**ELECTION DAY FAQ**

Frequently Asked Questions

**[EC is the Elections Code]**

If you need help answering questions, contact the Mono County Elections Office:

**SHANNON KENDALL – REGISTRAR OF VOTERS 932-5533**

**HELEN NUNN – ASSISTANT REGISTRAR OF VOTERS 932-5534**

**Assisted Voting**

**Can I have someone help me vote? Yes**, if you are eligible under the assisted-voter provisions. You must declare under oath that you are unable to mark a ballot; you can then receive assistance of no more than two people of your choosing, as long as they are not your employer (or agent of your employer), or officer or agent of a union to which you belong.

[EC § 14282]

**Cameras / Cell Phones at Polling Places (Public)**

**Is it OK to take pictures inside the polling place? No**, only credentialed media will be allowed to photograph or film at the polling place. The Secretary of State’s office has historically taken the position that using cameras or video equipment at polling places is prohibited, except under certain circumstances such as allowing credentialed media organizations to photograph or film. **However,** with the passage of AB 1494 in 2016, voters may now “voluntarily disclose how he or she voted if that voluntary act does not violate any other law”. In other words, voters may now take a “ballot selfie” for sharing on social media, if such activity does not interfere with voting, does not intimidate voters or election workers, and does not compromise the privacy of other voters. [Memo #18231 from Secretary of State’s Office dated September 26, 2018, “Cameras at Polling Places”, found in the Election Staff binder. EC § 18540-18541 and 14221]

**Exit Polling**

**Can someone from the media talk to voters? Yes**, members of the press may want to interview voters and conduct an “exit poll” to find out how people are voting. They may do so as long as they **remain at least 25 feet away from the entrance to the polling place**. [Memo #18230 from Secretary of State’s Office dated September 26, 2018, “Electioneering”, found in the Election Staff binder.]

**Electioneering**

**What is Electioneering? Does that mean I can’t wear patriotic clothing when I vote?** Electioneering is “the visible display or audible dissemination of information that advocates for or against any candidate or measure on the ballot within 100 feet of a polling place”. This means that campaigning for or against anything on the ballot cannot be performed within a 100 foot radius of the room where voters are filling out their ballots. [Memo #18230 from Secretary of State’s Office dated September 26, 2018, “Electioneering”, found in the Election Staff binder.]

**Felony Voters**

**What if someone was convicted of a felony, can they be registered to vote? Yes**, unless “upon proof that the person is presently imprisoned or on parole for conviction of a felony.” [EC §2201] “An individual who is convicted of a felony loses the right to register and vote during the term of the prison sentence and the parole period. Once the parole period is completed, the person’s eligibility to register and vote is restored.” [Voter Registration Guide from the Secretary of State’s website].

**ID Requirements**

**Do I have to show ID in order to vote at my polling place? No**; identification is required when a person registers to vote. However, proof of identity may be required the first time the voter votes in a Federal election. This note will be listed on the signature roster

**Observers/Poll Watchers**

**What if someone wants to sit in the polling area and watch the process?** Observers (aka Poll Watchers) are allowed in the polling place as long as they obey the rules set out in the California Elections Code. [See General Rules for Observers, found in this binder.]

**Press/Media**

**Is it OK for the press to take pictures inside the polling place? Yes**; credentialed media will be allowed to photograph or film at the polling place. However, such activity cannot interfere with voting, cannot intimidate voters or election workers, and cannot compromise the privacy of voters. [Memo #18231 from Secretary of State’s Office dated September 26, 2018, “Cameras at Polling Places”, found in the Election Staff binder. EC §§18540-18541 and 14221]

**What if someone from the media wants to talk to voters?** Members of the press may want to interview voters and conduct an “exit poll” to find out how people are voting. They may do so as long as they **remain at least 25 feet away from the entrance to the polling place**. [Memo #18230 from Secretary of State’s Office dated September 26, 2018, “Electioneering”, found in the Election Staff binder.]

**Provisional Voting / General Voting Questions**

**I believe I can vote provisionally in any county as long as I am a registered voter in California; is this true?** **No**, you have to vote in the county in which you are registered, and vote in the precinct in which you are entitled to vote. Each polling location in Mono County will be supplied with all other Mono County precinct’s ballots. [EC §2300(a)(1)(B); §349; §14279, §14310(a)(3)]

**I recently registered through the DMV but I am not showing up on your list of registered voters. Can I vote provisionally?** If you believe you are properly registered to vote in Mono County but your name does not appear on the index of registration, you may cast a provisional ballot. You will be required to execute a written affirmation stating that you are eligible to vote and registered in the county. [EC §14217, §14310(a)(3)]

**I have voted for 30 years in Mono County and I am not showing up on your list of registered voters. Can I vote provisionally?** If you believe you are properly registered to vote in Mono County but your name does not appear on the index of registration, you may cast a provisional ballot. You will be required to execute a written affirmation stating that you are eligible to vote and registered in the county. [EC §14217, §14310(a)(3)]

**I live in Mono County, but recently moved within the County and did not re-register at my new address. Should I vote in my new precinct or old precinct?** You may vote provisionally at the polling place at which you are entitled to vote based on your current residence address. [EC §14311]

**I just moved into Mono County and haven’t registered to vote yet. Can I vote provisionally?** If you moved within 14 days prior to an election, you are entitled to vote in the precinct ***from which you moved***. In order to vote in Mono County, you must have re-registered prior to the registration deadline for this election. [EC §2035; §2300(a)(1)(B); §349; §14279, §14310(a)(3)]

**I need to register to vote; can’t I just register today and vote normally?** New this year is Conditional Voter Registration. This allows a voter to register between the registration cutoff date (E-14: October 23, 2018) and Election Day (November 6, 2018) in person at the Elections Office in Bridgeport. The voter may register in person and receive a Ballot, which then must be voted at the counter and returned immediately. The Elections Office will then verify that the voter has not voted twice, and his or her ballot will be counted on Election Day. This cannot be done at a polling place. [EC §2170; 2171; 2172]

**Registration**

**What if someone was convicted of a felony, can they be registered to vote? Yes**, unless “upon proof that the person is presently imprisoned or on parole for conviction of a felony.” [EC §2201] “An individual who is convicted of a felony loses the right to register and vote during the term of the prison sentence and the parole period. Once the parole period is completed, the person’s eligibility to register and vote is restored.” [Voter Registration Guide from the Secretary of State’s website].

