








## How to Fight Voter Suppression in Alameda County

	<p>0. Save the <b>USPS</b> Call your Reps, join a rally, record a video, post on social media. Anything &amp; everything to keep the pressure on.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.savethepostoffice.net">www.savethepostoffice.net</a>  <a href="https://www.apwu.org/savepostoffice">https://www.apwu.org/savepostoffice</a></p>
	<p>1. Check your <b>Voter Status / Register</b> Check that you are active and they have the right mailing address on file, and re-register to update your address if needed.</p>	<p><a href="#">CA SOS - Voter Status</a>  <a href="#">Alameda County - Voter Profile</a></p>
	<p>2. Sign up for <b>Where's My Ballot?</b> To receive an email, text, or call about your ballot and track that it was sent, received, and counted.</p>	<p><a href="#">Where's My Ballot?</a></p>
	<p>3. Sign up to be a <b>poll worker</b> You can also sign up to be a student poll worker if you are in high school, will be 16 on Nov 3 &amp; eligible to vote once you turn 18. *Special Shout out: Poll Hero is covering the educational gap for youth and young adult poll workers.</p>	<p><a href="#">CA SOS Sign up page</a>  <a href="#">Poll Hero*</a>  <a href="#">Alameda County Poll Worker Application</a></p>
	<p>4. Be an <b>election protection volunteer</b> Embed yourself at a polling place or staff the hotlines to ensure that our elections are free, fair, and accessible.</p>	<p><a href="#">Common Cause</a>  For those with legal experience: <a href="#">Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law</a></p>
	<p>5. Pressure some <b>Partners</b> The list for Accessible Voting Locations and Ballot Drop Boxes is available online and shows which locations are still "pending." Reach out to these locations and tell them you want them to partner with your election officials.</p>	<p><a href="#">Alameda County Partnerships</a> Only 28 of 66 drop boxes have been confirmed, so reach out, influence, demand more locations sign-on to host a drop box!</p>
	<p>6. Be ready to <b>vote ASAP</b> Research your ballot and make your decisions now so that you can take it to a ballot drop box or mail it back right away.</p>	<p><a href="#">Ballotpedia Sample Ballot Lookup</a>  <a href="#">Vote411.org</a>  <a href="#">Voter's Edge California</a></p>

## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>mid-Sep</b>	In-person voting & drop box locations confirmed
<b>Oct 5</b>	Ballots Drop (and you can begin tracking on Where's My Ballot)
<b>Oct 5</b>	Alameda County ballot drop boxes available
<b>Sat, Oct 31</b>	In-person voting begins in Alameda County
<b>Tue, Nov 3</b>	Final day of in-person voting, last day absentee ballot must be postmarked by to be counted

## RUMOR CONTROL

### **I heard that if I put a first class stamp on my ballot, that it will be processed first class instead of bulk mail.**

Even though vote-by-mail or absentee ballots are "bulk mail" this refers to how they are prepared and processed, not how quickly they go through the system. Our (California) absentee ballots are bulk mail because they get barcoded, sent out on a schedule, and have pre-printed postage. Bulk mail is how things are sent out, when we send our ballot back, they are no longer bulk mail, they are Priority Mail even better than First Class. [Snopes](#), [USA Today](#)

### **Is voting by mail (aka absentee voting) secure?**

Generally speaking, yes. But given the way this year has been going, I'm not going to make any guarantees. Here is a fantastic article from the The Oaklandside by Jose Fermoso that gives more context:

#### [How secure is voting-by-mail in Oakland?](#)

After downtown mail boxes were removed last month, local postal workers and voters are staying vigilant. Here's how the entire process works, and how to track your ballot as it travels through the mail.

### **Are there going to be (fill in the blank) at the polls watching our election?**

Yes, our elections are able to be observed by anyone in the public so that our process remains fair and secure. However, in California there are rules: no electioneering, no law enforcement in uniforms that could be perceived as voter intimidation, you cannot bring a gun to a polling place, and you cannot impede election workers or the voting process. Learn more about this: [Elections Observation Rights and Responsibilities](#) from the CA SOS.

There have been some reports about folks being recruited to act as voter intimidators; hopefully, this won't be the case in California but if they won't abide by the rules, they will be asked to leave. If you see anything suspicious at a polling place, call 866-OUR-VOTES. However, as with everything about voting, different states have different rules, so who knows that will happen. This is why it's important that you sign up to be an election protection volunteer.

