

Voting in the California 2020 Presidential Primary

January 26, 2020

Summary

California Presidential Primary 101: <https://indivisibleeb.org/2020/01/08/california-presidential-primary-101>

Register to vote: <https://registertovote.ca.gov>

How to vote for President:
<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-info/how-vote-president/>

The California Primary

Election Day: **Tuesday March 3, 2020** (aka “Super Tuesday”)

Deadline to register: **Tuesday February 18, 2020**

Register or check your voting status: <https://registertovote.ca.gov>

Voting in Primaries: State Offices

Most primaries in California are *non-partisan*. It doesn't matter what your party registration is. You can vote for any candidate of any party for a state office.

This is called a "Top Two" primary as voted into law by [Proposition 14 \(2010\)](#)

Voting in Primaries: **President**

But Presidential primaries are *partisan*. If you are registered for as a member of a party you can *only vote for candidates from that party*.

If you are registered “No Party Preference” you can vote for a candidate for of a party *but only if you **explicitly request** a partisan ballot*

- ▶ You can only request a ballot from these parties: *Democratic, American Independent, Libertarian*.

How to Vote for President:

<https://howtovoteforpresident.sos.ca.gov>

Simple Case: Registered with a party?

Vote by mail?

You will be sent a partisan ballot. Mail it back.

Vote at the polls?

You should be given a partisan ballot when you sign in.

Simple Case: No Party Preference, Vote at Polls?

When you sign in at the polls **explicitly** request a partisan ballot.

Complex Case: “No Party Preference”, Vote by Mail?

You got sent a postcard from your **county elections officials**, before the vote-by-mail ballots were sent out.

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices>

- ▶ *Got it?:* Choose a party, send it back. Verify they got it, by calling the county elections office.
- ▶ *Didn't get it?:* Call your county elections office and request one.
- ▶ *Can't get one for any reason?* **Bring your ballot to the polls** and exchange it.

Bottom Line

EITHER: *Register* with a particular party. You can change your registration online up to Election Day: <https://registertovote.ca.gov>

OR: *Explicitly request* a party (or “crossover”) ballot.

If all else fails: go to the polls. Request a “crossover ballot”. If you were sent a ballot you **must bring it with you** and exchange it!

References

“California Presidential Primary 101”: <https://indivisibleeb.org/2020/01/08/california-presidential-primary-101>

“Want to vote for president in California but bewildered by the changing rules?”:

<https://calmatters.org/projects/california-2020-presidential-primary-voting-rules-register-democrat-republican-independent>

How to Vote for U.S. President:

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-info/how-vote-president/>