Election Tool Kit

November 3, 2026 General Election

Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office

@acvote

acvote.alamedacountyca.gov/go

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MISSION STATEMENT

We are dedicated to providing the public with trustworthy election services. At the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office, we strive to:

- Seek better ways to provided services to encourage all eligible residents to exercise the right to vote
- Conduct elections in a fair, accurate, and efficient manner that inspires public confidence in the County elections process
- Maintain a continuous professional level of service to the public
- Develop new techniques to improve outreach services, which acknowledge the diversity of Alameda County

State Mandated Services

The following services provided by the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office are mandated by the California Elections Code, the California Government Code, and the California Constitution.

Voter Registration

Vote-by-Mail

Voter Outreach

Candidate Services

Election Services

ELECTION SECURITY DISCLAIMER

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters prioritizes election security and integrity. Election processes must comply with the election procedures as set by the State of California.

All voters have a right to vote without fear of intimidation, coercion or electioneering. Election workers are trained to recognize and deescalate issues regarding voter intimidation. If election workers need assistance in diffusing the situation, then local law enforcement will be contacted to provide reasonable support.

California Senate Bill 73

On May 27, 2026, California approved the SB 73 to instate more expansive protections for election processes. Here is a non comprehensive list of what these protections entail.

- Peace officers are prohibited from interfering with, accessing, disrupting, modifying or possessing voter information unless authorized by court orders. Guidance must be provided by the Attorney General in regards to law enforcement requests to access areas where ballots are present.
- Election observers are prohibited from challenging a signature on a Vote-by-Mail ballot.
- The Secretary of State or Attorney General is authorized to object to authorization provided by elections officials to station a person in possession of a firearm, a uniformed peace officer, private guard, or security personnel, or any person wearing the uniform of a peace officer, guard, or security personnel, to be stationed in the immediate vicinity of, or posted at, a polling place.
- Existing law authorizes civil action to be taken against any who interfere with, disrupt or tamper with a voting system or voting equipment at any stage of an election. The Secretary of State, Attorney General, and elections officials can also bring a civil action against those that take a package containing ballots from election officials. It is a crime to take possesion of a package containing voted ballots from an elections official.
- Individuals are prohibited from permitting law enforcement agents to access, disrupt, modify, or take possession of voting technology unless authorized by a court order.

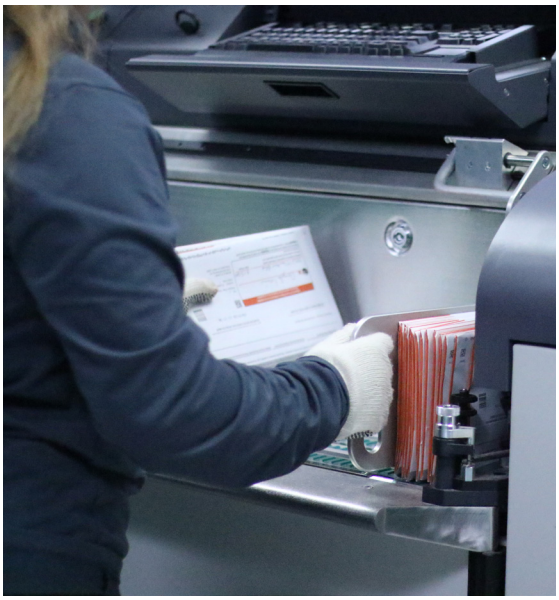
OBSERVATION OF ELECTION PROCESSING

We are committed to transparency and integrity of our election processes and provide two methods to observe our work. We offer in-person visits and host live streams directly from our website.

Members of the public are welcome to observe our operations. If you would like to be an observer, call (510) 272-6973 for more information. You can also watch our live streams at https://acvote.alamedacountyca.gov/obs

Did you know? You can opt in to receive notifications about observing ballot processing during this election cycle. You can receive SMS or email notifications. https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAALAME/subscriber/new?topic_id=CAALAME_448

SCHEDULE FOR ELECTION PROCESSES



Begins Monday, September 28th
Testing of the Election Equipment

Begins Thursday, October 8th
Vote-by-Mail Envelope Scanning and Sorting
Signature Checking
Ballot Opening/Extraction

Begins Wednesday, October 14th
Adjudication and Remakes

Begins Friday, October 23rd
Ballot Scanning

MEDIA AT THE VOTE CENTERS

Voting, by nature, is a public process. Media are allowed to film near the Vote Centers while election-related activities occur. However, media must follow the ROV's guidelines to ensure voter safety and election security.

