

# BE A REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE VOTER.



BLACK WOMEN  
FOR WELLNESS

TRUST BLACK WOMEN TO MAKE PERSONAL DECISIONS  
THAT ARE BEST FOR US AND OUR FAMILIES.

VOTE ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 5.

**I AM A**  
REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE  
**VOTER**

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# CALIFORNIA 2024 VOTING GUIDELINES

This Voter Guide is intended to be used solely for educational purposes and is not meant to support or oppose any candidate or political party. Any use of this Voter Guide should be for 501(c)(3)-compliant purposes only. This Voter Guide shall not be used for any partisan, political, or electioneering activities by any organization or individual.

## Your Plan to Vote should include answers to the following questions:

### AM I REGISTERED TO VOTE?

CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION STATUS at <https://weall.vote/iamarjvoter> to ensure that you have not been purged from the voter roll in your state.

### VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

**Online registration deadline:** Monday, October 21, 2024

**Register by mail deadline:** Must be postmarked by Monday, October 21, 2024

**In-person registration deadline:** Monday, October 21, 2024

### HOW WILL I VOTE?

#### **Early Voting:**

Any registered voter can vote early and in person by casting a vote-by-mail ballot at their county clerk's office starting Monday, October 7. If you live in a Voter's Choice Act county, you have additional early voting options, which become available Saturday, October 26.

#### **Absentee/Mail-in Voting:**

County elections officials begin sending all registered voters a vote-by-mail ballot on Monday, October 7. You can apply for a replacement ballot if needed.

**Online:** Download, print, and complete a vote-by-mail application. Then mail or hand-deliver the application to your county elections office.

**By phone and in person:** Call or visit your county elections office to request a replacement vote-by-mail ballot.

Your county elections office must receive your completed replacement ballot application — either by mail or in person — by Tuesday, October 29.

**In-Person Voting on Election Day:** If you are voting in person on November 5, make a plan that allows time for longer lines than usual. Stay in line until you vote, no matter what time it is, and no matter what anyone tells you. If you are in line when the polls close, you are still entitled to vote.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Find your local polling location, map out your route to get there, including parking, and (whenever possible) go vote with other members of your community. Wear comfortable shoes and bring snacks and water. If you need more information about your polling location, contact your County Board of Registrars Office.

### HOW IS MY COMMUNITY VOTING?

**Share Your Plan to Vote** with your family, friends, and community. Help them develop a Plan to Vote. Support each other and vote together, no matter how you vote. Send in your ballots on the same day, vote early together, or plan on getting in line as a community on November 5.

## HOW TO VOTE IN CALIFORNIA

To register in California, you must be:

- > A United States citizen and a resident of California,
- > 18 years old or older on Election Day,
- > Not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony
- > For more information on the rights of people who have been incarcerated, please see the Secretary of State's Voting Rights Restored: Persons with a Prior Felony Conviction: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-rights-restored>
- > Voting Rights: Persons Subject to Conservatorship: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/conservatorship>
- > Find more information on voting rights restoration: <https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/felon-voting-rights>

### **Qualifications to Pre-register to Vote**

To pre-register to vote in California, you must be 16 or 17 years old, and meet all of the other eligibility requirements to vote. You will automatically be registered to vote on your 18th birthday.

**Check Your Voter Registration Online** – You can look up your voter registration record and verify that your information is correct using <https://weall.vote/iamarjvoter>

### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO VOTE IN CALIFORNIA?

Help America Vote Act, California Code of Regulations, Title 2. Administration, Division 7. Secretary of State, Chapter 1. Voter Registration

Article 7. Voting Standards for Proof of Residency or Identity When Proof Is Required by Help America Vote Act  
This section shall apply in all instances where voters and new registrants are required by the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-252, 116 Stat. 1666, 42 U.S.C. 15483) to prove residency or present documents to establish identity.

