

# Glossary of Election Terminology



Official  
Information

## **Ballot Drop Box**

A locked container, either indoor or outdoor, where voters can return a Vote by Mail ballot for collection directly by an election official. There are over 400 secure Ballot Drop Boxes located across L.A. County.

[Click here to locate the one closest to you.](#)

## **Ballot Measure**

- (1) A question that appears on the ballot for approval or rejection.
- (2) A contest on a ballot where the voter may vote yes or no.

## **Candidate**

A person who is seeking nomination or election to a specified office and who either has met the legal requirements to have their name printed on the ballot or is eligible to have their name written in on the ballot and counted as the voter's choice for the contest.

## **Congressional District**

The area within the boundaries of a state where a member of the U.S. House of Representatives is elected.

## **Constituent**

A person who is represented politically by a designated government official or officeholder, especially when the official is one that the person represented has the opportunity to participate in selecting through voting.

## **Crossover Voting**

The act of a voter participating in a partisan primary election of a party that they are not officially registered or affiliated with.

## **Early Voting**

Voting before Election Day where the voter completes the ballot in person at an elections office or other designated Vote Center prior to Election Day. Early voting can also include voting with a Vote by Mail ballot prior to Election Day.

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## **Elect**

The act of choosing a person to hold public office through a public election.

## **Election Day**

The last day on which voters may cast a ballot.

## **Election Worker**

The official responsible for the proper and orderly voting at a Vote Center or an election process.

## **Electorate**

All the people in a political jurisdiction who are entitled to vote in an election.

## **Federal Election**

Any primary, general, runoff, or special election in which a candidate for Federal office (President, Senator, or Representative) appears on the ballot.

## **Gubernatorial Election**

Election where the office of the state governor is also on the ballot.

## **Midterm Election**

Elections that take place between Presidential elections.

## **No Party Preference (NPP) Voter**

Voters who did not choose a political party affiliation when they last registered to vote.

## **Political Party**

An organization that coordinates candidates to compete in a country's elections. It is common for the members of a political party to have similar ideas about politics, and parties may promote specific ideological or policy goals.

## **Presidential Primary Election**

Primary election in which voters choose the delegates to the presidential nominating conventions allotted to their states by the national party committees. The 2024 California Presidential Primary Election is on March 5th.

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## Primary Election

Election held to determine which candidate will represent a political party for a given office in the general election.

## State Elections

Elections for members to State offices, including Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and State Legislative Offices, among others.

## Vote by Mail Ballot

A ballot cast by a voter other than in-person at a voting location. Mailed ballots are typically mailed to voters. In Los Angeles County, mailed ballots can be returned by mail, in a Ballot Drop Box, or in-person.

## Vote Center

A vote center is one of multiple voting locations in an election jurisdiction where voters may choose to vote at any of the locations offered. [Click here to find a local Vote Center](#) in your neighborhood.

## Vote in Person Ballot

A ballot cast by a voter at an in-person voting location (or Vote Center).

