

EARLY VOTING: **October 9, 2012.**
Deadline to register :**October 22, 2012**
Last day to get Absentee ballot:**October 30, 2012**
ELECTION DAY: TUES. NOVEMBER 6, 2012

Continued on back...



Making it Happen Returning Your Ballot?

Once your request is processed by the county elections official, your ballot will be sent to you. After you have voted, insert your ballot in the envelope provided, making sure you complete all required information on envelope. Return your completed vote-by-mail ballot by:

- 1) Mailing it to your county elections official
- 2) Returning it in person to any polling place or elections office in your county Election Day
- 3) Designating/authorizing a relative or person living in the same household as you to return the ballot on your behalf

Regardless of how the ballot is returned, it MUST be received by the county elections office by the time polls close at 8:00 p.m. Election Day. Late-arriving vote-by-mail ballots won't be counted. If you decide to vote in person instead of absentee, you may exchange your absentee sample ballot for a voter sheet at your polling place on Election Day.

Some Reasons to get an absentee/vote by mail ballot:

Traveling / Studying abroad or out of state during the election
To avoid Election Day lines, waits, crowds and potential challenges
No time to spare on November 6th
Senior citizen and/or differently able folk who are not mobile
Transportation barriers
Hospitalized with no release date in sight during the election
Incarcerated with release date after the election

Military and Long Term Overseas Voting

Under the Federal UOCAVA Act of 1986 - Military / Uniformed Service Members and United States citizens living outside the territorial limits of the United States or the District of Columbia for reasons of employment, study programs or military service (including the spouse or dependents of one serving in the military) are eligible to register to vote and request an absentee ballot. In order to vote as a military or overseas voter, you must complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), available at www.fPCA.gov or contact your local United States Embassy.

MILITARY AND OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTING INQUIRIES/REQUEST:

For more information, please contact the Voters Records Division via:
militaryOverseasAV@rrcc.lacounty.gov or
800-815-2666 or 562-466-1323

Reasons to Re-Register to Vote:

- Did you do any of the following?
- Move to a different address
- Change name (including changes of marriage, divorce or political ideology)
- Change political party affiliation
- Remember what ever the reason – one must reregister to vote by Oct 22, 2012

Black Women for Wellness (BWW) is a woman centered grassroots community organization, on a mission to build robust and vibrant health for women and girls. Multi-generational, membership-based and volunteer driven, BWW is shifting health awareness in our community, while addressing health inequities and highlighting positive and resilient cultural practices proven as assets to our survival. BWW can be found at :

www.bwwla.com, www.bwwla.org

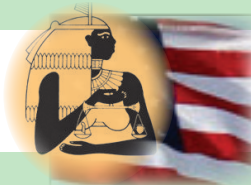
This VOTER GUIDE offers resources and information about the issues where our voice matters. The California ballot initiative process has created 11 propositions for the November ballot, making it very lengthy. We have a presidential race, a U.S. Senate (1 seat), U.S. House (53 seats), State Senate (20 seats) and State Assembly (80 seats) plus numerous local elections that will impact our lives for years to come.

CONTACT:

Black Women For Wellness
(323) 290-5955
info@bwwla.com



Questions &



Answers

Q: If I have literacy issues who can assist me?

Before Election Day, contact a literacy agency, your public library, enlist a relative, friend or neighbor to help you read and comprehend the ballot. It is a tricky ballot, not only long but the language is not straight forward with many propositions.

At the precinct, if literacy is a challenge, have your sample ballot completed before you arrive so when asking for help at the poll it will be easy and quick. It is also ok to have a caregiver, family member or friend help you complete the voting process at the poll – simply share the plan with the poll workers to insure voting success

Q. Where do I vote?

A. The sample ballot you receive in the mail includes your poll location, but if you misplace it, call the registrar's office at (800) 815-2666 or 562 466 1310 (Local to Los Angeles) or go online to find your polling place at <http://lavote.net/locator> or www.rockthevote.org

Q. What if you feel that you have been wrongfully turned away from the polls?

A. Don't leave. Please request to fill out a provisional ballot. The law requires that you be permitted to fill out a provisional ballot if you are registered to vote. Speak to the chief election official or election judge, sometimes the title may change but simply go up the line of supervision and responsibility at the voting place. Provisional Ballot: A regular ballot that is placed in a provisional envelope that is checked and verified against voter registration information. Some reasons one is asked to fill out a provisional ballot are:

- ~You are a new or first time voter and your registration is not on the roster yet
- ~ You have moved to a new precinct and they have not updated the roster
- ~Your name is not on the roster at the polling place

Contact the secretary of state's confidential toll free voter hotline 1-800-345-Vote

If there is serious drama, and you make a decision to leave the polling place – assuming you have transportation go directly to the County Clerk's office (Los Angeles County Clerk office are located at 12400 Imperial Highway Norwalk CA T:800 815 2666 to submit your provisional ballot. Then report the problems on line www.lavote.net or while at the County Clerk's office.

