**November General Election FAQs**

**VOTING 101**

**What is a “General Election”?**

During the general election your vote selects the final candidate for a given elective office, and determines which ballot propositions pass or fail.

**What will be on the General Election Ballot?**

The general election ballot will include candidates for the following federal and state offices:

* U.S. Senate
* U.S. Congress
* Governor
* Lt. Governor
* Secretary of State
* California State Senate
* California State Assembly
* Controller
* Treasurer
* Attorney General
* State Superintendent of Public Instruction
* Insurance Commissioner
* State Board of Equalization Member

Depending on your location, there may also be local races for some of these local offices:

* County Offices
	+ Board of Supervisors
	+ Sheriffs
	+ District Attorney
	+ Transportation Boards (for example B.A.R.T. Board in the Bay Area)
	+ Superior Court Judges
* City
	+ Mayor
	+ City Council
	+ City Controller
	+ City Manager
	+ City Attorney

There will also be 7 ballot propositions.

**Why is the General Election Important?**

On November 8th, there’s an important election where we can vote to create some of the changes our communities need.

**Who is eligible to vote in the General Election?**

**All U.S. Citizens, who are residents of California, at least 18 years old on Election Day, and who are not currently serving state or federal prison sentences for felony convictions are eligible to vote**. This includes individuals in county jails serving misdemeanor sentences or awaiting trial, as well as individuals on parole, probation, or mandatory supervision.

**How do I register to vote?**

You can register to vote online at [RegisterToVote.ca.gov](https://registertovote.ca.gov/). The **last day to register to vote in the November 8th general election is October 24th, 2022**. If you do not register by the deadline, you may conditionally register to vote and cast a provisional ballot by visiting a vote center. If you are under 18 years old, you may pre-register to vote as well.

If you are unsure whether you are registered to vote, you can check your voter registration status at [VoterStatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/)

**How do I cast my vote?**

You can cast your vote using a Vote By Mail ballot which will automatically be mailed to all registered voters, or you can visit an in-person vote center or polling place. You can find your voting location at [FindMyPollingPlace.sos.ca.gov](https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place) and ballot drop off locations at [CAEarlyVoting.sos.ca.gov](http://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov) . You can also track your ballot online and receive text, email, or voice alerts by signing up at [WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov](http://wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov/).

In Voters Choice Act (VCA) counties, Vote Centers will be open beginning October 10th until election day on November 8th. In VCA counties you can vote by mail, use a drop box, or go to a vote center up to 10 days before the election.

VCA Counties Include: Sacramento, Alameda, Fresno, Kings, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego

In other counties, vote centers and polling places will open beginning October 24th.

**Am I restricted in who I can vote for based on my party registration?**

No, not for most elected positions. Most offices that were previously known as "partisan" are now known as "voter-nominated" offices since the Top Two Primaries Act passed in 2011.

All candidates for "voter-nominated" offices are listed on one ballot regardless of how you have registered. The only remaining "partisan offices" are the offices of U.S. President, County Central Committee and some local offices. The top two vote-getters for "voter-nominated" offices will move on to the general election regardless of party preference.

**What if I have a disability or I need help?**

If you need help voting you can vote in person at a vote center or polling place. Poll workers will be there to assist you.

**You can also vote using your own computer or accessible technology through the Remote Accessible Vote by Mail System (RAVBM).** All counties are required to allow all voters to use the RAVBM system regardless of whether you have a disability or are a military or overseas voter. You can find more information on how to use RAVBM on the Secretary of State website at [sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/remote-accessible-vote-mail](https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/remote-accessible-vote-mail) .

**REPARATIONS 101**

**What is Reparations?**

Reparations are forms of compensation provided to an individual or group of people for a historical wrong done by the government. The United Nations outlines 5 forms of reparations for victims of gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law.

* The first form is ***restitution***, which should restore the victim to their original position or situation before the harm and violation of human rights occurred. It includes restoration of liberty, enjoyment of human rights, identity, family life and citizenship, and return of property.
* The second form is ***compensation***, which is economic compensation proportional to the gravity of the violation that is meant to account for mental, physical or other material and long term harms like lost opportunities or wages.
* The third form is ***rehabilitation*** which should include medical and psychological care as well as legal and social services.
* The fourth form is ***satisfaction***, which includes acknowledgement, public disclosure and apology for the harm, as well as commemorations and tributes to the victims.
* The fifth form of reparations is a ***guarantee of non-repetition***, which should include reviewing and reforming laws contributing to or allowing gross and serious violations of international human rights law.

**What is California’s Reparation Process and Task Force?**

**AB 3121**

* In 2020, Assembly Bill 3121 was enacted to establish a Reparations Task Force to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans. In acknowledgement of the significant and long term harms that have resulted from the institution of slavery, the task force was charged with studying chattel slavery, its lingering negative effects on living African Americans (including descendants of persons enslaved in the United States) and on society.

