

## What if my name isn't on the Roster of Voters at the polls Election Day?

If your name is not on the Roster of Voters at the polling place, the poll workers will offer you a "provisional ballot."

## What is a "provisional ballot?"

A "provisional ballot" is an official ballot that the voter puts inside a special envelope called a "provisional envelope." The voter fills out and signs the form on the envelope. The ballot inside the envelope is counted after election day **provided** the voter is registered to vote in Marin County and has not voted elsewhere in that election.

## Why would my name not be on the Roster of Voters at the polls?

The most common reasons are:

- You are in the wrong polling place, or
- You changed your name and did not re-register to vote, or
- You moved to a new precinct within Marin County but did not re-register to vote, or
- You never registered to vote in Marin County

***Election mail cannot be forwarded. Be sure to register to vote if you move or change your name, otherwise you will not receive election mail and your name may not be on the Roster at your polling place.***

## **BE A POLL WORKER ON ELECTION DAY**

***....Experience an election from behind the Official Table at the polls....***

***....Meet your neighbors and provide a vital service to Marin County....***

Poll workers must be registered voters in California. The County pays a stipend based on the job duties. Call (415) 473-6439 or look on our website at [www.marinvotes.org](http://www.marinvotes.org) for an application and more information.



## **VOTING BY MAIL**

**Voting by mail and voting at the Elections' Office begins 29 days before the election.**

### **What is voting by mail?**

Voting by mail is also called absentee voting. It means you get your ballot in the mail before the election and you can vote and return it by mail.

### **Can I vote by mail in every election?**

Yes. Any voter can become a permanent mail ballot voter and receive a ballot for every election by applying for **permanent mail voter status**.

### **How do I apply to vote by mail?**

Fill out the *Application for a Mail Ballot*, which is attached to the back cover of your Voter Information Pamphlet. If you want to vote by mail permanently, check the box on the application that asks if you want to vote by mail for future elections, or send a letter requesting a mail ballot to the Elections' office at the address on this brochure.

### **How do I return my ballot?**

Return your voted ballot by mail before Election Day, or return it to any polling place or to the Elections' Office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. ***Mail early – your ballot must be received by the Elections' Office no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.***

### **Can I vote at the polls even though I applied to vote by mail?**

Yes. Just return your mail ballot to a poll worker who will invalidate it and give you a precinct ballot.

**WHEN YOU VOTE, YOU COUNT!**

**REGISTER AND VOTE  
IT'S YOUR RIGHT!**

**A GUIDE TO VOTING  
IN MARIN COUNTY**



Marin County Elections' Office  
Marin Civic Center  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 121  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
Hours: 8:00 – 4:30  
Monday – Friday

*Mailing Address:*  
Marin Civic Center, P.O. Box E  
San Rafael, CA 94913

Phone: (415) 473-6456  
Fax: (415) 473-6447  
[www.marinvotes.org](http://www.marinvotes.org)

## **VOTING IN MARIN COUNTY**

### **Why vote?**

Do your elected representatives:

- Express your views?
- Communicate with your community?
- Work hard to improve your community
- Spend your tax dollars wisely?



***When you vote, you help decide who will represent you and your interests. When you vote, you count!***

### **Who can vote in Marin County?**

U.S Citizens who are registered to vote in Marin County no later than 15 days before an election.

### **Who can register to vote?**

Persons who meet **all** of the following requirements:

- United States Citizen
- Resident of California
- 18 years of age by Election Day
- Not in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony
- Not determined to be mentally incompetent by a Judge

### **How do I register to vote?**

Fill out a voter registration form, sign it, and mail it or deliver it to the County Elections Office. Forms are available at post offices, libraries, fire stations, DMV offices, and City Clerks' offices or by calling the Elections' Office at (415) 473-6456. A form can be mailed to you at your request.

### **What information do I need to put on the form?**

- Name
- Address where you live (homeless voters can put the address of a shelter or description of where they sleep at night.)
- Address where you get your mail, if different
- Date of birth and birthplace
- CA driver's license number or CA identification card number — If you don't have either number, then you must provide the last 4 digits of your Social Security number.

### **How do I find out if I am registered to vote?**

Call the Elections' Office at (415) 473-6456

### **When should I register to vote?**

Register to vote when you move, change your name, or get out of prison or off parole for the conviction of a felony. Your registration form must be postmarked no later than 15 calendar days before an election in order for you to be eligible to vote in that election.

### **How can I vote?**

- Vote at your polling place on election day, or
- Vote by mail ballot beginning 29 days before the election, or
- Vote at the Elections' Office beginning 29 days before the election.

### **OBSERVE THE ELECTION PROCESS**

Anyone can observe the election process. Notices of election events are posted at [www.marinvotes.org](http://www.marinvotes.org) before every election.

## **VOTING AT THE POLLS**

**Election Day voting hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**



### **How do I find out where my polling place is?**

- The address of your polling place is printed on the back cover of your Voter Information Pamphlet which is mailed to all registered voters within 40 days of an election
- Visit our website at [www.marinvotes.org](http://www.marinvotes.org)
- Call the Elections' Office at (415) 473-6456.

### **Do I need identification to vote?**

The only voters who will be asked for ID at the polls are those who registered to vote by mail, but didn't provide a drivers' license number on their voter registration form and are voting for the first time in a federal election in California.

### **What happens when I go to the polls?**

- First, a poll worker will ask you to sign the Roster of Voters.
- Second, if you wish, the poll worker will show you how to mark the ballot.
- Third, the poll worker will give you a ballot and secrecy folder and direct you to a voting booth.
- Finally, you mark your ballot and take it to the ballot box.

***If you need assistance,  
the poll workers will help you.***