who share similar policy goals may unintentionally divide their influence across several candidates—resulting in none of them advancing.

By waiting, voters can better assess the political landscape and, if they so choose, rally around a candidate who reflects their priorities while also being competitive. Some voters may find their original choice reinforced. Others may make a strategic adjustment to ensure that their broader policy preferences remain an option in the final election.

Our point: Being aware of the interactions between California’s top-two primary system and the General Election ballot can empower voters with awareness. In a system where outcomes depend on collective behavior, **informed timing can be one method voters ensure their voice carries further.**

Other Resources for Voters

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