

# **ELECTION DAY FAQ**

Frequently Asked Questions  
**[EC is the Elections Code]**

If you need help answering questions, contact the Mono County Elections Office:

**BOB MUSIL – REGISTRAR OF VOTERS 932-5538**

**SHANNON KENDALL – ASSISTANT REGISTRAR OF VOTERS 932-5533**

## **Absentee Voting**

See Vote by Mail

## **Area (Voting)**

See Voting Area

## **Assisted Voting**

**Can I have someone help me vote? Yes**, if you are eligible under the assisted-voter provisions. You must declare under oath that you are unable to mark a ballot; you can then receive assistance of no more than two people of your choosing, as long as they are not your employer (or agent of your employer), or officer or agent of a union to which you belong. [EC § 14282]

## **Booth (Voting)**

See Voting Booth

## **Cameras at Polling Places (Public)**

**Is it OK to take pictures inside the polling place? No**, only credentialed media will be allowed to photograph or film at the polling place. The Secretary of State's office has historically taken the position that using cameras or video equipment at polling places is prohibited, except under certain circumstances such as allowing credentialed media organizations to photograph or film. However, such activity cannot interfere with voting, cannot intimidate voters or election workers, and cannot compromise the privacy of voters. [Memo from Secretary of State's Office dated May 16, 2016, found in the poll workers' binder. EC § 18540-18541 and 14221]

## Campaign Workers

See Observers/Poll Watchers

## Cell Phones

**Can I use my cell phone in the voting area?** **No**, the use of cell phones is distracting and polling areas are held in trust for the quiet, undisturbed and free exercise of the public's right to privately vote. Also, since cell phones have a camera feature, their use in the polling place could potentially violate the rules pertaining to use of cameras at polling places. [Memo from Secretary of State's Office dated May 13, 2016, found in the poll workers' binder. EC §18541]

## Exit Polling

**Can someone from the media talk to voters?** **Yes**, members of the press may want to interview voters and conduct an "exit poll" to find out how people are voting. They may do so as long as they **remain at least 25 feet away from the entrance to the polling place**. [Memo from Secretary of State's Office dated May 13, 2016, found in the poll workers' binder.]

## Felony Voters

**What if someone was convicted of a felony, can they be registered to vote?** **Yes**, unless "upon proof that the person is presently imprisoned or on parole for conviction of a felony." [EC §2201] "An individual who is convicted of a felony loses the right to register and vote during the term of the prison sentence and the parole period. Once the parole period is completed, the person's eligibility to register and vote is restored." [Voter Registration Guide from the Secretary of State's website].

## ID Requirements

**Do I have to show ID in order to vote at my polling place?** **No**; identification is required when a person registers to vote. However, proof of identity may be required the first time the voter votes in a Federal election. This note will be listed on the signature roster

## Observers/Poll Watchers

**What if someone wants to sit in the polling area and watch the process?** Observers (aka Poll Watchers) are allowed in the polling place as long as they obey the rules set out in the

California Elections Code. [See General Rules for Observers, under Election Observer Tab in Poll Worker binder.]

## **Press/Media**

**Is it OK for the press to take pictures inside the polling place?** **Yes;** credentialed media will be allowed to photograph or film at the polling place. However, such activity cannot interfere with voting, cannot intimidate voters or election workers, and cannot compromise the privacy of voters. [Memo from Secretary of State's Office dated May 16, 2016: "Cameras At Polling Places", found in the poll workers' binder. EC §§18540-18541 and 14221]

**What if someone from the media wants to talk to voters?** Members of the press may want to interview voters and conduct an "exit poll" to find out how people are voting. They may do so as long as they **remain at least 25 feet away from the entrance to the polling place.** [Memo from Secretary of State's Office dated May 13, 2016: "Electioneering", found in the poll workers' binder.]

## **Provisional Voting**

**I believe I can vote provisionally in any county as long as I am a registered voter in California; is this true?** **No,** you have to vote in the county in which you are registered, and vote at the precinct in which you are entitled to vote. [EC §2300(a)(1)(B); §349; §14279, §14310(a)(3)]

**I recently registered through the DMV but I am not showing up on your list of registered voters. Can I vote provisionally?** If you believe you are properly registered to vote in Mono County but your name does not appear on the index of registration, you may cast a provisional ballot. You will be required to execute a written affirmation stating that you are eligible to vote and registered in the county. [EC §14217, §14310(a)(3)]

**I have voted for 30 years in Mono County and I am not showing up on your list of registered voters. Can I vote provisionally?** If you believe you are properly registered to vote in Mono County but your name does not appear on the index of registration, you may cast a provisional ballot. You will be required to execute a written affirmation stating that you are eligible to vote and registered in the county. [EC §14217, §14310(a)(3)]

**I live in Mono County, but recently moved within the County and did not re-register at my new address. Should I vote in my new precinct or old precinct?** You may vote

provisionally at the polling place at which you are entitled to vote based on your current residence address. [EC §14311]

**I just moved into Mono County and haven't registered to vote yet. Can I vote provisionally?** If you moved within 14 days prior to an election, you are entitled to vote in the precinct *from which you moved*. In order to vote in Mono County, you must have re-registered prior to the registration deadline for this election. [EC §2035; §2300(a)(1)(B); §349; §14279, §14310(a)(3)]

## **Registration**

**What if someone was convicted of a felony, can they be registered to vote? Yes,** unless “upon proof that the person is presently imprisoned or on parole for conviction of a felony.” [EC §2201] “An individual who is convicted of a felony loses the right to register and vote during the term of the prison sentence and the parole period. Once the parole period is completed, the person’s eligibility to register and vote is restored.” [Voter Registration Guide from the Secretary of State’s website].

