

# Your Vote. Your Voice.

June 5, 2012 • California Primary Election

**How will we choose candidates for President?**

**What is new in this election?**

**What are the two state propositions about?**



## About this Election

In 2012, voters will choose a President and lawmakers to represent them in national and state government. The results of California's June primary election will decide which candidates move on to the November general election.

Voters will also be asked to vote on two state propositions. One is about how many times state lawmakers can run for reelection. The other is about a tobacco tax. You may also have local government offices on your ballot. All registered voters will receive a Sample Ballot listing everything you can vote on.

### **ARE YOU SIGNED UP TO VOTE?**

If you are already signed up to vote, you do not have to reregister unless your name or address has changed or you want to change your party preference.

See the back cover of this guide for more information about how to get on the official list of voters in your county.

This nonpartisan *Easy Voter Guide* is for new and busy voters.

Visit [www.easyvoterguide.org](http://www.easyvoterguide.org) to order copies or download this guide in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean.

### **VOTING REMINDER**

#### **MAY 21, 2012**

Deadline to register to vote in this election.

#### **MAY 29, 2012**

Last day for your county elections office to receive your written request for a "vote by mail" ballot.

#### **JUNE 5, 2012**

#### **ELECTION DAY**

Your polling place is open from 7 a.m. to 8 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

# ★ What Is New in this Election?

## Different election districts:

Who you are voting for and where you vote may change. Which lawmakers represent you depends on which “districts” you live in. Every ten years the district lines get redrawn based on the Census. In California, voters passed a law about a new way of setting up the revised districts. This is the first election using the new district lines.

## Different way of choosing candidates:

You will still choose candidates for President based on your political party. But other offices will use a new “Top Two” vote-getter system approved by voters.

- **For President:** Voters from each political party choose who will be their nominee. The candidates with the most votes from each party run against each other in the November election.
- **For other elected offices:** All voters will choose from the same list of candidates. The two candidates with the most votes will advance to the November election, regardless of what party they are.

Major offices in this election year	Term	On your June ballot	On your November ballot
President	4 years	Only candidates from your party*	The winning candidate from each party
U.S. Senate U.S. House of Representatives State Senate State Assembly	6 years 2 years 4 years 2 years	All candidates from all parties	The two candidates with the most votes from the June election

\* If you are not registered with a political party, your ballot will not have any candidates for President. Two of the political parties, Democratic and American Independent, will allow “no party preference” voters to ask for their ballots in the June 5 election. If you want to vote on presidential candidates for another party, you need to reregister and select that party. The deadline to register for this election is May 21.

Your county elections office will mail a Sample Ballot to all registered voters in your county before the election. Your Sample Ballot will list everything you can vote on.

Four out of five California voters are registered with a political party. For more information about the parties, visit [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_f.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_f.htm).

## For more nonpartisan information about this election, visit these websites:

- [www.easyvoterguide.org](http://www.easyvoterguide.org) User-friendly information in five languages for new and busy voters.
- [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org) Look up your personal ballot and polling place.
- [www.sos.ca.gov/elections](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections) In-depth Voter Information Guide in different languages.

Propositions are proposed laws presented to the public to vote on. This guide has short descriptions of the two statewide propositions being decided by California voters in the June 5, 2012 election.

## 28 Limits on State Lawmakers' Terms in Office

### The way it is now:

In 1990, Californians voted to put limits on how many times state lawmakers could be reelected for the same office. A member of the State Assembly is limited to three two-year terms. A member of the State Senate is limited to two four-year terms. Generally, the most a person can serve in the State Legislature is a combined total of 14 years.

### What Prop 28 would do if it passes:

Decrease the combined total years a person could serve in the State Legislature to 12 years, but allow future lawmakers to run for reelection for the same office more times. A person could serve those 12 years as six two-year terms in the State Assembly, three four-year terms in the State Senate, or some split of time between the two houses. This change would only apply to members of the State Legislature first elected after this June 5, 2012 election.

### Effect on the state budget:

There would be no direct effect on the state budget.



