

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

## Q – Who can vote?

A – U.S. citizens, 18 years or older, who are registered to vote in San Francisco on or before the registration deadline.

## Q – What is the deadline to register to vote or to update my registration information?

A – The registration deadline is May 24, ~~2010~~, fifteen days prior to Election Day.

## Q – When and where can I vote on Election Day?

A – You may vote at your polling place or at the Department of Elections on Election Day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Your polling place address is shown on the back cover of your Voter Information Pamphlet. You can also find it at [www.sfelections.org](http://www.sfelections.org) or call 415-554-4375. The Department of Elections is located ~~at in~~ City Hall, ~~1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place~~, Room 48.

## Q – Is there any way to vote before Election Day?

A – Yes, ~~You have the following options to vote before Election Day, you have the following options:~~

- **Vote by mail.** Fill out and mail the Vote-by-Mail Application printed on the back cover of this pamphlet or complete one online at [www.sfelections.org](http://www.sfelections.org). ~~Once your request is processed, a~~ vote-by-mail ballot will be sent to you. Your request must be **received** by the Department of Elections no later than 5 p.m. on June 1, ~~2010~~; or
- **Vote in person** at the Department of Elections ~~at in~~ City Hall, ~~1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place~~, Room 48, during early voting hours (see ~~page 7 inside back cover~~ for dates and times).

## Q – If I don't use an application, can I get a vote-by-mail ballot some other way?

A – Yes. You can send a written request to the Department of Elections. This request **must** include: your printed home address, the address where you want the ballot mailed, your birth date, your printed name and your **signature**. Mail your request to the Department of Elections at the address on the ~~front-back~~ cover of this pamphlet or fax it to 415-554-4372. Your request must be **received** ~~by the Department of Elections~~ no later than 5 p.m. on June 1, ~~2010~~.

## Q – My 18th birthday is after the registration deadline but on or before Election Day. Can I vote in this election?

A – Yes, ~~if your 18th birthday is on or before Election Day, you~~ can register to vote on or before the registration deadline and vote in this election – even though you are not 18 when you register.

## Q – If I was convicted of a crime, can I still vote?

A – If you have been convicted of a crime, California law allows you to register and vote if you:

- Have completed your prison term for a felony, including any period of parole or supervised release.
- Are on federal or state probation.
- Are incarcerated in county jail as a condition of felony probation or as a result of a misdemeanor sentence.

Additionally, if you have been convicted of a misdemeanor, you can register and vote even while on probation, supervised release, or incarcerated in county jail.

After completing your prison term for a felony conviction, including any period of parole or supervised release, you

must complete and return a voter registration form ~~in order~~ to restore your right to vote. No other documentation is required.

## Q – I have just become a U.S. citizen. Can I vote in this election?

A – Yes.

- If you became a U.S. citizen on or before the registration deadline (May 24, ~~2010~~), you can vote in this election, but you must register ~~to vote~~ by the ~~registration~~ deadline;
- If you became a U.S. citizen *after* the registration deadline but on or before June 1, you may register **and** vote at the Department of Elections ~~office~~ by June 1 with proof of citizenship.

## Q – I have moved within San Francisco but have not updated my registration prior to the registration deadline. Can I vote in this election?

A – Yes. You have the following options:

- Come to the Department of Elections ~~at in~~ City Hall, ~~1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place~~, Room 48, on or before Election Day, complete a new voter registration form **and** vote at the Department of Elections; or
- Go to your new polling place on Election Day and cast a provisional ballot. You can look up the address of your new polling place by entering your new home address on the Department of Elections website ([www.sfelections.org](http://www.sfelections.org)) or call 415-554-4375.

## Q – I am a U.S. citizen living outside the country. How can I vote?

A – You can register to vote and be sent a vote-by-mail ballot by completing the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). The application can be downloaded from <http://www.fvap.gov> or obtained from embassies, consulates or military voting assistance officers. ~~Please note that n~~Non-military U.S. citizens living abroad indefinitely can vote only in federal elections.

## Q – What do I do if my polling place is not open on Election Day?

A – ~~Check the back cover of this pamphlet to make sure you have gone to the right place. Polling places often change. If you are at the right place, c~~Call the Department of Elections immediately at 415-554-4375 for assistance.

## Q – If I don't know what to do when I get to my polling place, is there someone there to help me?

A – Yes, ~~the p~~ollworkers at the polling place will help you, or you may visit [www.sfelections.org](http://www.sfelections.org) or call the Department of Elections at 415-554-4375 for assistance on or before Election Day. (See page ~~10~~ **X** for information about voting at your polling place.)

## Q – Can I take my Sample Ballot or my own list into the voting booth?

A – Yes. Deciding your votes before you get to the polls is helpful. You may use either a ~~Sample Ballot is located inside this voter pamphlet, or you may use or~~ the Ballot Worksheet ~~included~~ in this pamphlet for this purpose.

## Q – Do I have to vote on every contest and measure on the ballot?

A – No, ~~you do not~~. The votes you cast will be counted even if whether you have not voted on every contest and measure, ~~or not~~.