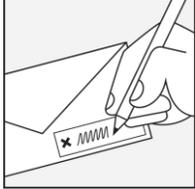


## Make sure your Vote-By-Mail ballot is counted

A majority of California voters are now casting their votes using Vote-by-Mail ballots rather than heading to the polls to vote on Election Day. **These three tips will help make sure your ballot is counted:**<sup>1</sup>



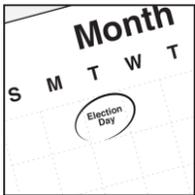
### Sign your Vote-by-Mail envelope

When you get your ballot it will come with a special envelope for mailing it back. You must sign and date this Vote-by-Mail return envelope for your ballot to be counted.



### Match your signature

Your signature on your Vote-by-Mail return envelope must be the same as the signature on file at the elections office. If it doesn't match, then your ballot may not be counted<sup>2</sup>. If you registered to vote at the DMV or online, the signature will be the one on your Driver's License or State ID. If you're unsure of which signature you registered with or if your signature has changed, you can always re-register with your updated signature.



### Return your ballot on time

If you are mailing your ballot back, it must be postmarked by Election Day. If you are dropping off your ballot at a poll site, the deadline is by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

### What happens if you lose your Vote-By-Mail ballot?

You can (1) request a replacement ballot by contacting your county elections office, (2) vote in person at your designated polling place on Election Day and your ballot will count once the election official verifies that you have not already mailed in your ballot, or (3) vote in person at your county elections office starting 29 days before Election Day. To find your county elections official's contact information, visit: [sos.ca.gov/county-elections-offices](https://sos.ca.gov/county-elections-offices)

### Can someone else drop off your Vote-By-Mail ballot?

You can let anyone return your ballot for you -- as long as they are not being paid by how many ballots they return. You must fill out the authorization section on the return envelope for your vote to be counted.

### How can I request a Vote-By-Mail ballot?

If you would like to be a Vote-by-Mail voter, complete and mail this application to your county elections official: [elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/vote-by-mail/pdf/vote-by-mail-application.pdf](https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/vote-by-mail/pdf/vote-by-mail-application.pdf)

### How can I track my Vote-By-Mail ballot?

You can track the status of your vote-by-mail ballot here: [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/)  
You can also call your county elections official to verify that your ballot was counted.

<sup>1</sup> If you want to know more about why Vote-by-Mail ballots are rejected, you can read a report from Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles:

[www.advancingjustice-la.org/sites/default/files/issuebrief-vbm-FINAL-1.pdf](https://www.advancingjustice-la.org/sites/default/files/issuebrief-vbm-FINAL-1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> If you forget to sign or if your signature does not match the signature on file, the election official will mail you a notice with instructions on how to ensure your vote counts.