



California Election Integrity Orientation

Briefing on The Transparency Foundation's Election Integrity Efforts & How to Get Involved

The Transparency Foundation (501c3)

The Transparency Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to making public institutions more transparent and accountable to the people they serve.

Confidence and trust in the integrity of American elections are at all-time lows. The Confidence in Democracy and Secure the Vote initiatives support public awareness on rules governing elections and advocate for common-sense reforms to improve how elections are conducted.

The Transparency Foundation does not endorse candidates or take positions on any ballot measures, but advocates for all to have access to voting resources and vote smartly in each election.

The CA November 2022 Election

Election Date: November 8, 2022

Election Type: All Mail-in standard, with some vote centers

Ballots Sent Out: ~Oct 6-11

The S.A.F.E. Voting Method

SEND: Mail in your ballot on Day 1 of the election! Do NOT wait until the day of the election, as the state has cut back on polling places and long lines will suppress the vote! Voting on Day 1 gives you the full 30 days of the election to verify your vote is counted or resolve any problems.

AUDIT: Track and verify your vote was 1) received and 2) counted online at WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov. Check often until your vote is counted and verified!

FIX: If you have a problem OR your ballot isn't counted by Day 20 of the election, go to the nearest polling location and demand a second "provisional" ballot, then vote in-person. DON'T wait until Election Day!

EXAMINE: Share this information with your friends and family! Then sign up as a volunteer below to examine and monitor the processing and counting of ballots.



S.A.F.E. Vote Sunday – October 16th

Sunday, October 16, 2022 is “Safe Vote Sunday” and we are seeking to partner with churches, community groups, and others to encourage voters to return their ballots for California’s November 2022 election on or before that day.

How Organizations Can Partner in “Safe Vote Sunday” October 16, 2022

The foundation is seeking partners (such as churches and civic groups) to help promote “Safe Vote Sunday” to their members. Contact the Transparency Foundation to hold an informal consultation where the program can be explained. Inquire [HERE](#).

S.A.F.E. Vote Sunday – October 16th

How Individuals Can Participate in “Safe Vote Sunday” October 16, 2022

Aside from seeking organizational partners, individual voters can participate in Safe Vote Sunday in the following ways:

1. Make the commitment to vote on or by Sunday, October 16th
2. Tell your friends, family, neighbors, church community, and others about Safe Vote Sunday and the S.A.F.E. voting method
3. Share the Transparency Foundation’s **Safe Voting video** explaining the S.A.F.E. voting method, and tag @transparencyfdn
4. Use hashtag #SafeVoteSunday
5. Get involved in counting ballots or monitoring the count at **ElectionIntegrityCA.com**

Send: Mail in Your Ballot on Day 1

Mail in your ballot on Day 1 of the election!

Do NOT wait until the day of the election, as the state has cut back on polling places and long lines will suppress the vote!

Voting on Day 1 gives you the full 30 days of the election to verify your vote is counted or resolve any problems.

Audit: Track Your Ballot

Track and verify your vote was 1) received and 2) counted online at WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov.

Make SURE that it says received AND counted. You are not safe yet if it only says “received.”

Check often until your vote is counted and verified!

Fix: What to Do if Ballot Not Counted

If you have a problem OR your ballot isn't counted by Day 20 of the election, go to the nearest polling location and demand a second "provisional" ballot, then vote in-person.

DON'T wait until Election Day!

Fix: What to Do if a Problem on Ballot

Come across a problem on your ballot or witness suspicious election activity?

The Transparency Foundation will assist in reviewing problem ballots. You can report these issues or refer others to us at ProblemBallots.com

For credible cases, we are prepared to pursue legal action to ensure all ballots are legally cast.

Election & Voting Problems Incident Report

Your information will be kept strictly confidential, but we ask for this information so we may contact you with additional questions.

First Name *

Last Name *

Email Address *

Street Address Where You Are Registered to Vote *

City *

Zip *

Phone *

Were you told that "You already voted" when you attempted to vote?