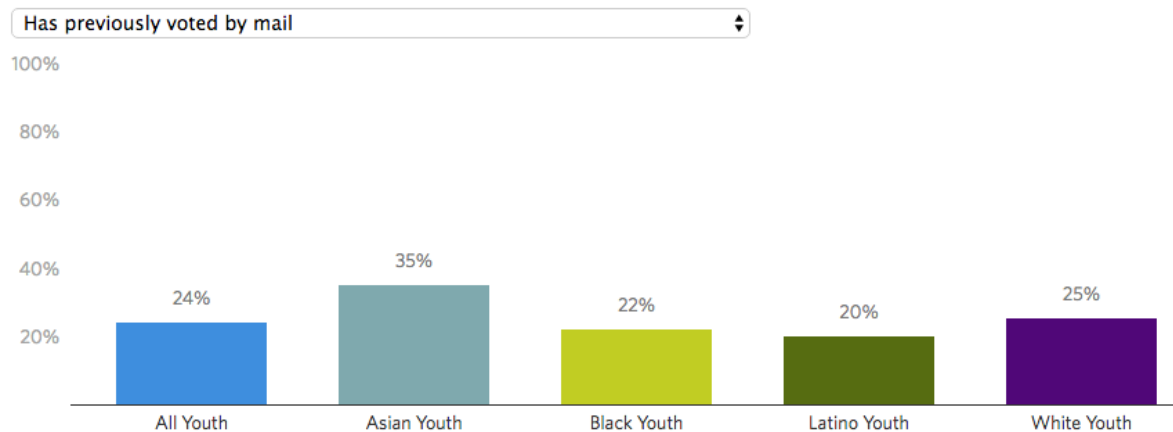
## Troubleshooting if you can't find your voter registration:

- Try using an old address, maybe it hasn't updated yet
- If you can't find your registration at the county level but you used to live in another county, try the CA SOS first to see where your current registration is listing you. If you are still listed at your old address, then just re-register at your new address.
- Try putting in your middle name instead of your first name (this actually worked for some folks) or flipping your name around.
- If you have a compound last name, try different configurations. Example: if your last name is "Moreno Aguilera" then try putting in "Moreno Aguilera" or "Aguilera."
- If you still can't find it, contact your local election official. All phone numbers are listed here: [County Election Offices](#). They have more robust search abilities on hand so might be able to find you and help clear up why you can't find your registration online.
- And worst case scenario, just register again. The deadline for registration in California is October 19th. But remember, this is after the first batch of ballots have been sent out on October 5th so it might take some time for your registration to be processed and for a ballot to be sent to you.

## DATA

### Awareness of Online Registration and Mail-In Voting, by Race/Ethnicity

The percentage of young people, ages 18-29, for whom each statement is true.



**CIRCLE** Tufts University Tisch College · CIRCLE

Source: CIRCLE/Tisch College 2020 Pre-Election Youth Poll

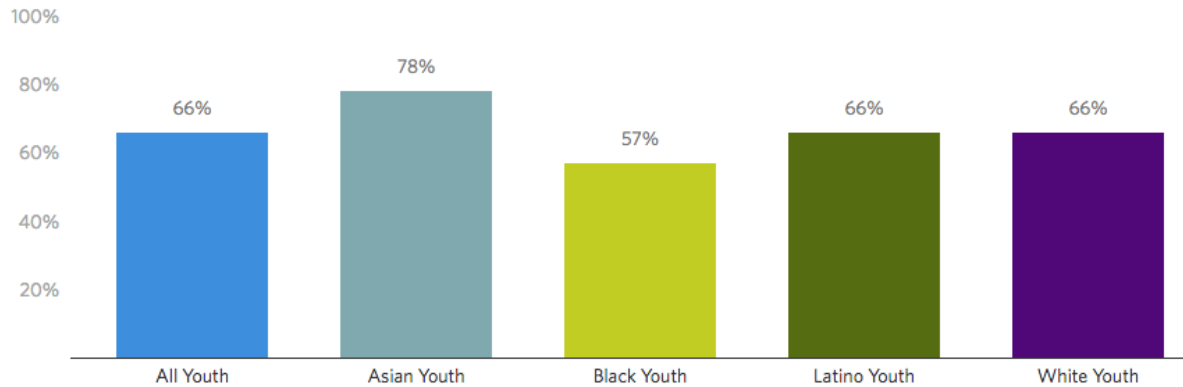
[Get the data](#)



## Awareness of Online Registration and Mail-In Voting, by Race/Ethnicity

The percentage of young people, ages 18-29, for whom each statement is true.

