

Overview

Why you should consider voting important

If you can't vote, you can still participate

June 7, 2022 Statewide Direct Primary Election

November 8, 2022 Statewide General Election

Why is Voting Important?

- The U.S. form of government is a democracy
 - Voting is the foundation for a democracy
 - Voters elect their representatives
 - Representatives listen to voters
 - Representatives can be recalled before the next election if they don't listen to voters
 - Voters can create or change policy
 - By bringing initiatives through petition and voting to their school district, city, county or state
 - By voting in favor or against measures brought to a vote by their city
- In a democracy, you have the right to chose not to vote

Why is Voting Important?

- Your vote may change your child's future
- It may change the present

Examples of Citizen Initiatives

- Menlo Mandarin Immersion Charter School
 - 2014 Menlo Park City School Board rejects request petition for a charter school where classes would be taught in Mandarin
 - 2015 San Mateo County Board of Education rejects petition
- Incorporating East Palo Alto (EPA)
 - All unincorporated areas are under county government
 - Main business district closed in 1958 by expansion of Highway 101
 - San Mateo County supervisors were chosen through countywide elections in 1980s
 - No supervisor specifically represented East Palo Alto
 - June 7, 1983 vote to become a city by only 15 votes!

Who can Vote?

- Citizen of U.S. and resident of California
- 18 years of age or older
- Not in prison for the conviction of a felony
- Not rule mentally incompetent by a court

Pre-register at 16 and 17

If You Can't Vote

- Attend public meetings
 - If you have children, attend school board meetings
 - Speak during Public Comment if the issue matters to you
- Be active in your community
 - Write a letter, email or call your representatives on issues they support and let them know you support or not
 - Share information about government plans with neighbors
 - If something affects your neighborhood, organize a group to take action
 - Last night people protested in front of Foster City City Hall

June 7, 2022 Statewide Direct Primary Election

- If you are eligible to vote, you can register to vote online through May 23 and a ballot will be mailed to you
- You can register and vote the same-day at one of 45 Vote Centers from May 24 through Election Day

June 7, 2022 Statewide Direct Primary Election

- County leaders
- State leaders
- Six school districts asking for funds

Assistance in Any Language

- Ballots and Voting in person in:
 - English
 - Spanish
 - Chinese
 - Filipino

- Some materials in:
 - Burmese
 - Hindi
 - Japanese Korean

All Languages

- Telephone Interpreters

Materials, Speaking, etc.

- A New Citizen's Guide to Voting – several languages in one brochure
- Voting in California – several languages
- Local information to promote election awareness
 - English, Spanish, Chinese and Filipino
- State and County Voter Guides
- League of Women Voters Easy Guide & Voter's Edge

November 8, 2022 Statewide General Election

Contact Information

Sara O'Brien

sobrien@smcacre.org

650-312-5269

smcvote.org