- YES
 NO

If you were told you already had voted, did you get to vote another ballot while the election's office investigated the issue?

- YES
 NO

Did you receive a ballot IN ERROR at your home? If so which of the following erroneous ballots did you receive at your household?

- Duplicate Ballots for Same Person
 Ballot for a Dead Person
 Ballot(s) for Person(s) Who No Longer Lives Here
 Ballot(s) for Person(s) Who Never Lived Here

What is the name of the voter(s) on the erroneous ballot(s)?

Did you have a long wait time at your polling station? If so how long was your wait?

Anything additional you want to report?

ProblemBallots.com

Examine: Monitor the Elections Process

Share this information with your friends and family! Then apply for a job with your Registrar of Voters or sign up as a volunteer to examine and monitor the processing and counting of ballots.

Examine: Monitor Before, During, After

The election is a process that occurs over several weeks, and there needs to be eyes and ears monitoring the election for its entire duration – not just on “Election Day.”

You can apply for a job with your Registrar of Voters or sign up as a nonpartisan election monitor to help over the course of the election – at your own pace.

We need to monitor the counting of ballots before, during, and after “Election Day.” Anything you can do helps, and there are plenty of opportunities.

Examine: Jobs at Your Registrar of Voters Office

Your local Registrar of Voters may be hiring individuals to work at Vote Centers for the November 2022 Statewide General Election. Employees will manage Vote Center locations and will be expected to work throughout the Election as in-person voting begins. For more information and to apply, check with your local Registrar of Voters.

A list of ROV offices can be found on the Secretary of State's website:

www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices

Examine: Jobs at Your Registrar of Voters Office

If there are no jobs listed, they may be filled or not currently hiring yet – keep checking!

You can also check your local county's Government Jobs website – where government jobs with the county are posted. Sometimes election jobs are listed here.

Examine: Jobs at Your Registrar of Voters Office

**Let us know if you apply
and/or get hired to a position!**

Examine: Volunteer as an Election Monitor

You can also help to review the vote counting process by signing up to be a nonpartisan election monitor. These unpaid volunteer positions exist to aid in the fight for election integrity and do not work for any county governments.

Here's what to do:

1. Sign up for a volunteer shift at [ElectionIntegrityCA.com](https://www.ElectionIntegrityCA.com). Your local volunteer coordinator will reach out and assist in scheduling you. You can also sign up to serve as a volunteer lead in your community and help schedule these shifts.

Examine: Volunteer as an Election Monitor

2. At the Registrar of Voters, monitor the process for compliance. **NOTE: You are to monitor only. You cannot interfere in the process, and all questions and comments may only be directed to managers, not staff.**
 - a. Watch to make sure that signatures and addresses are correctly matched.
 - b. If a ballot isn't scanning and must be "perfected" – or filled in again in order to be read by the machine – make sure the correct bubbles are being filled out.
 - c. Ask for a manager (not staff!) and ask questions if you don't understand something, or if something seems suspicious or incorrect.
 - d. Document and report back to your volunteer lead or fill out a report on anything suspicious at [ProblemBallots.com](https://www.problemballots.com).

Date: _____; Observer Name: _____; Location of observation in ROV: _____.

Voter Name (Any identifying name info)	Voter Address (Ex: precinct, zip, street, town)	Problems Noted (Ex: Apparent mismatch? Reject of matching sigs? Wrong last name? Transposition error? Ballot missing required information? Someone else signed, and if so, who and how determined?)	ROV Staff Action (Ex: What did ROV staff determine? Reject? Question sup.? Verify after extended review? Missed required step?)	Follow-up from Transparency Foundation Needed?

[Download Form](#)

Examine: What NOT to Do When Volunteering

Here's what NOT to do:

1. Interfere in any way with the conduct of the election.
2. Go near occupied voting booths or approach any voters during the voting process.
3. Touch any voting materials or equipment or sit at the official worktables, or assist in operations.
4. Converse with voters within 100 feet of the entrance to a polling place regarding the casting of a vote, solicit a vote, or speak to a voter regarding his/her qualifications to vote.
5. Directly challenge a voter (only the precinct board may do so, based on evidence presented).