**Task Force**

* The Task Force is currently in the process of consulting with experts on California history, the impact of slavery and racist policies, and potential forms of reparations for African Americans. They are also working with community organizations including the CA Black Power Network, to host listening sessions and hear from the community about the harms suffered by African Americans as a result slavery and institutional racism, as well as potential forms of reparations the community would like to see and how those reparations will be provided to the community. At the end of this outreach and development process the Task Force will issue a report to the legislature on the impacts and harms of slavery and anti-black racism and recommendtions on how the state should address and repair these harms.

**How can I get involved and make my voice heard?**

The final report issued to the legislature will set the stage for California to be the first state to enact policy and provide reparations in atonement for the gross human rights violations and harms done to African Americans as a result of slavery. This is a huge opportunity for healing and developing solutions that truly move us forward. You can and should get involved. Your voice makes a difference and we want to hear from you. Visit our website at [BlackPowerNetwork.org](http://blackpowernetwork.org) to find out how you can get involved and stay informed about the latest Reparations Task Force updates.

**CBPN 101**

**What is the California Black Power Network?**

The California Black Power Network is a grassroots coalition of Black-led and Black-serving organizations throughout the state working in community and in strategic collaboration as a coalition to address the discrimination, systemic racism, and anti-Black racism resulting from this country’s history with slavery and white supremacy.

We envision a California where all Black people are thriving and free. By protecting and building Black political power through policy development, civic participation, organizing, direct action, and uplifting Black culture, and narrative, we will improve the living conditions of Black Californians.

**How did you get my phone number?**

We are calling through a list of registered voters in California made publicly available by the registrar of voters. [Click here for more information about CA's laws on public availability of voter registration information.](https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/access-to-and-use-of-voter-registration-lists.aspx)

**How will you use my email address or cell phone number?**

We know that voting is just one step to building power in our communities. We want to be able to plug you in to local power building opportunities in between elections. CA Black Power Network and our local coalition partners want to make sure you are aware of key issues, opportunities and local events that may interest you. Your contact information will remain private and will not be shared with outside parties. We will not spam you and promise to keep communication at a minimum.

**How can I stay connected with the California Black Power Network?**

* Learn more about us at: [**Blackpowernetwork.org**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__Blackpowernetwork.org&d=DwMFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=N5j56qdOZVJiu77af1KqLOmr7DLhPh2JKVi9lSGk1Gs&m=w_L0clR6mN8uU60OBBt2GH9ZTYgpoY75UC8D-0cYnKE&s=yUl-jPFyF51sUb1qirJhe4i4OGy-kMNk4etAwTqJX_0&e=)
* Follow Us on IG: **@BlkPowerNetwork**
* Follow Us on Twitter: **@BlkPowerNetwork**
* Follow Us on FB: **www.facebook.com/BlkPowerNetwork**

**I am not Black. Why are you calling me? Can I still support? How?**

* The harm Black people have experienced in this county is a part of all of our history and not just Black history.
* Healing these wounds will help move all of us forward together.
* Developing non-Black allies is essential because Black people cannot organize the power needed to defeat systemic/anti-Black racism or achieve the needed systemic change alone.
* Black communities suffer from the worst social and economic conditions in California. By prioritizing and improving the living conditions of Black people in California, all communities in need will benefit.
* There are plenty of ways to support this effort. You can educate yourself on reparations, talk to friends & family about the importance of reparations, and talk to your elected officials to voice your support for reparations and ensure they act on the recommendations from the Task Force later this year.

**What is the CBPN’s thoughts on the Buffalo shooting?**

* The CBPN is working to not only build power within Black communities but to fight white supremacy.
* The domestic terrorist attack in Buffalo is in response to Black advancement and progression. Here in California, we must continue to organize our communities and build power so that we can fight the forms of systemic oppression that support & enable violence against our communities.

**Why are you calling at this time?**

 The California Black Power Network is currently trying to build Black grassroots power, which means most of our outreach is to everyday working people. We want to have conversations with as many community members as possible which means phone banking or knocking doors during times when people are home and available to talk about the issues that impact our communities.

**COVID 101**

**What if I have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic? Where can I find help and resources?**

If you have been financially affected by COVID-19, you may be eligible for food assistance, unemployment insurance, paid family leave, disability insurance, and relief from financial institutions. If you have recently been released from prison, you may also qualify for various reentry services and programs. You can find information about what resources are available through the state’s COVID-19 site at <https://covid19.ca.gov/>. For older adults and people with disabilities you can also visit <http://aging.ca.gov/covid19> to find up to date information on COVID-19 and the various resources available to you through your county.

If you are being abused, or you feel unsafe in your home you can visit [https://covid19.ca.gov/resources-for-emotional-support-and-well-being](https://covid19.ca.gov/resources-for-emotional-support-and-well-being/#top) for domestic violence and social service hotlines and resources. You can also visit this link for mental health services and resources if you are feeling overwhelmed with sadness, depression or anxiety, or feel like you want to harm yourself or others (the National Suicide Prevention Hotline is 1-800-273-8255).

If you are seeking legal help or assistance you can visit <https://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-lowcosthelp.htm?rdeLocaleAttr=en> for more information.

You can also find additional support using the CallBlack Crisis Line: <https://www.callblackline.com/>