Q. What are the campaigning restrictions near polls?

A. The practice of campaigning within 100 feet of a polling place, called electioneering, is illegal. Campaigning is defined as encouraging people to vote on a specific issue or for a specific candidate through education, cajoling, advertisement and/or incentives.

Q. Can I wear pins, shirts etc that has the name or image of a candidate or legislation?

A. Pins, shirts, and other paraphernalia are restricted as they may be considered as tools to intimidate or sway votes. Dress neutral.

Q How Can I vote Early?

A. Early voting takes place in person at a specified polling place or at satellite locations. Early voting is permitted in California with no specific requirements or reason necessary. Early voting may take place as soon as 29 days before Election Day, this year early voting begins October 9, 2012. Early voting usually takes place at specific locations including County Clerk offices, the concept being one can vote in person, early, before election day, no reason needed. In addition early voting dates and locations are printed on the sample ballot sent out by your county. You can also enter your zip code at cavotes.org to get details on dates and location. http://www.longdistancevoter.org/early_voting_rules#.UE_o1CKumF4

For more information on early voting – please visit

www.vote411.org
www.smartvote.org
www.cavotes.org
bwwla.turbovote.org

ELECTION DAY: TUES. NOVEMBER 6, 2012

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BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS



2012

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY IS A BLACK WOMAN

Created by de Laboulaye, of the French Anti-Slavery Society, with sculptor Bartholdi, and presented from France as a gift to the people of the United States, The Statue of Liberty was designed to recognize Black soldiers who played a pivotal role in winning the Civil War. The statue's original face, modelled after a black woman and her shackles were modified to be less offensive to southern states. The original statue in France is Black.

IMPORTANT DATES

Early voting:
October 9, 2012.
Deadline to register :
October 22, 2012
Last day to get Absentee ballot:
October 30, 2012

ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2012

POLLS OPEN 7 am – 8pm

VOTER • GUIDE



MAKE IT HAPPEN

Election Voting Tips

1. **Polls open 7am –8pm on Election Day, Nov. 6, 2012.** Review and fill out your sample ballot vote early in the day! Going later may result in longer waits.
2. Be prepared to wait in line for at least 2 hours
3. If you take seniors or others who need assistance with voting, cast your vote first
4. Take your time- it is a long ballot
5. Due to the number of the propositions, decision-making regarding the ballot measures will take time, more reason to conduct your research and complete the sample ballot before hand to bring with you
6. Remember, poll workers are people too and might not have all the answers
7. Dress to vote not to campaign
8. After you finish the voting, do not linger -make space for those waiting to vote
9. If you have it, take your I.D. and proof of residence, you do not need an ID to vote in California; but it may be helpful if you have recently re-registered.
10. True democracy takes an informed and active constituency, take your sticker and wear it, this might encourage others to make the time to participate.

In the United States, every worker is permitted by law to take off up to four hours to vote (with or without pay check with your employer). If voting Election Day make arrangements & schedule time to get to the correct precinct to cast your ballot.

Things to have when you vote...

- Your sample ballot
- Any information that can help you vote (i.e. ballot guides) – should be simple & concise – polling booths are tight & lines may be long
- A list of candidates that you want to vote for
- Cheat sheet of how you want to vote on the propositions

Remember ~ Give yourself time to read and vote the entire ballot. With national elections often voters only plan time to vote the top portion of the ballot. Each issue matters please allot time to give the entire ballot attention. Local candidates and legislation also influences daily lives and your active participation in our democracy is important.



BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS

Where to vote

- Your polling place address is printed on the back of the sample ballot booklet you receive by mail from your county elections office. Your polling place may have changed since the last time you voted so please review your sample ballot to verify your polling location. You can also contact your county elections office or call the Secretary of State's toll-free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

Who Can Vote:

- You may register and vote in California if you:
- Are a resident of California
- Were born in the United States and at least 18 years of age (17 year olds can register in advance if their 18th birthday falls on or before election day)
- Have become a naturalized citizen of the U.S. with voting rights

Q. When are naturalized citizens able to register to vote?

A. If you are naturalized before the cut off date for voter registration, register to vote normally. If you are naturalized on or before the election, you may go to the County Election Officials Office with proof of residency and proof of citizenship & register to vote.

Yes – you too can vote:

Ex-felons CAN vote in California as long as they are not on parole. This includes post release, community supervision, or post sentencing probation for a felony.