Allowed:

- Visiting the Vote Center during normal business hours
- Asking Election Workers about the voting process
- Conducting exit poll interviews with voters under the following conditions:
  - ◇ The voter has consented to the interview
  - ◇ The interview is taken at minimum, 25 feet away from all entrances to the Vote Center
  - ◇ Personal information, completed paper ballots, and/or on-screen touchscreen ballots is NOT visible*

Not Allowed:

- Interfering with election process
- Blocking the entrances, exits, or pathways to Vote Centers
- Conducting interviews with Elections Workers while they are actively assisting voters
- Touching voting equipment
- Under no conditions should media capture footage of:
  - ◇ Voters entering or exiting the Vote Center without the voters' permission
  - ◇ Voters and election workers who express that they do not want to be photographed

*Photos and videos containing voters' ballots (paper ballot and touch screen ballot) cannot contain any visible information.

ELECTION OVERVIEW

All registered voters in Alameda County are eligible to vote in the November 3, 2026 General Election.

This election is being held to decide a variety of both voter-nominated and nonpartisan offices, along with deciding on county wide and region specific measures and bonds.

Voter-Nominated Offices: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary Of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, State Board of Equalization 2nd District, United States Representative, State Senator, State Assembly Member
Nonpartisan Offices: School, City, & District Contests.
Measures & Bonds: Regional measures, and measures affecting Dublin, San Lorenzo, Sunol Glen, Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Hayward, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, Pleasanton, & Union City.

Voters will begin receiving their Vote-by-Mail Ballots on October 5, 2026 and can begin utilizing Official 24-Hour Ballot Drop Boxes to cast their vote. Starting October 24, 2026 voters can choose to vote in-person at one of our 20, 11-day Vote Centers. Starting October 31, 2026 an additional 80 Vote Centers will be available.

ELECTION TIMELINE

October 5, 2026
First Day of Mailing Vote by Mail Ballots

Mailing begins 29 days before Election Day. All Alameda County registered voters will receive their ballot in the mail. Official 24-Hour Ballot Drop Boxes open for early voting.

October 8, 2026
Start of Vote by Mail Processing

Vote by Mail ballots begin the verification process. All ballots are sorted and signature checked before being counted.

October 19, 2026
Close of Registration Period

New voters and voters who wish to update their registration must do so before this date to Vote-by-Mail in this election. Otherwise, they may be required to visit a Vote Center to vote in-person.

October 24, 2026
10-Day Vote Centers Open

There will be 20 Vote Centers open 10 days before Election Day for in-person voting.

October 27, 2026
Last Day to Request a Replacement Ballot

Voters can request a new ballot to be mailed to them by calling our office at (510) 272-6973.

October 31, 2026
4-Day Vote Centers Open

An additional 80 Vote Centers open 4 days before Election Day for in-person voting. 100 total Vote Centers will be available daily.

November 3, 2026
Election Day

All ballots must be cast or postmarked before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. It is encouraged to vote early at a Vote Centers or at one of our Official 24-hour Ballot Drop Boxes.

November 16, 2026
Random Selection for the 1% Manual Tally

Batches will be selected to prepare for a manual tally as instructed by elections code. This is to ensure the security and accuracy of voting machines.

November 18, 2026
1% Manual Tally

The manual tally will be conducted by elections officials at the Registrar of Voters' Office. Online observation will be available on our website.

Election Results Schedule

Friday, November 6, 2026
1st Unofficial Elections Results Update

Monday, November 9, 2026
2nd Unofficial Elections Results Update

Friday, November 13, 2026
3rd Unofficial Elections Results Update

Monday, November 16, 2026
4th Unofficial Elections Results Update

INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Election Information
ACVOTE.AlamedaCountyCA.gov/go

AC Vote on the Go
(510) 272-6973 or onthego@acgov.org

REGISTRATION

Registration Data
https://alamedacountyca.gov/rov_app/edata

Verify your Registration Address
https://alamedacountyca.gov/rovmvp_app/login

Re-Register to Vote
registertovote.ca.gov

VOTING LOCATIONS

Drop Stops
https://acvote.alamedacountyca.gov/dropstop

Official 24-Hour Ballot Drop Box
https://alamedacountyca.gov/rovapps/maps/ballotdropbox_map.htm

Vote Centers
https://alamedacountyca.gov/rov_app/vcalist

Apply Today
https://acvote.alamedacountyca.gov/community/become-an-election-worker

Become an Election Worker

Want to be a part of the elections process? Join us in successfully running over 100 Accessible Voting Locations throughout Alameda County.

