**Why Should I Vote?**

Over the last 6 years, you’ve watched people all over the world put their lives at stake to elect their governments, to hold accountable those in office, and to make sure that the interests of the people guide the actions of the state. Here in the U.S., it’s your right to cast a ballot.

Whether you are interested in school improvements, better roads, or lower taxes; whether your priority is immigration reform or loosening restrictions on small businesses; whether you’re concerned about government accountability, environmental protection, or U.S. foreign policy- the ballot box is where you get to choose your city priorities, your state laws, and our federal policies.

**Deadlines**

Voter registration deadline: October 24, 2016
Absentee application deadline: TBD (typically a week before Election Day)
Absentee ballot deadline: TBD (typically the same day as Election Day)

**How To Vote**

To find out if you are eligible to vote in California, for information on how to register to vote, to find your polling place, and to access online forms, please visit the Secretary of State’s website at [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/) or call 1-800-345-8683.

**Who Is Running?**

For information on candidates please visit [www.aaiusa.org/California](http://www.aaiusa.org/California).

**Do I Need an ID to Vote?**

California State law does not require you to provide proof of identification to cast a ballot unless you are voting for the first time and did not provide a photo ID at the time of registration. In any case it is advisable to bring a valid photo ID. Acceptable forms of identification are:

- Driver’s license or state-issued ID card
- Passport
- Employee ID card
- Credit or debit card
- Military ID
- Student ID
- Health club ID
- Insurance plan ID

**Early Voting**

California allows its residents to cast their ballots in person ahead of election day. Early voting begins 29 days before the election and ends the Monday before Election Day. Please be aware that early voting polling locations are often different than Election Day polling places, contact your County Elections Office to find a polling location near you [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_d.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_d.htm).

**Absentee Voting**

If you are not able to make it to the polls on Election Day, you can apply to cast your ballot by mail. Apply to vote absentee or to become a permanent vote-by-mail voter by contacting your local County Elections Office, or by accessing the application online at [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_m.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_m.htm). Check elections websites for announcements.