**I am registered to vote in California, but today is Election Day and I'm on vacation in Mono County. Can I vote provisionally even though I am not registered to vote in your county? No,** you have to vote in the county in which you are registered, and vote at the precinct in which you are entitled to vote. [EC §2300(a)(1)(B); §349; §14279, §14310(a)(3)]

**I recently registered through the DMV but I am not showing up on your list of registered voters. Can I vote provisionally?** If you believe you are properly registered to vote in Mono County but your name does not appear on the index of registration, you may cast a provisional ballot. You will be required to execute a written affirmation stating that you are eligible to vote and registered in the county. [EC §14217, §14310(a)(3)]

**I have voted for 30 years in Mono County and I am not showing up on your list of registered voters. Can I vote provisionally?** If you believe you are properly registered to vote in Mono County but your name does not appear on the index of registration, you may cast a provisional ballot. You will be required to execute a written affirmation stating that you are eligible to vote and registered in the county. [EC §14217, §14310(a)(3)]

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prior to the registration deadline for this election. [EC §2035; §2300(a)(1)(B); §349; §14279, §14310(a)(3)]

**I live in Mono County, but recently moved within the County and did not re-register at my new address. Should I vote in my new precinct or old precinct?** You may vote provisionally at the polling place at which you are entitled to vote based on your current residence address. [EC §14311]

## **Voting Area**

**Who is permitted within the voting area?** Only voters engaged in receiving, preparing, or depositing their ballots and persons authorized by the precinct board to keep order and enforce the law may be permitted to be within the voting booth area before the closing of the polls. [EC §14221]

## **Voting Booth**

**Can I bring my children to the voting booth with me?** **Yes**, as long as the child or children are under the age of 18 years and the child is, or children are, under the voter's care.

**Remember**, polling areas are held in trust for the quiet, undisturbed and free exercise of the public's right to privately vote. [EC §14222]

**How long can I take to vote?** Voters shall not occupy the booths longer than is necessary to mark their ballots, which shall not exceed 10 minutes. However, where no other voter would be inconvenienced, a longer period shall be allowed. [EC §14224]

## **Vote by Mail (formerly known as Absentee)**

**I never received my Vote-By-Mail ballot (or I lost my Vote-by-Mail ballot). Can I still vote?** **Yes**, you can cast a provisional ballot. [EC §3016]

**I forgot to mail my Vote-By-Mail ballot before I left town. Can I leave it in another county in California?** **No**, you must return your voted ballot to a precinct in the county in which you are registered to vote. [EC §2300(a)(7), §3017(a)]

**Will you count my Vote-By-Mail ballot as long as it is postmarked on Election Day?** **Yes**, ballots must be postmarked on or before election day and received in the Election Office *no later than three days after election day* to count; or you can leave your completed Mono County Vote-By-Mail ballot at any voting precinct in Mono County before the close of the polls at 8:00 p.m. on election day. [EC §3017, §3020]

**Do I have to personally turn in my Mono County Vote-By-Mail ballot?** If you are unable to return your ballot, you may designate your spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, or a person residing in the same household to return the ballot. The ballot must be received in the Elections Office or at a precinct in Mono County by the close of polls (8:00 p.m. on Election Day). You need to put your completed Vote-By-Mail ballot in the voter identification envelope and complete the outside of the envelope. **Remember you must sign your envelope.** [EC §3017, §3020, §3011, §3018]

**Do I have to put my Vote-By-Mail ballot in the return envelope?** **Yes**, you need to put your completed Vote-By-Mail ballot in the voter identification envelope and complete the outside of the envelope. **Remember you must sign your envelope.** [EC §3011, §3018]

**I decided to vote at my polling place rather than use my Vote-By-Mail ballot, what should I do?** You can vote at your precinct on Election Day if you surrender your un-voted ballot to the election worker (inspector). [EC §3015]

**I want to vote at my polling place rather than use my Vote-By-Mail ballot, but I lost the ballot and can't surrender it to the election worker. What should I do?** You can cast a provisional ballot. [EC §3016]

### **Voting at the Precinct**

**If I spoil my ballot at the precinct, can I get another one?** **Yes**, if you spoil your ballot, return it to the poll worker and receive another ballot. You cannot receive more than a total of three ballots, including your original. [EC §14288]

**I live in Mono County, but recently moved within the County and did not re-register at my new address. Should I vote in my new precinct or old precinct?** You may vote provisionally at the polling place at which you are entitled to vote based on your current residence address. [EC §14311]

**I am registered to vote in California, but today is Election Day and I'm on vacation in Mono County. Can I vote provisionally even though I am not registered to vote in your county?** **No**, you have to vote in the county in which you are registered, and vote at the precinct in which you are entitled to vote. [EC §2300(a)(1)(B); §349; §14279, §14310(a)(3)]

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**Updated: September 14, 2016**