- People who are on parole, for a non felony conviction can also register to vote. If you have questions about your status, contact the ACLU.
- You may register to vote in elections if you are an inmate:
- Awaiting or on trial for a criminal offense
- Serving time for a traffic or misdemeanor offense
- Serving time in a local jail as a condition of probation

If you are an inmate or the relative of an inmate with one of the three above stated status, contact the Secretary of State for a mail in ballot to exercise your rights to vote while incarcerated.

More information can be learned at this website:

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/sharing-ideas/a-voting-guide-for-inmates.pdf>

Who Cannot Vote

- People found mentally incompetent by a court cannot register to vote.
- People who are currently serving time for a felony
- People who are on parole for a felony conviction are not able to vote- once you have completed parole you are eligible to vote – check your status if you are unsure
- Immigrants who have not naturalized (become an American citizen)
- People under 18 years of age

There are over 50 million women alone able to vote who are not registered? Do you know one? Register her to vote and help a sister get to the polls on Election Day!

Getting Started

Voter Registration Forms:

Registration forms can be found at the county clerk's office and most government offices including the U.S. post office, DMV and public library. Some counties allow you to download the form online, at the following link, www.sos.ca.gov/nvrc/fedform/. Forms can also be mailed to your home address by calling 800-481-VOTE (24 hours) People can register in person, by going down to the registration office or by mail. Or you can register online www.wla.turbovote.org Registration forms can be found in English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese.

Special Circumstances

Homeless

If you do not have an address because of homelessness, you can still register to vote. The federal registration form leaves space for street corners, parks, or shelters to use in lieu of a traditional home address. The best option for a mailing address is to use a shelter that you trust and have access to. Some counties will allow homeless individuals to use their office as a mailing address.

Domestic Abuse / Shelters/Group Homes

If you reside in a domestic abuse shelter/residential shelter or a group home, where confidentiality of the address is critical to the safety of the residents, contact staff about what address to use for registering to vote.

California's Confidential Address Program

If you are in the California Confidential Address program, please contact Safe at Home to register to vote by calling 877-322-5227.



Just Moved

- If you have just moved and want to vote at the polling location in your new neighborhood you will need to re-register to vote. In California you must register by October 22, 2012 to vote in the November election.

- If mailing your registration it must be in the county clerk or registrar's office not simply postmarked by that date. Election Day is Nov. 6th 2012.

- If you are moving November 1, and know your address by October 22, register to vote at your new home in advance of your moving date.

- If you change addresses between October 22, and Nov 6, vote with your former address.

Student

If you are an American Citizen who meets the qualifications to vote (see voting registration requirements), you are able to vote either in the city (if it's in America) where you attend school or the city you are from/permanent address, if it is different. You can vote only once in an election. You CANNOT vote in two different cities or states.

If you are a California Resident but Attend Out of State School you can:

Vote in the California election: If you will not be in town on Election Day but still want to take part in the California election. You must register for an absentee ballot at least one week in advance of the election, using your permanent or home address in California. That date is October 30, 2012, however your ballot must be at the address indicated on the ballot by Nov 6, 2012 at 8:00PM

Vote at your current home address:

You must register to vote in the county where you reside for school. Be aware that rules for registration and voting vary by state, so be sure to check the rules for that state.

If Attending School in California:

- If your permanent address is in California you can register to vote using your school home address or permanent home address. Please consider where you will be during the time of elections and how familiar you are with the local politics of the area. There is always the option of using a mail in (absentee) ballot.

- If your permanent address is out of state but you go to school in and want to vote in California's election, you must register to vote in the county where you currently live to attend school.

Absentee Voting

If you know in advance that you will not be able to vote in person or prefer to vote early or at home, you will need to obtain an absentee ballot. Registered voters must request an absentee ballot at least 7 days in advance of the election.

The deadline to obtain one for this election is October 30, 2012.

There are 4 ways

to request an

absentee ballot,

mail in the sample

ballot mails to you with

a request for a mail in

ballot, use the following

website [http://www.sos.](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/vote-by-mail/pdf/fill-in-vote-by-mail-app-instruct.pdf)

[ca.gov/elections/vote-by-mail/pdf/fill-](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/vote-by-mail/pdf/fill-in-vote-by-mail-app-instruct.pdf)

[in-vote-by-mail-app-instruct.pdf](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/vote-by-mail/pdf/fill-in-vote-by-mail-app-instruct.pdf), go to

the county clerk's office or call 800 481

VOTE (8683)

Early Voting

- Takes place in person at specified polling place or satellite locations.

- Is permitted in Calif. with no specific requirements or reason necessary.

- May take place as soon as 29 days before Election Day, this year early voting begins October 9, 2012.

- Takes place at specific locations including County Clerk offices.

- Early voting dates and locations are printed on the sample ballot sent out by your county.

Enter your zip code at cavotes.org & get details, dates & location. http://www.longdistancevoter.org/early_voting_rules#.UE_g1CKumF4