

## Voter Rights at the Polls

### As a California voter, you have the right to:

- Register to vote & vote on the same day, on Election Day (and also on early voting days).
- Get help casting your ballot from anyone you choose, except from your employer or union representative.
- Ask for translated voting materials or bilingual assistance, which is available in many voting locations.
- Get a new ballot if you make a mistake on your ballot and have not already cast your ballot.
- Vote even if you are still in line when the polls close.
- Vote using a provisional ballot or same-day registration if your name is not on the roster at your voting location.
- Vote privately: No one can see or find out how you voted.

## Prohibited Activities

### No Campaigning at the Polls

People are not allowed to “electioneer” within 100 feet of a voting location. This means people near or inside the voting location may not advocate for or against a specific candidate or ballot measure. For example, people may not display a candidate’s name or image on hats, stickers, signs, etc. People also may not broadcast information about candidates or support for candidates. Elec. Code § 18370. People are allowed to wear clothing or hold signs with slogans.

### No Voter Intimidation

It is illegal to intimidate voters. People may not use physical force or threaten to use physical force to prevent someone from voting. It is also illegal to intimidate voters through other types of threats. Elec. Code § 18540. Some examples of illegal voter intimidation are:

- Blocking access to voting locations
- Threatening to harm voters
- Sharing false information about requirements to vote or about the voting process (e.g. falsely telling voters they need to speak English to vote or need to have specific types of ID)
- Aggressively questioning voters about their race, gender identity, or other personal traits

### **No Challenging Voters' Eligibility**

A voter's eligibility to vote may only be challenged by poll workers, not by members of the public. Elec. Code § 14240. It is also illegal for people to put up signs about voter qualifications or speak with voters about their qualifications within 100 feet of a voting location. Elec. Code § 18370.

### **No Photographing or Videotaping Voters**

Voters have a right to privacy when voting, so the public may not take photos of voters at the polls. It is also a crime to take photos or video of voters within 100 feet of a voting location if you are doing so to dissuade them from voting. Elec. Code §18541.

### **No Firearms or Security Guards at the Polls**

People may not have a firearm in the immediate vicinity of a voting location. Also, people dressed as security guards or in uniforms cannot be at the polls, unless the county elections office authorized them to be there or they are there just to vote. This means members of the public cannot dress up in security or militia uniforms and stand at the polls. Elec. Code §18544.

### **Who should I call if someone is campaigning at the polls, intimidating voters, or doing other prohibited activities?**

- First, notify the poll workers at the voting location.
- Call the national Election Protection hotline to report the incident:
  - 866-OUR-VOTE English
  - 888-VE-Y-VOTA Spanish/English
  - 844-YALLA-US Arabic/English
  - 888-API-VOTE Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Urdu, Hindi, Bengali, English
- Call the California Secretary of State voter hotline to report the incident:
  - (800) 345-VOTE (8683) – English
  - (800) 232-VOTA (8682) - español / Spanish
  - (800) 339-2857 - 中文 / Chinese
  - (888) 345-2692 - हिन्दी / Hindi
  - (800) 339-2865 - 日本語 / Japanese
  - (888) 345-4917 - ខ្មែរ / Khmer
  - (866) 575-1558 - 한국어 / Korean
  - (800) 339-2957 - Tagalog
  - (855) 345-3933 - ภาษาไทย / Thai
  - (800) 339-8163 - Việt ngữ / Vietnamese
  - (800) 833-8683 – TTY/TDD