



# SOCAL INTERFAITH VOTING GUIDE 2020



CREATED BY THE  
ECUMENICAL  
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## **LOCAL AND COUNTY RESOURCES**

A number of websites have been made available, including county election websites, and other websites for non-partisan organizations doing voter engagement work.

## **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

We are looking to grow the content of this guide and create new versions of it for future elections.

If you have any questions about this guide or would like to suggest any changes or additions to what's available, please email us [st\\_325@usc.edu](mailto:st_325@usc.edu).



**#SOULSTOTHEPOLLS**  
**#OURFAITHOURVOICE**



## WHY DO WE VOTE

Voting is an integral part of the democratic process and is one of the most important actions we can take as citizens of the United States. Constituents have the responsibility and power to make their voice heard in the halls of every elected office. We often underestimate the power of our singular vote because they don't compare to the millions that go into an election. It takes a single voice to speak up for marginalized communities in our nation. And it takes every single ballot to decide who collectively leads and shapes the communities where we live.

When you fill out a ballot from now on, remember the values and constituents that inspire you to be civically engaged. Let us use our collective power to achieve a more abundant and sustainable world. Let our votes reflect the radical diversity, inclusion, and pluralism that make Southern California our pride and joy. And let us honor the privilege in a democratic society and the sacred responsibility fought for by generations past to create a just, accountable, and compassionate society.

# STATEWIDE DETAILS

Election day is November 3rd this year. The state of California has deadlines for registration, voting (by mail or person), and more.

## Candidates and Propositions on the ballot

- [https://ballotpedia.org/California\\_elections,\\_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/California_elections,_2020)

## Voter registration deadlines

- You can register to vote online at <https://registertovote.ca.gov/> by 10/19/20.
- You can register to vote online by email, postmarked by 10/19/20.
- You can register to vote on Election Day, 11/3/2020, at your nearest polling place.

## Absentee ballot deadlines

- You can request an absentee ballot by 10/27/2020
- You can return the absentee ballot by mail postmarked by 11/3/2020
- You can return your absentee ballot on Election Day, 11/3/2020, at your nearest polling place.

## Early voting timeline

- Every registered voter will receive a mail-in ballot at their residence and can vote early from 10/5-11/2/2020, but dates and hours for early voting at polling places may vary based on the county that you live.

## Additional information

- **Find a polling place near you:** <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place/>
- **You can also register and vote on Election Day at any polling place.**
- Conditional Voter Registration is a safety net for Californians who miss the deadline to register to vote or update their voter registration information. Voters can use the Conditional Voter Registration process from the day after the deadline through Election Day. Eligible citizens can go to their county election office, polling place, or vote center to register and vote conditionally. The ballots will be processed once the county elections office has completed the voter registration verification process.

# REFLECTIONS

Faith leaders are reflecting on the importance of this election and the role of the electorate in choosing leaders who not only serve with their minds and heart but maintain a moral compass that manifests integrity, service, and the rights of all people to thrive and receive justice equally under the law.

- On Voting, by Bishop John Taylor, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles
  - **Higher Turnout Means More Representative & Responsive Government:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/john.h.taylor.9/posts/10158421519653046>
  - **Having Faith in Our Civic Spirit:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/john.h.taylor.9/posts/10158300721278046>
  - **A Prayer for our Elections:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/john.h.taylor.9/posts/10158249162598046>
- **Voting for Our Neighbor's Sake: An Ecumenical [Christian] Call to Civic Engagement**
  - English: <https://diocesela.org/uncategorized/voting-for-our-neighbors-sake/>
  - Spanish: <https://diocesela.org/noticias/votando-por-el-bien-de-nuestro-projimo/>
- We have created a document filled with scriptural references, quotes, discussion questions, and sermons/reflections at the intersection of religion and politics. This is will be updated in the coming days.
  - **Interfaith Voting Guide - Religion, Politics, and Civic Engagement:**  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GMOlxdvHCeEXIERdZfFH6wtPTgCq\\_rqfVK\\_ET835Jt8/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GMOlxdvHCeEXIERdZfFH6wtPTgCq_rqfVK_ET835Jt8/edit?usp=sharing)



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This section serves as your go-to place for any questions that you might have during our entire voting process through November.