This section shall be liberally construed to permit voters and new registrants to cast a regular ballot. Any doubt as to the sufficiency of proof or a document presented shall be resolved in favor of permitting the voter or new registrant to cast a regular ballot. If a voter or new registrant does not present proof or a document that complies with this section, then the voter or new registrant shall be advised by the poll worker or other election official with whom the voter or new registrant is conferring that he or she may vote a provisional ballot, and the voter or new registrant shall be permitted to do so.

(d) For purposes of this regulation, proof of residency or identity shall consist of presenting an original or copy of any of the documents described below in either paragraph (1) or (2).

Current and valid photo identification provided by a third party in the ordinary course of business that includes the name and photograph of the individual presenting it. Examples of photo identification include, but are not limited to, the following documents:

- > driver's license or identification card of any state;
- > military identification card;
- > passport;
- > student identification card;
- > employee identification card;
- > health club identification card;
- > identification card provided by a commercial establishment;
- > insurance plan identification card; or
- > credit or debit card;
- > public housing identification card.

### RECENT VOTING CHANGES IN CALIFORNIA

Laws that took effect in 2023 may change how you vote in the 2024 elections. Among them:

- > State referenda will be worded differently on your ballot. Instead of choosing between "Yes" and "No," voters can choose between "Keep the law" and "Overturn the law."
- > All polling places statewide must offer curbside voting. Tables at each polling place must have magnifying glasses and signature guide cards for those with vision issues.
- > Vote-by-mail ballots returned at a polling place may be counted and processed the same as ballots cast in person.
- > Voters can request a replacement vote-by-mail ballot without providing a statement under penalty of perjury that the ballot was either lost, damaged, or not received.

Any of the following documents, provided that the document includes the name and address of the individual presenting it, and is dated since the date of the last general election, unless the document is intended to be of a permanent nature, such as a pardon or discharge, or unless the date requirements of paragraph (F) apply, including:

- > utility bill;
- > bank statement;
- > government check;
- > government paycheck;
- > document issued by a governmental agency;
- > sample ballot or other official elections document issued by a governmental agency dated for the election in which the individual is providing it as proof of residency or identity;
- > voter notification card issued by a governmental agency;
- > public housing identification card issued by a governmental agency;
- > lease or rental statement or agreement issued by a governmental agency;
- > student identification card issued by a governmental agency;
- > tuition statement or bill issued by a governmental agency;
- > insurance plan card or drug discount card issued by a governmental agency;
- > discharge certificates, pardons, or other official documents issued to the individual by a governmental agency in connection with the resolution of a criminal case, indictment, sentence, or other matter;
- > public transportation authority senior citizen and disabled discount cards issued by a governmental agency;
- > identification documents issued by governmental disability agencies;
- > identification documents issued by government homeless shelters and other government temporary or transitional facilities;
- > drug prescription issued by a government doctor or other governmental healthcare provider;
- > property tax statement issued by a governmental agency;
- > vehicle registration issued by a governmental agency; or
- > vehicle certificate of ownership issued by a governmental agency.

**In-person voter ID requirements:** In most cases, a California voter is not required to show identification to a polling place worker before casting a ballot.

However, if you are voting for the first time after registering to vote by mail and did not provide your driver's license number, California identification number or the last four digits of your Social Security number on your registration form, you may be asked to show a form of identification when you go to the polls. In this case, be sure to bring identification with you to your polling place or include a copy of it with your vote-by-mail ballot. A copy of a recent utility bill, the sample ballot booklet you received from your county elections office, or another document sent to you by a government agency are examples of acceptable forms of identification. Other acceptable forms of identification include your passport, driver's license, official state identification card, or student identification card showing your name and photograph.

You can review the complete list of the acceptable forms of voter identification to use at a polling place when voting for the first time, or call the Secretary of State's toll-free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683) for more information.

You can vote in person on Election Day from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. at your assigned polling place. If you are in line by 8 p.m., you will still be allowed to vote.

Voters who believe they are registered to vote even though their names are not on the official voter registration list at the polling place, voters who chose to vote by mail and instead want to vote at their polling place or a vote center, but did not receive their ballot or do not have their ballot with them (and the elections official is unable to verify that they have not returned their vote-by-mail ballot) can cast a provisional ballot.

