

REGISTER. PLAN. VOTE EARLY.

A one-sheet for Northern California voter-registration and voter-participation advocates

Our job is simple: help eligible voters make sure they are registered, know their options, and have a plan to vote before Election Day. Keep the conversation practical, welcoming, and nonpartisan.

2026 GENERAL ELECTION: KEY DATES

OCT. 5	County elections officials begin mailing vote-by-mail ballots; early voting begins.
OCT. 6	Secure ballot drop boxes open statewide.
OCT. 19	Regular voter-registration deadline for the Nov. 3 General Election.
OCT. 20–NOV. 3	Same-day/conditional registration remains available through Election Day.
OCT. 24	First day vote centers open in Voter's Choice Act counties.
OCT. 31	Early voting locations throughout California will be open on Saturday.
NOV. 3	Election Day. Polls are open 7 a.m.–8 p.m.; ballots can be returned in person by 8 p.m.

WHAT TO SAY

Start with a question	"Are you registered to vote, and have you checked that your registration is current?"
Make it easy	Offer the official registration/status site and help people understand their local voting options.
Encourage an early plan	"When your ballot arrives, set aside time to complete it and return it."
Explain the choices	Vote by mail, use an official drop box, or vote in person during early voting. Election Day remains an option.
Remind people to verify	Moving or other changes can make it important to check registration information.
Close with a concrete action	"Check your registration. Make a plan. Vote early if that works for you."

WHY ENCOURAGE EARLY VOTING?

Early voting gives voters more flexibility around work, travel, family responsibilities, weather, transportation, and the long distances that can be part of rural life. Returning a ballot early also gives voters more time to address a problem if their ballot cannot be accepted as submitted.

ADVOCATE DO / DON'T

DO	DON'T
• Use official county and California Secretary of State information. • Be helpful rather than argumentative. • Respect each voter's choices; advocates should not tell people whom or what to vote for. • If someone has a problem, direct them to their county elections office.	• Do not promise a particular election outcome or tell someone how to vote. • Do not guess about eligibility, deadlines, polling locations, or ballot rules. • Do not collect unnecessary personal information. • Do not pressure voters to reveal their choices.

QUICK REMINDER: Every active, registered California voter will be mailed a ballot. Voters can return it by mail, at an official drop box, or in person. County early-voting schedules vary, so always verify the local location and hours.

Official sources: California Secretary of State — sos.ca.gov/elections; RegisterToVote.ca.gov; CAEarlyVoting.sos.ca.gov; VoterStatus.sos.ca.gov; WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov. Dates and procedures should be checked for the voter's county.