- **How do we vote this year?**

- According to the office of the California Secretary of State, you will be able to vote in every single way that you've been able to before, but with slight changes:
  - Every registered voter will receive a mail-in ballot,
  - Every registered voter can track the status of their ballot from receipt to submission by telephone, text, or email, and
  - Every registered voter as the option of voting earlier and in person a number of polling places with additional precautions taken for health and safety, including social distancing and cleaning procedures in place.

- **Where can I submit my ballot?**

- You can submit your ballot:
  - In the mail,
  - By dropping it into a secure voting box, and
  - At a polling place.

- **How can I keep track of the latest updates to the election process and find out more information about my vote in particular?**

- You can visit the website of the CA Secretary of State for the 2020 Election here: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/election-2020>
- You can find the website for your county's election board below: <https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/voter-info/county-elections-offices.htm>

- **When can I vote?**

- You can begin voting as soon as you get your mail-in vote. Ballots sent by mail must be postmarked by November 3, 2020; ballots returned at a secure ballot drop box must be deposited by 8:00 p.m. on November 3, 2020.
- If you choose to vote in person, polling places will begin opening depending on the rules for your county. You can find county website for the election on the Resources page. Find your nearest polling place here: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place/>

- **What can I do besides voting to help with the election process?**
  - Help others get registered to vote,
  - Volunteer to be a poll worker,
  - Help your friends and loved ones to collect and submit their mail-in ballots together.
- **How can my faith community get involved?**
  - Make sure that everyone in your community/congregation is registered and prepared to vote.
- **Are there organizations or initiatives that we can work with to support transparency and accountability in our elections?**
  - **#MyMuslimVote** is a non-partisan, voter and civic engagement campaign organized by MPower Change and a coalition of Muslim organizations: <https://www.mymuslimvote.org/>
  - **The Sikh Coalition** has created a portal for information about voting in both English and Punjabi: <https://www.sikhcoalition.org/our-work/empowering-the-community/2020-get-vote/>
  - **Faith in Public Life and Interfaith Power & Light** released a voter reflection guide: that offers a non-partisan approach to address urgent moral issues at stake in this election and beyond: <https://www.faithinpubliclife.org/resources/voter-reflection-guide/>
  - The **Interfaith Alliance** celebrates religious freedom by championing individual rights, promoting policies that protect both religion and democracy, and uniting diverse voices to challenge extremism. They've created a page dedicated to supporting houses of worship that are maneuvering through discussion and impact while avoiding partisanship in shared faith spaces:
    - **#Vote2020 Campaign:** <https://www.interfaithalliance.org/initiatives/vote2020/>



# RESOURCES

- Please visit your **County Election Websites** to get more specific information about dates, locations for polling places and drop-off boxes for your mail-in ballots, and more:
  - Los Angeles County - <https://lavote.net/home/voting-elections/>
  - Orange County - <https://www.ocvote.com/registration/register-to-vote/>
  - Riverside County - <https://www.voteinfo.net/>
  - San Bernardino County - <https://www.sbcountyelections.com/VoterRegistration/How.aspx/>
  - Ventura County - <https://recorder.countyofventura.org/elections/elections/voter-information/voter-registration/>
- Find our local chapter of the **League of Women Voters** to engage in work around safe and accessible elections for everyone: <https://www.lwv.org/>
- **Voto Latino** is working to unite and power the Latinx community in its participation in the electoral process, with resources in English and Spanish: <https://votolatino.org/>
- Support **When We All Vote**, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization that is on a mission to increase voter participation in every election and close the race and age voting gap by changing the culture around voting
  - Phone and text banking campaign: <https://www.whenweallvote.org/>



**OUR LIVES, OUR RIGHTS,  
AND OUR DEMOCRACY**

**DEPEND ON  
YOU!**