Signing up to Vote

You must register to vote to get on the list of voters for the March election. The deadline to register for this election is February 18. You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, not currently in state or federal prison or on parole for a felony, and not court-determined to be mentally incompetent to vote. Fill out the registration form online at registertovote.ca.gov or call 1-800-345-8683 to get a form.

When you sign up to vote, you decide if you want to choose a “political party.” There are six political parties in California. Or you can register without choosing a political party.

If you missed the deadline, then go to any polling place or vote center. You will be able to register and vote on the same day - all the way up through Election Day. If you go to your assigned location, then your ballot will be sure to include all the contests on which you’re allowed to vote. Find your location at sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place.

About the March 3, 2020 Primary Election

In this “primary” election, voters will choose candidates to run against each other in the November election. In this election you can vote for:

- President
- Representatives in U.S. Congress and the California State Legislature
- A proposed law for California, Proposition 13 School Bond
- Other candidates and proposed laws depending on where you live

You do not have to vote on everything! Whatever you choose to vote on, your vote will count.

February 18, 2020
Last day to register to vote in this election.

February 25, 2020
Last day to request a “vote by mail” ballot.

March 3, 2020
ELECTION DAY Your polling place is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Esta guía también está disponible en español  本指南也有中文版  Bản hướng dẫn này cũng có bằng tiếng Việt  또한 이 안내서는 한국어로도 제공됩니다
The political party you choose will decide which candidates for President appear on your ballot.

If you register without choosing a political party, there is still a way you can vote for a candidate for President:

- Three of the political parties, American Independent, Democratic, and Libertarian, will allow voters with “no party preference” to ask for their ballots in the March 3 election.
- But if you want to vote on presidential candidates for the Green, Peace & Freedom, or Republican Party then you must re-register and select that party.

Proposition 13  Bonds for Schools and Colleges

The way it is now: One of the ways state government supports public education is by providing money to build and repair school and college buildings. This money usually comes from bonds.

What Prop 13 would do if it passes: Prop 13 would allow the state to sell $15 billion in new bonds to help build and repair schools, including:

- $9 billion for preschools and K-12 schools
- $6 billion for public universities and community colleges

Schools could use this money to make buildings safer, to construct new buildings, or to increase the amount of student housing. Prop 13 would also increase the amount of money local school districts could raise by selling their own bonds. Districts with less money could also apply for more help from the state to pay for construction projects.

Effect on the state budget: The state would spend about $740 million per year for the next 35 years to repay the bonds. The effect on local governments would depend on the choices that school districts and universities make about building repairs and new buildings.

What a bond? Bonds are a way for governments to borrow money, usually for things that last a long time like buildings or bridges. The government sells bonds to get money now and pays them back with interest over many years.