Has seen information about voting by mail



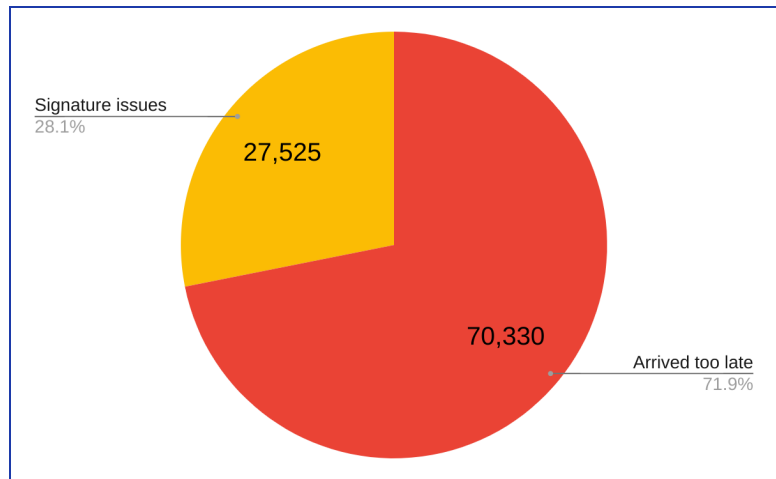
**CIRCLE** Tufts University Tisch College - CIRCLE

Source: CIRCLE/Tisch College 2020 Pre-Election Youth Poll

[Get the data](#)

### The reason 100K ballots were not counted in the California primaries in March:

The California secretary of state's election data obtained by the AP showed 102,428 mail-in ballots were disqualified in the state's 58 counties, about 1.5% of the nearly 7 million mail-in ballots returned. [California rejected 100,000 mail-in ballots because of mistakes](#)



The best thing to do is to prevent your ballot from being rejected is to sign up for [Where's My Ballot?](#) That way you will receive immediate notification if your ballot was rejected and how you can cure or remedy it. SB 759 requires election officials to notify voters of mismatched signatures at least 8 days prior to the certification of an election and allow voters to cure their ballot. The certification of the election is 30 days after the election (Thursday, December 3, 2020) so they have until November 25th to let you know that your vote did not count and how to remedy it.

**What happened to Georgia after the documentary:** best to let Fair Fight tell their own story which is available [here](#). But the short version: they are still mired in the legal process, and this will probably go to the Supreme Court. Another reason why this election is so important, the balance of the Supreme Court is on the line.

## **Where to find election laws according to state (in case you want to register voters or go to another state to be a poll worker)**

The best resource for this is the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, who were featured in the film as the one's staffing the 866-OUR-VOTES hotline, and also responsible for filing legal actions against voter suppression. Here's the link to their website that lists all the information for each state:

[State Election Law Overview](#)

## **If you need to temporarily change your mailing address for this election (because you have been impacted by the wildfires or any other emergency):**

So sorry, this isn't uniform across California like I thought. In Alameda County you need to re-register if your mailing address changes, and you can do that [here](#). And then about 5 days after you should check your [Voter Profile](#) in Alameda County to make sure your county has updated your information.

## **How to strategize & organize**

Ask yourself:

- Who are my people?
- What spaces do I occupy?
- What are my unique talents or skills?

Who are my people? is important because this is where you have street cred and can be a trusted messenger. Think expansively about your identity and connect to your people.

What spaces do I occupy? can help figure out where your spheres of influence are. Whether it's at work, school, online, any group you are a part of, etc. these are the places where you can make a difference.

What are my unique talents or skills? My list of 100 Things To Do To Fight Voter Suppression doesn't even take into account all the ways that you can apply your unique talents. Some examples for using very specific skills: yarn bombing, digital infrastructure, ArcGIS mapping, creating GIFs and memes, documentaries, writing articles and books, designing T-shirts, bird dogging politicians, bake sales, fundraising concerts, Tik Tok dances, etc.

And most importantly don't reinvent the wheel and work in groups. We are up against powerful and well-resourced interests that want to suppress our votes. The only way to combat this is our strength in numbers and coordinating our resources. Coalitions, networks, collaborations all help to amplify our message.

---

Follow me on Instagram [@val\\_on\\_voting](#) and feel free to DM me with any questions or if you want to strategize what activism groups might be a good fit for you (if you want to start contacting potential or registered voters!)