**I am registered to vote in California, but today is Election Day and I’m on vacation in Mono County. Can I vote provisionally even though I am not registered to vote in your county? No**, you have to vote in the county in which you are registered, and vote at the precinct in which you are entitled to vote. *Exception: you may drop off a voted Vote-By-Mail Ballot at any polling location in California.* [EC §2300(a)(1)(B); §349; §14279, §14310(a)(3)]

**I recently registered through the DMV but I am not showing up on your list of registered voters. Can I vote provisionally?** If you believe you are properly registered to vote in Mono County but your name does not appear on the index of registration, you may cast a provisional ballot. You will be required to execute a written affirmation stating that you are eligible to vote and registered in the county. [EC §14217, §14310(a)(3)]

**I have voted for 30 years in Mono County and I am not showing up on your list of registered voters. Can I vote provisionally?** If you believe you are properly registered to vote in Mono County but your name does not appear on the index of registration, you may cast a provisional ballot. You will be required to execute a written affirmation stating that you are eligible to vote and registered in the county. [EC §14217, §14310(a)(3)]

**I just moved into Mono County and haven’t registered to vote yet. Can I vote provisionally?** If you moved within 14 days prior to an election, you are entitled to vote in the precinct from which you moved. In order to vote in Mono County, you must have re-registered prior to the registration deadline for this election. [EC §2035; §2300(a)(1)(B); §349; §14279, §14310(a)(3)]

**I live in Mono County, but recently moved within the County and did not re-register at my new address. Should I vote in my new precinct or old precinct?** You may vote provisionally at the polling place at which you are entitled to vote based on your current residence address. [EC §14311]

**Voting Area**

**Who is permitted within the voting area?** Only voters engaged in receiving, preparing, or depositing their ballots and persons authorized by the precinct board to keep order and enforce the law may be permitted to be within the voting booth area before the closing of the polls. [EC §14221]

**Voting Booth**

**Can I bring my children to the voting booth with me? Yes**, as long as the child or children are under the age of 18 years and the child is, or children are, under the voter's care. ***Remember***, polling areas are held in trust for the quiet, undisturbed and free exercise of the public’s right to privately vote. [EC §14222]

**How long can I take to vote?** Voters shall not occupy the booths longer than is necessary to mark their ballots, which shall not exceed 10 minutes. However, where no other voter would be inconvenienced, a longer period shall be allowed. [EC §14224]

**Vote by Mail (formerly known as Absentee)**

**I never received my Vote-By-Mail ballot (or I lost my Vote-by-Mail ballot). Can I still vote? Yes**, you can cast a provisional ballot. [EC §3016]

**I forgot to mail my Vote-By-Mail ballot before I left town. Can I leave it in another county in California? Yes**, you may leave your completed, signed, and sealed Vote-By-Mail ballot with any vote center or polling place within the State. If the vote center or precinct is located in a county that is not the county that originally issued the ballot, the local Elections Official will forward the voted ballot to the appropriate authority within 8 days. [EC §2300(a)(7), §3017(a)]

**Will you count my Vote-By-Mail ballot as long as it is postmarked on Election Day? Yes**, ballots must be postmarked on or before election day and received in the Election Office *no later than three days after election day* to count; or you can leave your completed Mono County Vote-By-Mail ballot at any voting precinct in Mono County before the close of the polls at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. [EC §3017, §3020]

**Do I have to personally turn in my Mono County Vote-By-Mail ballot?** If you are unable to return your ballot, you may designate someone else to return the ballot on your behalf. The ballot must be received in the Elections Office or at a precinct in Mono County by the close of polls (8:00 p.m. on Election Day). You need to put your completed Vote-By-Mail ballot in the voter identification envelope and complete the outside of the envelope. **Remember, you must sign your envelope.** [EC §3017, §3020, §3011, §3018]

**Do I have to put my Vote-By-Mail ballot in the return envelope? Yes**, you need to put your completed Vote-By-Mail ballot in the voter identification envelope and complete the outside of the envelope. **Remember you must sign your envelope.** [EC §3011, §3018]

**I decided to vote at my polling place rather than use my Vote-By-Mail ballot, what should I do?** You can vote at your precinct on Election Day if you surrender your un-voted ballot to the election worker (inspector). If you do not have your Vote-By-Mail ballot to surrender, you will be allowed to vote provisionally. [EC §3015]

**I want to vote at my polling place rather than use my Vote-By-Mail ballot, but I lost the ballot and can’t surrender it to the election worker. What should I do?** You can cast a provisional ballot. [EC §3016]

**Voting at the Precinct**

**If I spoil my ballot at the precinct, can I get another one? Yes**, if you spoil your ballot, return it to the poll worker and receive another ballot. You cannot receive more than a total of three ballots, including your original. [EC §14288]

See also: **Registration; Provisional Voting / General Voting Questions**

**Updated: September 28, 2018**