



## COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO OFFICE OF THE CLERK-RECORDER

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### Nov 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election: Fact Sheet for Cal Poly Students

#### What do I need to know about registering to vote?

Generally, which contests appear on your ballot are determined by what you consider **home**. Because you currently live in SLO County, you are eligible to vote here as long as you are at least 18 and a U.S. citizen. (*In this special election*, there is only one question, and it is on all ballots statewide.)

In a typical election, specific contests on your ballot will be determined by what you report on your voter registration as your *residence address* (also called “domicile”). If you are from *outside* of San Luis Obispo and still consider that city/county/state your home, you might want to register there (or remain registered there). It is up to you where you are registered, but you can only be registered to vote in one location at a time.

#### How do I register to vote?

You can register to vote by filling out and returning a paper registration form—which is available from ASI and in downtown SLO at the Clerk-Recorder’s Office, as well as at libraries and post offices, among other places—or you can register online at **RegisterToVote.ca.gov**. Either way, registering takes just a few minutes.

However you register to vote, you’ll be asked to provide a California driver’s license **or** CA ID number **or** the last four digits of your social security number. Any one of these three forms of ID will be sufficient. The online form asks for BOTH a CA driver’s license/ID AND the last four digits of your SSN, but as with the paper form it is okay to provide one or the other. And while you *can* submit your registration without any of these forms of ID, if you do, you will be required to show ID and proof of residency when you actually vote in your first federal election. (Note: This would be the only case in which you would be asked for ID in order to vote in California.)

When registering to vote, you will also need to provide a **residence address**—which can be tricky for students, who sometimes don’t know the physical address of their dorm, apartment, or house. Making sure that you have this info before you attempt to register will be helpful. For on-campus students, their physical address will be their specific dorm name (e.g., Huasna in CP Village, or Yakitutu Hall). You’ll *also* provide a **mailing address**, which is where your official Vote-by-Mail ballot will be sent once your registration has been processed.

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#### County of San Luis Obispo Clerk-Recorder

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### **How do I return my ballot once I've voted?**

When you receive your ballot in the mail, you can vote and return it as soon as you want. The return envelope is pre-paid; all you need to do is sign it before mailing it, putting it in an official drop box, or delivering it to the Elections Office. It's always a great idea to vote as soon as you're able and then track your ballot's progress through BallotTrax: You can sign up for that at [WheresMyBallot@sos.ca.gov](mailto:WheresMyBallot@sos.ca.gov).

In order to be counted, your ballot **MUST** be dropped in an official drop box or at a polling place (there will be one on campus at the PAC) **by 8pm on Election Day, November 4**. Or, if you mail it, the postmark **MUST** be on or before November 4. We *highly* recommend mailing at least a few days prior just to be safe.

### **What is the deadline to register to vote?**

The deadline to register online or by mail is October 20.

After October 20, you can register (and then immediately vote) in person at any Elections Office during business hours and through 8pm on Election Day, November 4.

In SLO, the Elections Office is at 1055 Monterey Street and open M-F from 8am-5pm; in Atascadero, the office is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the library at 6565 Capistrano Avenue and open *beginning October 27* from 8:30-4:30pm.

### **How does living on campus or off campus affect my ability to vote?**

Once you are registered to vote, you will automatically be mailed a Vote-by-Mail ballot, which you can fill out and return by pre-paid mail, official drop box (including the one in the Cal Poly UU), or in person at any polling location or Elections Office in the state of California.

You may choose to vote in person instead. Your Vote-by-Mail ballot will include the address of your assigned polling location, which will either be on campus (if you live on campus) or nearby (if you live off campus). Bring your Vote-by-Mail ballot to your assigned polling location and exchange it for a poll ballot. If you don't have your Vote-by-Mail ballot, you may be asked to vote a provisional ballot.

### **Is Cal Poly part of the City of SLO?**

No, and this is one reason your ballot would be different if you live on campus versus off campus during a typical election (like the June 2026 California Primary Election). It does not impact this election.

### **Do I need to re-register if I previously registered in another county or state?**

You can still vote if you are registered back home, but you will need to make sure that you contact your hometown's local Elections Office to request that they mail your ballot to your SLO County mailing address.

You also need to re-register anytime you change your name, permanent address, or party affiliation. If you re-register here in SLO County, you should contact your hometown's local Elections Office to cancel your previous registration.

### **What will be on my ballot?**

Each decade following the U.S. Census, the boundary lines of every Congressional, Senate, Assembly, and State Board of Equalization district are required to be adjusted to equally distribute the population numbers among the districts. In 2010, California voters gave the responsibility of redrawing these maps to a bipartisan Citizens Redistricting Commission.

**The single question on the ballot for this special election** proposes to temporarily override the commission and create new congressional (U.S. House of Representatives) boundary lines drawn by State Legislators that would remain in place until the lines are redrawn after the 2030 Census. The ballot measure has a triggering clause which would make the new maps operative only if another state adopts a new congressional district map that takes effect between August 1, 2025, and January 1, 2031, and the redistricting was not required by a federal court order. The new districts are defined in California Assembly Bill 604 and interactive maps can be found at <https://selc.senate.ca.gov/proposed-congressional-map>.

If you register to vote prior to October 20 (or in person any time before 8pm on Election Day), you will receive a Statewide Voter Information Guide, which will include the text of the proposition as well as arguments for and against it. You can also access links to the statewide and county voter information guides online at SloVote.com beginning about September 20.

### **Can I go vote on Election Day if I haven't already registered?**

Yes, but it will be a little different than if you had registered prior to October 20.

If you go to a polling place without previously registering, you will vote **provisionally**. What this means is that you will essentially be completing the voter registration form there on site and your ballot will not be counted that day. After you vote, your ballot will be placed into a special provisional envelope, and it will be counted once the Elections Office has researched and confirmed your eligibility to vote. As long as you are eligible, your vote will be counted.

Just like when you register ahead of time, you will be asked to provide a CA driver's license or ID or the last four digits of your SSN, as well as a residence and mailing address, so if you head to the polls wanting to vote provisionally, be sure to have this information handy.

### **Do I need to register/re-register for each election?**

No, once you are registered, your registration will remain active as long as you vote regularly. However, if you change your name, address, or party affiliation, you will need to re-register.

Also, if you change your residence address but remain within SLO County, you should update your registration to reflect this so that your next ballot includes all contests on which you are eligible to vote. You can update a change of mailing address *within the county* by emailing the Elections Office at [elections@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:elections@co.slo.ca.us).

### **Where can I find more information or ask questions?**

You can access SLO County's official election website at [SloVote.com/November2025](https://SloVote.com/November2025), or you can call the Elections Office at (805) 781-5228 or email [elections@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:elections@co.slo.ca.us).