

PLACER COUNTY OFFICE OF ELECTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions:

Provisional Voting

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What is provisional voting?

Provisional voting is the process by which a voter claiming to be properly registered within his/her residing county, yet whose eligibility to vote cannot be immediately established may cast a ballot during an election. Provisional voting may also include individuals who have lost, misplaced or did not bring their Vote-By-Mail ballot and envelope with them to the polling place on Election Day.

Variations of special provisional voting include casting a court ordered ballot (E.C. Code 14310 Section C(2)B), voting provisionally as a new citizen (E.C. Code 3500-3503) or as a special Vote-By-Mail voter who has recently been discharged from active military service (E.C. Code 3107). Special provisional voting is available only at the front counter of the Placer County Office of Elections located at 2956 Richardson Drive, Auburn CA, 95603.

How do I vote provisionally?

In order to vote provisionally, the voter must complete a provisional voting packet. This includes the front of the provisional envelope and ballot. The information on the envelope will be used to confirm eligibility to vote in the election. Upon completion of the envelope the voter will receive a ballot to vote. Once voted, the ballot is placed inside provisional envelope and sealed by the voter.

How is a provisional ballot counted?

The information listed on the outside of the provisional voter registration envelope is checked against the voter's file in the Office of Elections database. The ballot is counted once the voter's eligibility has been confirmed and that the voter has not attempted to vote twice in the same election. In the case of court ordered voting, the ballot will be counted once the provisional envelope and all supporting information has been approved by a Placer County Superior Court Judge.

If a voter casts a provisional ballot in a precinct other than the one in which he/she resides, only the races for which the voter is eligible to participate in will be counted towards the election.

Why was I asked to vote provisionally?

There are several reasons why a voter may be asked to vote provisionally during an election. If after reviewing the examples provided below you are still uncertain as to why you were asked to vote provisionally on Election Day, please contact the Placer County Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California at 1-800-824-8683 for more information.

Examples:

- The voter's name did not appear on the Polling Place Roster.
- The voter went to the wrong polling place.
- The voter is listed as a First Time Federal Voter but was unable to provide a valid form of identification.
- The voter moved within Placer County but did not reregister to vote at the new address.
- The voter moved to Placer County prior to Election Day but did not register to vote before the registration deadline, 15 days prior to Election Day.
- The voter is a Permanent Vote-By-Mail voter and wishes to vote at a polling place on Election Day but is unable to surrender his/her ballot.
- The voter resides in a mail ballot precinct but wishes to vote at a polling place on Election Day.
- The voter resides in a mail ballot precinct but has lost or spoiled his/her ballot.

Examples of Special Provisional Voting:

Court Ordered Voters:

- Any U.S. citizen that registered to vote prior to the 15 day close of registration; who's voter registration form was not received by the Placer County Office of Elections before the deadline.
- Any voter who has been temporarily displaced from his/her Placer County residence and desires to participate in the election but missed the 15 day close of registration.

New Citizen Voters:

- Any person who became a United States citizen after the 15 day close of registration.

Special Vote-By-Mail Voter:

- Any citizen of Placer County who is a spouse, dependant or member of the military, who is released from active military service and has returned to Placer County after the 15 day close of registration.

I recently moved but have not reregistered, can I still vote?

Yes. If you are registered to vote in Placer County and have moved within the County, you may vote provisionally at the polling place designated for your new address.

I became a United States citizen after the 15 day close of registration, can I still vote?

Yes. You may cast a provisional ballot at the Placer County Office of Elections once you have:

- Provided a current form of identification and proof of citizenship (official naturalization documents).
- Completed a provisional envelope.

I am a spouse, dependent or member of the Armed Forces who has been released from active service after the close of registration, can I still vote?

Yes. You may cast a provisional ballot at the Placer County Office of Elections once you have:

- Provided a current form of identification and the official discharge/release documentation.
- Completed a provisional envelope.

Where can I vote provisionally?

Provisional voting is available at the Placer County Office of Elections after the registration deadline, 15 days prior to Election Day or at any Placer County polling place on Election Day.

How do I find my polling place?

The address of your assigned polling place is printed on your Sample Ballot Pamphlet. Sample Ballots Pamphlets are mailed to voters beginning 40 days prior to an election. You may find your polling place information online by going to our website at www.placerelections.com then Polling Place Look-Up or you may call the Placer County Office of Elections directly at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California at 1-800-824-8683.

Why are polling places assigned?

Voters are assigned to a polling place based on the voting precinct in which they reside. Each polling place carries a ballot type that is specific to that area of Placer County. Ballots may be significantly different from one site to the next due to boundary lines for Placer County districts.

How are polling places assigned?

For election purposes the county has been divided into precincts. Prior to an election the precincts are grouped together based on common districts, regions and Election Code requirements. Polling places are located in each voting precinct unless there are fewer than 250 registered voters in that area. Areas that have less than 250 registered voters are called mail ballot precincts. Voters residing in a mail ballot precinct will automatically receive their ballot in the mail.

Do precincts and polling places change?

Yes. Although Placer County attempts to use the same locations for each election, polling places may change due to the availability of the site, whether it continues to meet state and federal regulations, whether the district lines have changed or precincts have been consolidated, and depending on what is going to election.

If I go to the wrong polling place and vote provisionally will my ballot count?

Yes. Provided that you are currently registered and eligible to vote within Placer County, all of the contests and measures for which you are eligible to vote will be counted. All other contests and measures will not be counted.

How can I find out if my provisional ballot was counted?

If you are a Placer County voter and wish to confirm the status of your ballot, please call the Placer County Office of Elections 28 days after the election to confirm your voting activity. The Placer County Office of Elections is available at 530-886-5650 or toll free within California at 1-800-824-8683.

If the Placer County Office of Elections cannot determine eligibility and the provisional ballot cannot be counted a letter will be mailed to the voter explaining why the ballot was not counted and some suggestions to make sure the ballot can count in future elections.

Where can I find out more about provisional voting?

For more information, contact the Placer County Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California 1-800-824-8683. You may also visit the Secretary of State website at www.sos.ca.gov for more information.