

# VOTER REGISTRATION & VOTER LIST UPDATES: AN OVERVIEW



## How do election officials update voter lists?

Election officials receive regular reports of deaths, new addresses outside the jurisdiction, and felony convictions, so they can remove these voters from the voter list. These reports come from state and federal agencies, including the courts, the health agency, and the post office. And sometimes voters self-report address changes or ask to cancel their registration.



Did you know? The SLO County Elections Office sends postcards to voters to confirm changes made to their registration in addition to sending postcards to inactive voters to check that registration information is still accurate.

### Why is updating voter registration lists so important?

Accurate, up-to-date voter lists help election officials plan and run transparent, efficient and secure elections. Updated lists not only ensure that only eligible voters cast ballots, but they also help election officials assess how many workers and supplies they'll need to serve everyone who votes in person and by mail.

**Voter registration lists are always changing. The list grows when voters move into the county, register for the first time, and turn 18. The list shrinks when voters move out of the county, pass away, or experience a felony conviction or declaration of incapacity.**

## Definitions & Terminology

### What is an inactive voter?

Under California Elections Code, a voter's registration is designated inactive when:

- election mail is returned undeliverable
- the voter does not respond to a subsequent address confirmation notice
- the voter does not vote in the next two federal general elections (FGE)

A voter with inactive status is still registered but will not receive mailed election materials. By law, that registration may be canceled if the voter stays inactive and doesn't vote in two consecutive FGEs.

### Just the facts:

Under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), new voters provide their driver's license or CA identification number, or the last four digits of their social security number, on their registration application. Elections officials must confirm this information when processing the application. If this information is missing or can't be matched, new voters will be required to provide that documentation when voting in their first federal election.



**VoteCal is California's statewide voter registration database. Since 2016 it has served as the official system of record for voter registration in the state. All 58 counties maintain a local voter registration management system, which is connected in near real-time to VoteCal.**

