

# PLACER COUNTY OFFICE OF ELECTIONS

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#### **What is Vote-By-Mail voting and how does it work?**

Vote-By-Mail voting allows registered voters to cast a ballot without going to a polling place on Election Day. If a registered voter requests a Vote-By-Mail ballot, the Placer County Office of Elections will send the ballot to the voter's designated mailing address beginning 29 days prior to Election Day. Voted ballots may be returned by mail, in person or via the 24 hour drive-up, drop-off ballot box located at the Placer County Office of Elections or at any polling place in Placer County from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Election Day. The Placer County Office of Elections is located at 2956 Richardson Drive, Auburn CA, 95603. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. For added convenience the Placer County Office of Elections may be open the two weekends prior to Election Day. Contact the Placer County Office of Elections for election specific hours.

#### **Do I have to request a Vote-By-Mail ballot for every election?**

State law allows any voter to become a Permanent Vote-By-Mail voter. If you are a Permanent Vote-By-Mail voter, you do not need to complete an application for each election. Your ballot will automatically be mailed to you 29 days prior to every Election Day. To learn more, visit [Apply to Vote-By-Mail](#) or contact the Placer County Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California at 1-(800)-824-8683.

### **Can someone else pick up my Vote-By-Mail Ballot?**

Yes. Ballots may be picked up by an authorized representative. According to Election Code 3009(b), the individual picking up the ballot must be at least 16 years of age or older and either the voter's spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, or a person residing in the same household as the voter.

In order to have a ballot picked up by an authorized representative, the voter must be already registered as a Permanent Vote-By-Mail voter or submit a request for a Vote-By-Mail ballot (in writing or by phone).

According to Election Code 3009 (b) prior to its release, the person picking up the ballot must sign a statement under penalty and perjury that he/she is, in fact, authorized by the voter to deliver the Vote-By-Mail ballot.

### **Who is eligible to become a Permanent Vote-By-Mail voter?**

Any registered voter can apply to become a Permanent Vote-By-Mail voter. Ballots for Permanent Vote-By-Mail voters are automatically mailed out 29 days prior to every election. Ballots are sent to the designated mailing address listed on the voter's most recent registration form.

### **How do I apply to become a Permanent Vote-By-Mail voter?**

If you are currently registered to vote in Placer County and would like to apply for Permanent Vote-By-Mail Status, you may:

- Request Permanent Vote-By-Mail status by telephone from the Placer County Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California at 1-(800)-824-8683.
- Download and print an application from the Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov). Once completed, submit the form to the Placer County Office of Elections for processing.
- Apply in person at the Placer County Office of Elections located at 2956 Richardson Dr, Auburn CA, 95603. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. For added convenience, the Placer County Office of Elections may be open the two weekends prior to Election Day. Contact the Placer County Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California 1-(800)-824-8683 for election specific hours.
- Submit a written request for Permanent Vote-By-Mail status to the Placer County Office of Elections at P.O. Box 5278, Auburn CA, 95604. Be sure to include your:
  1. Full name
  2. Placer County residence address
  3. Mailing address (if different from your existing address)
  4. Signature
  5. Phone number (optional)
- Complete the Application for Permanent Vote-By-Mail Status found in the Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet. Once completed, mail the application to the Placer County Office of Elections at P.O. Box 5278, Auburn CA, 95604.

Your status as a Permanent Vote-By-Mail voter will remain active unless you fail to participate in four (4) consecutive statewide general elections or you submit a written request canceling this service. In either case, your registration as a Placer County voter will remain active. However, a new application must be submitted if you wish to reinstate your status as a Permanent Vote-By-Mail Voter.

*Mail-in applications and requests for Vote-By-Mail ballots must be received no later than seven (7) days prior to Election Day. After that, you must apply in person at the Placer County Office of Elections. However, Elections Code Sec 3021 provides that under certain conditions a ballot may be delivered directly to the voter.*

Contact the Placer County Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California 1-(800)-824-8683 for more information.

**If you are not currently registered to vote in Placer County but would like to register and apply for Permanent Vote-By-Mail status, you may:**

- Register online at the Secretary of State's website, [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)
- Register to vote in person at the Placer County Office of Elections located at 2956 Richardson Drive, Auburn CA, 95603. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
- Pick up a Voter Registration Form at any Placer County library, post office, DMV office or City Clerk's office.

For more information on registering to vote, visit [Register to Vote](#) or contact the Placer County Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California 1-(800)-824-8683.

**When are Vote-By-Mail ballots mailed out?**

By law, Vote-By-Mail ballots are mailed to voters beginning 29 days prior to every election. Ballots are mailed continuously up until seven (7) days prior to Election Day. All Placer County voters regardless of their voting status may also choose to vote at the Placer County Office of Elections beginning 29 days prior to an election and up until 8:00 P.M. on Election Day.