COVID protections: Most voting locations will be equipped with PPE and social distancing guidelines. Check with your County Clerk for more information.

Polling locations and times may vary during Early Vote and Election Day.

Check with your County Clerk and Secretary of State for information, including locations and times.



## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

- > Election Day is **Tuesday, November 5, 2024.**
- > The deadline for your county elections office to receive your completed replacement ballot application — either by mail or in person — is **Tuesday, October 29.**
- > Early Voting — Any registered voter can vote early and in person by casting a vote-by-mail ballot at their county clerk's office starting **Monday, Oct. 7.**

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

- CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE – <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/conservatorship>
- VOTER PROTECTION HOTLINE/ACLU – <https://www.acluca.org/>
- ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE: (866) OUR-VOTE

# BLACK WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE ISSUES

**COST OF LIVING:** The cost of living is a top concern for Black women voters in California, with 92% of respondents highlighting it as extremely or very important when thinking about getting out to vote. Economic challenges, including rising housing costs and inflation, directly impact their ability to provide for their families and maintain financial stability. These economic pressures are closely tied to reproductive justice, which asserts that all individuals should have the right to have children, or not to have children, and raise the children they have in safe and supportive environments. When the cost of living becomes prohibitive, it restricts the resources available to Black women, making it difficult to exercise these rights freely. Ensuring that Black women in California have access to affordable living conditions is therefore essential for economic security and the full realization of reproductive justice. (Source: IOOV 2024 Survey)

**RACISM / RACIAL JUSTICE:** Racism and racial justice are critical issues for Black women voters in California, with many respondents prioritizing these concerns when thinking about getting out to vote. The survey reveals that 63% of Black women have experienced racial and gender bias within the healthcare system, which highlights the pervasive impact of systemic racism on their lives. Reproductive justice is deeply intertwined with racial justice, as it demands the right to live in a society free from discrimination, where Black women can make autonomous decisions about their bodies and their families. Addressing systemic racism is crucial for ensuring that Black women in California can exercise their reproductive rights without fear of bias or discrimination, making racial justice a foundational element of reproductive justice. (Source: IOOV 2024 Survey)

**VOTING RIGHTS:** Voting rights are a significant concern for Black women voters in California, particularly as they consider getting out to vote. A majority of respondents view free and fair elections as a top priority, with 89% stating ensuring that elections are free from political interference and manipulation is extremely or very important. The ability to vote and have one's voice heard is a cornerstone of reproductive justice, which advocates for the right to participate in decisions that affect one's life and community. Protecting voting rights is essential for Black women in California to ensure that they can advocate for policies that support their reproductive freedoms and broader social justice goals. Ensuring equitable access to the ballot box is, therefore, a critical component of advancing reproductive justice for Black women in the state. (Source: IOOV 2024 Survey)

## QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to prompt candidates to address the key concerns of Black women voters in California while emphasizing the importance of reproductive justice in policy platforms.

- How will you address the rising cost of living in California to ensure that Black women and their families can afford stable housing and essential services, recognizing that economic security is crucial for making informed reproductive choices?
- What specific steps will you take to combat racial and gender bias in California's healthcare system, ensuring that Black women receive equitable and quality care, which is essential for their reproductive health and overall well-being?
- How do you plan to protect and expand voting rights in California, ensuring that Black women have equitable access to the ballot box, which is a critical component of advocating for policies that support reproductive justice?
- What actions will you take to promote racial justice in California, understanding that addressing systemic racism is critical to ensuring that Black women can live in safe, supportive environments and make reproductive choices free from discrimination?
- Given the importance of accessible reproductive healthcare, how will you ensure that Black women in California have the freedom to make decisions about their bodies and their futures without facing barriers or restrictions?

## YOUR RIGHTS

It's illegal to intimidate voters and a federal crime to "intimidate, threaten, [or] coerce ... any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of [that] other person to vote or to vote, as she may choose."

What to do if you experience voter intimidation:

- Report intimidation to the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español).
- Report intimidation to your local election officials. Their offices will be open on Election Day.