### People for Prop 28 say:

- Prop 28 would decrease the combined total years a person could serve in the State Legislature.

[www.cafreshstart.com](http://www.cafreshstart.com)



### People against Prop 28 say:

- Prop 28 would increase the years a person could serve in one house of the State Legislature.

[www.28no.org](http://www.28no.org)

## 29 Tobacco Tax

### The way it is now:

California collects different kinds of taxes on the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products. One of these is an 87-cent "excise" tax that raises money for specific purposes. In 2010-11, this tax raised more than \$900 million.

### What Prop 29 would do if it passes:

Add a \$1 excise tax on a pack of cigarettes for a total excise tax of \$1.87 per pack (with an equivalent amount on other tobacco products). The money raised from the new tax would be used by a Cancer Research Citizen's Oversight Committee to fund cancer and tobacco-related disease research. The new tax would also pay for prevention and stop-smoking programs, and would support a new tobacco law enforcement fund.

### Effect on the state budget:

In 2013-14, the new tax would generate almost \$800 million for the activities described above. The higher prices of tobacco products caused by the new tax would increase state and local sales tax revenues by about \$10 million to \$20 million per year. Future amounts could be lower as tobacco use continues to decline.



### People for Prop 29 say:

- Taxing tobacco saves lives. The \$1 tobacco tax will be paid only by those who choose to use tobacco.

[www.californiansforacure.org](http://www.californiansforacure.org)



### People against Prop 29 say:

- California can't afford a new spending committee that lacks accountability and duplicates other programs.

[www.noon29.org](http://www.noon29.org)

### Choosing to Vote "Yes" or "No" on a Proposition

- a "Yes" vote means that you support the way the proposition would change things
- a "No" vote means that you want to leave things the way they are

# Voting is as easy as 1-2-3!

CALIFORNIA PRIMARY ELECTION  
TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2012

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## SIGN UP



- You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older.
- You must register to get on the official list of voters in your county. The deadline to register is May 21 to vote in the June 5 election.
- You can pick up a voter registration form at a library or post office. Or, have a registration form mailed to you by calling 1-800-345-8683.
- It is important to fill out the form completely. You will be asked to include your driver license number or other identification.
- Once you are on the list, you only need to reregister if you change your address, change your name, or want to change your political party.

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## GET READY



- Before you vote, it helps to learn about what you will be voting on.
- All registered voters receive two things in the mail:
  - 1) a Sample Ballot that lists everything that will be on your ballot along with where you vote (your “polling place”)
  - 2) an official Voter Information Guide about statewide candidates and measures
- In addition to this *Easy Voter Guide*, you can visit the Smart Voter website at [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org) for more information about everything on your ballot plus a handy way to find your polling place.

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## VOTE!



- You choose whether to vote at your polling place or use a “vote by mail” ballot.
- For voting in person, the polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. You may also be able to vote before election day at your county elections office. If you registered and your name is not on the list of voters at your assigned polling place, you can vote using a “provisional ballot.”
- To vote by mail, use the form in your Sample Ballot to request a “vote by mail” ballot to be sent to you. The deadline to ask for one is May 29. When your “vote by mail” ballot comes, fill it out and mail it back *in time for it to arrive by election day*. You may also drop it off at any polling place in your county on election day. You can sign up to get a “vote by mail” ballot for every election.

### ABOUT THE EASY VOTER GUIDE

The *Easy Voter Guide* has been providing new voters and busy voters with nonpartisan information for statewide elections in California since 1994. Community reviewers help ensure the guide is easy to read and understand. The proposition explanations in this guide are based on information from the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office. The arguments for and against each proposition are taken from the arguments in the Secretary of State’s Official Voter Information Guide and other sources.

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information presented in the *Easy Voter Guide*. Additional information made available after the guide is printed and any other corrections are posted at [www.easylvoterguide.org](http://www.easylvoterguide.org). Please send questions or suggestions about this guide to [easyvoter@lwvc.org](mailto:easyvoter@lwvc.org).

The *Easy Voter Guide* is made possible in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the California State Librarian.

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