**What if I am a Permanent Vote-By-Mail voter and move?**

By law, election mail (including ballots and sample ballots) cannot be forwarded. You will need to re-register to vote and mark the appropriate box for Permanent Vote-By-Mail status. Your ballot will be sent to the mailing address provided on your most recent registration. If you move or change your mailing address and do not update your contact information, your ballot will be returned to the Placer County Office of Elections as "undeliverable". Visit [Am I Registered?](#) to confirm your registration or for more information, contact the Placer County Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California at 1-(800)-824-8683.

**What if my Vote-By-Mail ballot does not arrive in the mail?**

Visit [Am I Registered?](#) or contact the Placer County Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California at 1-(800)-824-8683 to confirm your registration and the date your ballot was mailed out. If necessary we can send you a replacement ballot.

**What if I am out of town when the Vote-By-Mail ballots are mailed? How do I vote?**

You may request a ballot to be sent to a temporary mailing address by contacting the Placer County Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California at 1-(800)-824-8683. In order for the ballot to be counted once it has been voted, it must be returned to the Placer County Office of Elections prior to 8:00 P.M. on Election Day. Postmarks are not accepted.

**I am currently out of the country and the mail is slow. Can I apply for a Vote-By-Mail ballot earlier than the designated 29 days prior to an election?**

You may apply for and receive a Vote-By-Mail ballot earlier than 29 days if you qualify for military or overseas voting status. Under California Election Code EC300 (b) a qualified voter is described as a citizen of the United States who is 18 years old or older, absent from Placer County and meets any of the following requirements:

- A member of the active or reserve components of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard; a Merchant Marine; a member of the United States Public Health Service

Commissioned Corps; a member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Corps of the United States; or a member on activated status of the National Guard or state militia.

- A citizen of the United States living outside of the territorial limits of the United States or the District of Columbia.
- A spouse or dependent of a member of the armed forces or any auxiliary branch thereof.

To learn more visit [Military and Overseas Voters](#) or contact the Placer County Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California at 1-(800)-824-8683.

### **How do I vote using a Vote-By-Mail ballot?**

In order to successfully complete a Vote-By-Mail ballot, you must:

- Follow the directions included with your Vote-By-Mail ballot to mark your ballot.
- Place your voted ballot in the return envelope provided, sign and seal the envelope, then return it to the Placer County Office of Elections for processing.
- Be sure that your signature and address are on the return envelope. Ballots without a signature on the return envelope cannot be counted.

All Vote-By-Mail ballots returned by mail must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received within three days of the election in order to be considered timely.

All Vote-By-Mail ballots submitted in person must be returned to the Placer County Office of Elections or any Placer County polling place prior to 8:00 P.M. on Election Day. Vote-By-Mail ballots delivered in person after 8:00 P.M. on Election Day cannot be counted.

### **What if I make a mistake on my Vote-By-Mail ballot? Can I get a new one?**

Yes. According to California Election Code 14288, voters are eligible to receive up to two (2) replacement ballots during an election. Replacement ballots are available by request through the Placer County Office of Elections. You may receive a replacement ballot by mail, at the Placer County Office of Elections or your designated polling place on Election Day. Replacement ballots are mailed up until seven (7) days prior to Election Day. In order to receive a replacement ballot at your Placer County polling place bring your Vote-By-Mail ballot and return envelope to the poll worker.

To find out more about your election specific polling place, visit [Find Your Designated Polling Place](#). To request a replacement ballot or for more information, contact the Placer County Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California at 1-(800)-824-8683. The Placer County Office of Elections is located at 2956 Richardson Drive, Auburn CA, 95603.

### **As a Vote-By-Mail voter, how will I receive information about candidates and measures?**

You will be mailed a Sample Ballot and Voter Information Guide for all local candidates and measures. In a statewide election, every household will receive a Voter Information Guide from the Secretary of State with information about State propositions and candidates. To learn more about candidates and measures visit [Current Election](#) or the Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov).

**During Primary Elections, how are non-partisan Vote-By-Mail voters notified of which political parties will allow voting for partisan candidates?**

The **Presidential** Primary Election is the only election in which your political affiliation affects the ballot you receive. Because of this, prior to every Presidential Primary Election the Placer County Office of Elections will send a postcard to all unaffiliated Vote-By-Mail voters informing them of the parties that permit “cross-over” voting. The postcard contains a list of available “cross-over” party ballots along with the option to choose a party ballot for that election. Contact the Placer County Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California at 1-(800)-824-8653, or visit the Secretary of State’s website at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov) for more information.