Examine: What NOT to Do When Volunteering

6. Display any election material or wear campaign badges, buttons, or apparel.
7. Wear the uniform of a peace officer, a private guard, or security personnel.
8. Use a cellular phone, pager, or other electronic device inside the polling place.
9. Touch election personnel.
10. Eat or drink inside the polling place.

Voters have the right to report any illegal or fraudulent activity at or near the polls to a local elections official or to the Secretary of State's Office.

Examine: More Information on Poll Watching

For more information, you can refer to this election monitor guidebook issued by the Orange County Registrar of Voters, which includes relevant information for poll watchers across the state:

<https://ocvote.gov/election-library/docs/Election%20Observation%20Handbook.pdf>

Help Desk

Have questions or concerns? We're ready to help.

Contact us at **ElectionIntegrity@TheTransparencyFoundation.org** or call **(619) 210-0543**

What Else is the Foundation Working On?

The Transparency Foundation engages in investigative research and reporting about the integrity of our elections and will be monitoring the 2022 elections.

[An audit by the non-partisan Transparency Foundation flags concerning and erroneous ballots used in the 2021 California Recall Election; calls for reforms and fixes ahead of 2022 election](#)

FAQs

1. Can you use your phone to take a picture of the ballot counting/perfecting process?
 - a. No, pictures are not allowed. Take notes on suspicious things you witness.
2. Are nametags allowed?
 - a. County staff do not necessarily wear nametags but volunteers are welcome to wear them. Staff are usually happy to introduce themselves and help you.
3. How do we know if our vote is counted correctly?
 - a. There are no identifying markers on your ballot besides the envelope you sign. Because of privacy concerns, no one keeps track of how you specifically vote or how your vote is recorded. They track the votes candidates receive but not who you, specifically, voted for. You can track if your vote is received and counted at WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov

FAQs

4. Has perfecting ballots been done in the past?
 - a. Yes, perfecting ballots is a common practice. A ballot might not be read by a machine, it might be torn, etc. and needs to be re-entered to be read. It's typically 2 staff members that work together to perfect a ballot.
5. Can we bring friends and family to volunteer?
 - a. Yes, just let us know!
6. How close will we be to seeing the counting of ballots?
 - a. It will vary from county to county. Some you can be directly behind ballot counters, while some you have to be 4-5 feet away. Just do your best to monitor.
7. Will this presentation be available later?
 - a. Yes, we will post this on the Transparency Foundation website and email it out.

FAQs

8. Do we have to wear a mask?
 - a. Some counties may require it. They are government facilities and can require mandates. It might be good to bring a mask just in case.

9. Will we even be able to see signature comparisons from 5 feet away?
 - a. You might be surprised by how much you can see and make out. You're generally able to see a good amount. If you're so far away that you can't see anything, make a note of it for us.

10. Will we receive an email about scheduling us to volunteer?
 - a. Yes we will send you something in early October. Ballots drop Oct 6 - 11th, meaning ballot counting will start shortly after that.

FAQs

11. Has this program been done before?
 - a. No, we are piloting this program this year and hope it is a big success.
12. How many Registrar of Voters Locations are there in each county?
 - a. Just one in each county.
13. Can you use binoculars?
 - a. You will be close enough that you won't need them.
14. How do I know if my vote is counted properly for a specific candidate or measure?
 - a. All that is recorded is whether your vote is counted or not, not who you voted for due to privacy.

FAQs

15. What is the process like when you get there? Will anyone ask why I'm there?
 - a. County staff are aware volunteers are coming. You can check in with them when you get there and they will help you get set up where you need to be.

16. Will we be asked to leave?
 - a. You should be allowed to be there during operating hours, 8am-5pm.

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