Those who are eligible to serve as an Election Worker on Election Day on Election Night:

- Registered Voter of Alameda County or the State of California
- Legal Permanent Residents/Green Card Holders
- High School Student Election Workers
- Alameda County Employees
- California State Employees

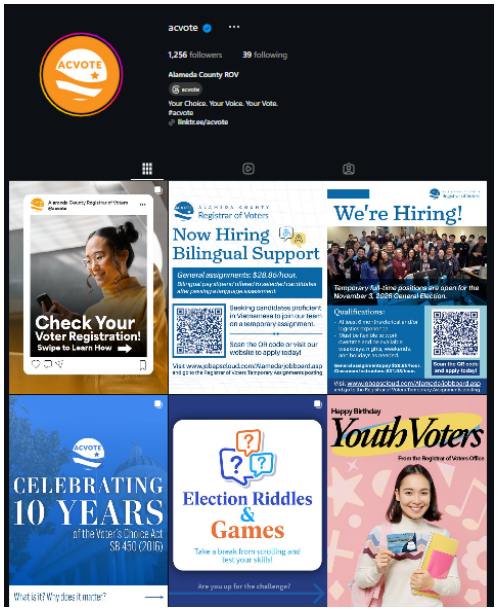
Bilingual workers are strongly encouraged to apply!

ADVERTISING

To promote the November 3, 2026 General Election, we will be advertising on billboards, busses, and on social media. Our campaign, "From Your Hands to Ours," is meant to promote trust, reliability, and security in submitting their ballot by utilizing Official 24-Hour Ballot Drop Box or Vote Centers.

Did you find one of our billboards?
Take a selfie and tag us @acvote!

SOCIAL MEDIA



Our official social media accounts will be posting regularly to inform voters about crucial deadlines, drop stop events, and more. We encourage Alameda County voters to follow @acvote on Instagram and Facebook to stay updated on important election information.

Scan the QR code to find our Instagram, Facebook, main website, election results, and more.

VOTER REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Reported on September 29, 2026

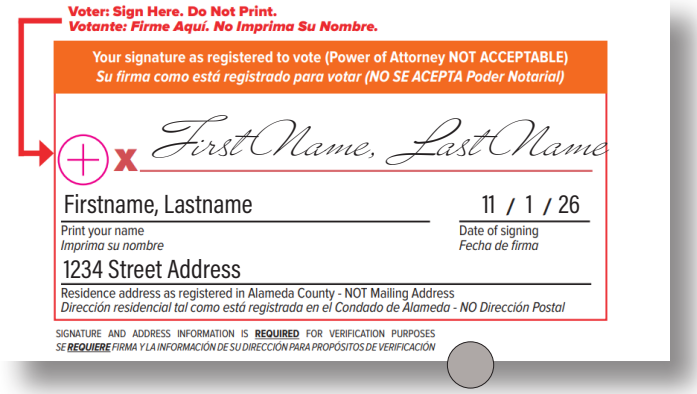
Registration	Percentage	Voters
Military & Overseas	1.0%	10,277
Permanent Vote-by-Mail	90.6%	888,130
Total Registration	100.0%	980,607
Registration by Party	**Percentage**	**Voters**
American Independent	2.9%	28,284
Democratic	57.6%	564,767
Green	0.7%	7,134
Libertarian	0.7%	6,409
No Party Preference	25.1%	245,781
Other	0.5%	4,791
Peace and Freedom	0.7%	6,557
Republican	11.9%	116,884
Registration by Language	**Percentage**	**Voters**
Chinese	2.2%	21,910
English	95.4%	935,492
Spanish	1.8%	17,299
Tagalog	0.1%	1,097
Vietnamese	0.5%	4,809
Pre-registration		**Voters**
Youth Registered		6,029

Note: The Pre-Registration total also represents Alameda County youth ages 16 to 17 who meet voter eligibility requirements in Albany, Oakland, and Berkeley.