During a non Presidential Primary Election, all candidates on the ballot, regardless of their party preference, will appear on a single primary election ballot and voters can vote for any candidate (voter-nominated office). The top two overall vote-getters – not the top vote-getter from each qualified political party – will move on to the general election. Contact the Placer County Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California at 1-(800)-824-8653, or visit the Secretary of State’s website at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov) for more information.

### **When should I return my voted Vote-By-Mail ballot?**

All Vote-By-Mail ballots returned by mail must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received within three days of the election in order to be considered timely.

All Vote-By-Mail ballots submitted in person must be returned to the Placer County Office of Elections or any Placer County polling place prior to 8:00 P.M. on Election Day. Vote-By-Mail ballots delivered in person after 8:00 P.M. on Election Day cannot be counted.

### **What should I do if I think the Placer County Office of Elections may not receive my voted ballot in time by mail?**

You may return your ballot:

- In person to the Placer County Office of Elections. The Placer County Office of Elections is located at 2956 Richardson Drive, Auburn CA, 95603. Regular office hours are: Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. For added convenience, the Placer County Office of Elections may be open on the two weekends prior to Election Day. Contact the Placer County Office of Elections for election specific hours.
- Via the 24 hour drive-up, drop-off ballot box in front of the Placer County Office of Elections. The Placer County Office of Elections is located at 2956 Richardson Drive, Auburn CA, 95603.
- At any Placer County polling place from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Election Day.
- At designated Placer County libraries prior to every state or federal election. Visit [Voting Before Election Day](#) for an election specific list of participating libraries and their hours of operation.

If you have mailed or misplaced your ballot you may vote provisionally at your designated polling place in Placer County on Election Day. For more information visit [Frequently Asked Questions/Provisional Voting](#) or contact the Placer County Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California at 1-(800)-824-8683.

### **What if my ballot becomes lost or damaged?**

Call the Placer County Office of Elections for a replacement ballot at 530-886-5650 or toll free within California at 1-(800)-824-8683. If it is too late for us to send you a replacement ballot in the mail, you may pick one up at the Placer County Office of Elections or vote provisionally at your designated Placer County polling place on election day. Visit [Frequently Asked Questions/Provisional Voting](#) for more information.

The Placer County Office of Elections is located at 2956 Richardson Drive, Auburn CA, 95603. Regular office hours are: Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. For added convenience, the Placer County

Office of Elections may be open the two weekends prior to Election Day. Contact the Placer County Office of Elections for election specific hours.

**Can I still vote at a polling place if I am a Permanent Vote-By-Mail voter?**

Yes. Bring your Vote-By-Mail ballot and your return envelope with you to the polling place.

If you do not bring your Vote-By-Mail ballot and your return envelope with you to the polling place, you may still vote a provisional ballot. The provisional ballot will be reviewed by the Placer County Office of Elections to determine eligibility and to ensure the original Vote-By-Mail ballot has not already been returned.

**I'm in a Mail Ballot Precinct, why?**

Voters may be required to vote by mail if their precinct has fewer than 250 registered voters on the 88<sup>th</sup> day prior to an election and is declared to be a "Mail Ballot Precinct" by the Placer County Office of Elections. Notices are sent to all Mail Ballot voters prior to each election to advise them that they live in a Mail Ballot precinct. Voters who live in a Mail Ballot precinct may also vote in person at the Placer County Office of Elections located at 2956 Richardson Drive, Auburn CA, 95603.

**Do you count all of the ballots that arrive by mail?**

Every returned envelope that contains a ballot, verifiable signature and has been returned in a timely manner will be counted. To be considered timely, ballots returned by mail must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received within three days after the election. Ballots submitted in person must be returned to the Placer County Office of Elections or any Placer County polling place prior to 8:00 P.M. on Election Day. Vote-By-Mail ballots delivered in person after 8:00 P.M. on Election Day cannot be counted.

**How do I check the status of my returned voted ballot?**

Visit [Where is your Vote-By-Mail ballot?](#) or contact the Placer County Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California at 1-(800)-824-8683.

**How can the Placer County Office of Elections be certain the ballot I return belongs to me?**

According to California Election Code 3019, once your Vote-By-Mail ballot has been returned to the Placer County Office of Elections, the signature on the return envelope is compared to your signature on file. If there is a match, your ballot will be counted. If the signatures do not match the ballot cannot be counted. However, our office may attempt to contact you directly. A new Voter Registration Form will be mailed out to you after the election so that we may obtain your current signature for future use.

If a signature was not provided on the return envelope containing your ballot, it may be mailed back to you for signing or (depending on the proximity of Election Day) our office may attempt to contact you directly.

**Where can I find more information on Vote-By-Mail voting?**

To find out more about Voting-By-Mail voting or your status as a Vote-By-Mail voter, contact the Placer County Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California at 1-(800)-824-8683.