

Ways to Vote

The State of California and the City of Long Beach provide two methods of casting your ballot. You may use a traditional polling place on the date of the election, or you may cast your ballot in the Vote-by-Mail process. Each method is a valid way to exercise your voting franchise.

Casting your ballot at a polling place is as old as our country. Poll workers are on hand to assist you in understanding the proper procedure for marking the ballot, assist those with disabilities of any nature, and provide language assistance if needed.

Vote-by-Mail has been available to all voters for several years. Eligible voters may request a vote-by-mail ballot approximately a month prior to the election and vote that ballot from the privacy of their home. A new option in recent years is the ability to declare yourself a permanent vote-by-mail voter. Each election a ballot will automatically be sent to your residence or mailing address without requesting it.

Detailed information on ways to vote follows below in a series of questions and answers. Remember! It does not matter how you vote, just vote.

Where do I go to vote/where is my polling place?

Your polling place location is printed on the back cover of your sample ballot booklet. Please check the polling place address for each election because locations often change. Also, poll locations are available at www.LAVOTE.net or by calling (562) 570-6101.

What are the poll hours of operation?

Polling places are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Why was my polling place changed?

In California, there are no permanent polling sites. Locations may change from election to election if a facility previously used is not available for a particular election. Changes to precinct boundaries may sometimes occur when precincts are consolidated or realigned, especially for local elections that are not statewide. Voters should refer to their sample ballot pamphlet to make sure that they go to the correct polling place location.

What do I do if my polling place is not open when I arrive election morning?

Check the address on the back cover of your sample ballot pamphlet to make sure you have gone to the right location. Polling places often change between elections. If you are at the correct location, call the City Clerk Department at (562) 570-6101 to report that the polling place is not open.

Can I take my sample ballot or my own written voting choices into the voting booth?

Yes. It is recommended that you mark your voting choices in your sample ballot and take it to your poll location on Election Day to use as a reference. This will allow you to vote your ballot quickly. Remember to take your sample ballot out of the voting booth after you have completed voting.

If I do not know what to do when I get to the polling place, will someone help me?

Yes. Ask the election poll workers to help you with the voting process. Poll workers are forbidden to help you in making decisions on your voting choices.

Can I vote for someone whose name is not listed on the ballot?

Yes, if the person is a qualified write-in candidate. Only votes for qualified write-in candidates will be counted. Ask election poll workers or call the City Clerk Department for a list of those candidates. The poll worker or City Clerk Department staff can assist you with write-in voting procedures.

Who may vote-by-mail?

Any registered voter may apply to vote-by-mail.

How Can I vote a vote-by-mail ballot?

Rather than going to the polling place to cast a ballot on Election Day, you may request a vote-by-mail ballot. Any registered voter may apply for a vote-by-mail ballot. Applying is easy. Simply select one of the following options:

- By [Mail: 1](#)) Complete the vote-by-mail ballot application that is on the back cover of the sample ballot pamphlet (sent to you prior to each election) and mail to the City Clerk Department.
- By [Mail: 2](#)) Send a signed letter requesting a vote-by-mail ballot to the Long Beach City Clerk Department, 333 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802.
- By Fax: The completed application or signed letter may also be faxed to the City Clerk Department at (562) 570-6789. If you apply in writing or by fax, your request must include your name, your residence/home address, the mailing address where you want your vote-by-mail ballot to be sent and the name and the date of the election for which you are applying. Remember to sign and date your request!
- By Internet: Download and complete a vote-by-mail ballot application and fax back to the City Clerk Department at (562) 570-6789. Further information can be obtained by calling the City Clerk Department Vote-By-Mail Section at (562) 570-6101.

When can I apply for a vote-by-mail ballot?

29 days prior to the election is the first day to submit vote-bymail ballot requests. You may apply sooner than 29 days prior; however the vote-by-mail ballot will be mailed out 29 days prior to the election.