Registration data is subject to change. Current data is available on our website. Scan the QR code to visit our data page and view interactive election and voter registration data for Alameda County.

VOTE-BY-MAIL INSTRUCTIONS

All registered voters will receive a Vote-by-Mail Ballot at their registered address. Voters are to complete their ballot cards, insert them into the orange return envelope, seal it, and sign it. They can cast it by mail, at an Official 24-Hour Ballot Drop Box, or at a Vote Center.



Need a replacement envelope? You can call our office (510) 272-6973 or visit a Vote Center for assistance.

Sign Your Return Envelope

Print your name, address, and date of complete on the back of your return envelope. The red arrow, X, and circular cut-out will guide you to the signature line. You must sign your return envelope in order for your ballot to be verified and counted. If the signature is missing or does not match the signature on file, then you will be contacted to cure your ballot.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

October 5, 2026	**First Day of Mailing Vote-by-Mail Ballots**
October 8, 2026	**Vote-by-Mail Processing Begins**
October 19, 2026	**Close of Registration Period**
October 27, 2026	**Last Day to Request a Replacement Vote-by-Mail Ballot to be Mailed**
November 3, 2026	**Election Day**

WHERE TO VOTE

Voters can cast their completed Vote-by-Mail Ballot to any Official 24-Hour Ballot Drop Box, at a Vote Center, or by mail. There will also be Ballot Drop Stops as we draw closer to the election.

Official 24-Hour Ballot Drop Box

Official 24-Hour Ballot Drop Boxes will be available throughout Alameda County. Each ballot cast is brought directly to the Registrar of Voters' Office by our election support teams.

Vote Centers

There will be a total of 100 Vote Centers open in Alameda County. On October 24, there will be 20 Vote Centers open for 10-day early voting. On October 31, the remaining 80 will begin operations, resulting in 100 Vote Centers open for 4-day early voting.

Ballot Drop Stop

As the election draws closer, our election outreach teams will set up Ballot Drop Stops. Here, you can easily cast your ballot from the comfort of your vehicle.

ACVOTE on the GO

Need us to come to you? We attend to voters that are hospitalized, individuals with disabilities, and those confined to their homes for other medical emergencies. If you need us to collect your ballot, then sign up for the On The Go program by calling (510) 272-6973, or emailing onthego@acgov.org.

VOTING SYSTEMS & PROCESSING

Dominion Democracy Suite

Poll Pads

An electronic roster book allowing voters to visit any Alameda County Voter Center.

Voter Information Guide & Ballot On-Demand Printing

All ballot types and languages can be printed by request.

Accessible Ballot Marking Devices

Voters can mark their ballot using a touchscreen and cast the printed ballot.

Vote-by-Mail Sorting

Ballot return envelopes run through a machine that captures and uploads the envelope and signature data into the Election Management System.

Signature Verification

Election staff visually compare signatures of the voter's return envelope and voter registration. They flag any problems as challenged and reach out to the voter to correct it.

Opening

Election staff extract ballots from their envelopes and determine if further inspection/action is required.

Adjudication

Election staff determine voter intent and correct ballots if needed. Ballots are also remade if marked as damaged.

Ballot Scanning

Ballots are scanned, sorted, and stored securely.

Random Selection of Batches

After Election Day, officials select one percent of all ballots counted randomly for the 1% manual tally. This marks a batch of ballots to be counted by hand in order to verify that the ballot machines are running accurately.

1% Manual Tally

Ballots are pulled from the randomly selected batch. A team of three election workers compare the paper ballots to make sure there are no errors. This process goes through multiple checks.

For more detailed information, visit:
https://acvote.alamedacountyca.gov/obs

LANGUAGE SUPPORT

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters offers language assistance in 18 different languages.

Languages:

- **English***
- Bengali
- Burmese
- **Chinese***
- Hindi
- Japanese
- Khmer
- Korean
- Laotian
- Lu Mien
- Malay
- Mongolian
- Punjabi
- **Spanish***
- **Tagalog***
- Telugu
- Urdu
- **Vietnamese***

Fully Supported Languages

Ballots and Voter Information Guides are available in **English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese.**

Voters can update their language preferences by visiting ACVOTE.AlamedaCountyCA.gov/mvp

OR

Voters can call 1 (800) 834-6454 to request a ballot or voter information guide in one of the five bold languages.

Facsimile Ballots

Facsimile ballots are reference ballots that a voter can use to mark their ballot. Facsimile ballots for the languages presented in the left box are also available upon request in all Vote Centers. Requesters must be registered voters who live in a precinct identified as needing language support in the language requested.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Have a question that's not listed here?
Call (510) 272-6982 or our TOLL-FREE 1(800) 834-6454 for assistance.

Voter Registration

How Can I Register to Vote?

- *Online:* You can register to vote at **registertovote.ca.gov**
- *By mail:* Mail-in registration forms are widely available at most County buildings, post offices, libraries, and Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) offices.
- *In person:* Visit us at the Alameda County Registrar of Voter's office in Oakland, 1225 Fallon Street, Room G-1, Oakland, CA 94612, or at one of the community events that our outreach team attends year round.

What if my name, address, or political party affiliations change?

- Fill out and submit a new voter registration form with your new information.

Can I Register and Vote If I Don't Have a Permanent Address?

- Yes. Voters experiencing homelessness can register using a cross street of their current location or a temporary residence. A mailing address is still required to receive the election materials.

Can I Vote If I Missed the Registration Deadline?

- You can still vote through conditional voter registration at any Alameda Vote Center after the registration deadline, only if you are an eligible voter.

I Just Moved and Did Not Re-register, Am I Still Eligible to Vote?

- If you were previously registered in Alameda County and have not re-registered since you moved within the County's borders, you can vote at the Vote Center using your new address. You will be asked to vote using a provisional ballot and provide your new address and your previous address on the provisional ballot envelope.

Can I Update My Voter Registration Information At A Vote Center?

- Yes, you can update your registration at any Vote Center in Alameda County.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Have a question that's not listed here?
Call (510) 272-6982 or our TOLL-FREE 1(800) 834-6454 for assistance.

Vote-by-Mail

What is Vote-by-Mail?

- Vote-by-Mail allows voters to cast a ballot without going to a Vote Center.

  The Registrar of Voters' Office mails a ballot to the registered voter's address beginning 29 days prior to an election. The voter can also return it in person to the office or to any Vote Center on Election Day to be counted.

Can Someone Else Drop Off My Ballot?

- Yes, but they have to fill out the appropriate information on the back of the VBM return envelope (usually located on the flap of the envelope).

What If I Will Be Out Of Town When The Ballots Are Mailed?

- You may call (510) 272-6973 to request that your ballot be sent to the address where you will located.

I Still Have Not Received My Ballot, What Do I Do?

- Vote-by-Mail Ballots begin mailing out on October 5, 2026. If you don't recieve your ballot within two weeks of this date, you can call the Registrar of Voter's Office at (510) 272-6973 for a replacement ballot.

What If I Forget to Sign My Envelope?

- If we get your ballot at least two weeks before the election and you have forgotten to sign it, you will receive a notice to cure your ballot and confirm that you cast the vote.

How Can I Check The Status Of My Ballot?

- You can visit acvote.alamedacountyca.gov/mvp to track your Vote-by-Mail Ballot.

Do I Have To Vote For Every Race On The Ballot?

- No, you are not required to vote for every race on the your ballot. Vote for *no more than the authorized number of candidates.*

How Can You Be Sure The Ballot I Have Returned Belongs To Me?

- When your ballot is returned, we check your name, address, and signature against the voter records. If everything matches, your ballot is counted.

STAYING INFORMED

You can always find important information about specific elections on our website at:

https://acvote.alamedacountyca.gov/election-information/elections

Just click on the election or the dropdown menu and select your election to see information such as: results, who is eligible, voting locations, important dates, what's on the ballot, and measures.

You can also stay informed about elections by signing up for Alameda County E-Subscriptions, or by following our social media accounts.

Follow us on social media @acvote

We post information about each election on our Instagram and Facebook accounts.

Alameda County E-Subscriptions

Did you know? You can subscribe electronically to receive Election results updates by email or SMS/text message.

https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAALAME/subscriber/new?topic_id=CAALAME_9

Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office
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Contact us
(510) 272-6973