# 100 THINGS TO DO TO FIGHT VOTER SUPPRESSION

## September

1. Wear a mask, wash your hands, practice social distancing
2. [Register](#) to vote
3. Help your friends and family register
4. **[Check your registration](#) to make sure you are an active voter and the right address is on file & fix if necessary**
5. Get your people to check their registration too
6. **Phone & text bank to swing state to get people to register**
7. **Phone and text bank into swing states to get folks to request their absentee ballot**
8. Post on social media about voting
9. [Call](#) your MoCs to save the USPS
10. **Post on social media and tag your reps to #SavethePostOffice**
11. [Research](#) what's on your ballot now
12. Talk to your friends about what & who they are voting for
13. Volunteer for a local campaign that you believe in
14. Calendar important voting dates
15. Send a calendar invite to friends about important dates
16. Get involved in local ballot drop box fights
17. Do some post carding or letter writing for GOTV
18. **[Sign up](#) to be a poll worker**
19. Encourage young folks to be a poll worker and sign up at [pollhero.org](#)
20. **[Sign up](#) to be an election protection volunteer**
21. [Sign up](#) to be part of the legal election protection watch
22. Support [Pizza to the Polls](#)
23. Donate to an organization that is working on voter registration
24. Donate to an org that is working on outreach to historically disenfranchised groups
25. Write to your alma mater and ask what they are doing to increase the turnout on campus
26. Donate to or volunteer at a food bank
27. Sep 22 is National Voter Registration Day! Shout it out!
28. Be counted in the Census [my2020census.gov](#)
29. If an enumerator asks you about your neighbors, be a proxy and give them as much info as you can
30. Take a break to self-care and recharge

## October

31. Track your ballot once it has been sent out
32. Tell your friends to track their ballot
33. Tell everyone on social media to go track their ballot
34. Post on social media any ballot drop box you see
35. Link to drop box locations & poll locations on social media
36. Ask your employer if you can leave early to vote
37. Ask your employer if you can put up voting information
38. If you are an employer, let your employees leave early or arrive late during the entire voting period not just Nov 3
39. If you are an employer, post non-partisan voting information
40. Ask your company to sign-on to the [Time to Vote](#) Coalition
41. If you are in a leadership position at a company, urge the company to join the [Time to Vote](#) Coalition
42. Ask your company to take the pledge at [electionday.org](#)
43. If you are in a leadership position at a company, get them to take the pledge at [electionday.org](#)
44. Volunteer for a local campaign to make calls
45. Attend a webinar about voting
46. Attend a virtual event hosted by the [Brennan Center](#)
47. Delete your Facebook account
48. If you're not going to delete your FB account then report any mis/disinformation right away
49. Engage with any friends who are spreading mis/disinfo
50. Practice information hygiene, do not post or forward anything unless you vet it first
51. Call your election officials and see if they are accepting donations of hand sanitizer or PPE, and then donate if you can
- 52-54. Vote Yes on Prop 16, 17, 18
55. Mail in your ballot ASAP
56. Take your ballot to a drop box
57. Walk in your ballot to a vote center or polling place
58. If voting in-person, go before Nov 3
59. Take an "I Voted" sticker selfie and post to social media
60. Participate in local efforts to address the housing crisis: rent relief, evictions moratoriums, etc.

## 100 THINGS TO DO TO FIGHT VOTER SUPPRESSION (continued)

### November

61. Volunteer to GOTV with a local campaign
62. **Volunteer to call/text voters in a swing state to GOTV**
63. Volunteer to give rides to the polls with a local campaign
64. Ask folks if they want you to walk their ballot in to the polls, and then do it
65. Read through the [Voter's Bill of Rights](#) so you know your rights when you go to the polls
66. Take your children with you to the polls
67. Pack your Vote Bag: snacks, water, hand sanitizer, masks, pens, maybe even a jacket and a lawn chair depending on your local situation
68. If there are long lines, then pass out water or snacks if you are able to
69. Call **866-OUR-VOTES** if you see any voter intimidation or anything amiss or suspicious at your polling place
70. Call your city and county officials if you see anything amiss at your polling place
71. Call your county election officials if you see anything fishy or poll workers are not following the rules
72. No electioneering at the polls so don't wear any partisan T-shirts, buttons, etc.
73. Bring extra disposable masks with you to the polls if you can and offer to folks in line who may not have one, but if they decline just back up to 14 feet
74. Be nice to your poll workers and thank them for their service
75. Order a pizza from Pizza to the Polls if you have a super-long line
76. Download a meditation app and use it at the polls
77. If some crisis happens at the polls, be ready with the 5 D's: Distract, Delegate, Document, Delay and Direct. (Visit [Hollaback!](#) for details).
78. Post a selfie with your "I Voted" sticker
79. After the polls close, do not believe anything that anyone says. No one knows what turnout is going to look like during a pandemic
80. Stay calm, it takes a while to process and count absentee ballots, so don't believe anything you see on TV or online
81. Help everyone else to stay calm and patient
82. Find out what your local redistricting process will be and apply to be a commissioner if that option is available

### and Beyond!

83. Sign up for updates from your local redistricting commission
84. **Join a group that works on these issues**
85. Create a group that works on these issues
86. Work on the social determinants of voter suppression: racism, education, health, and economic inequality
87. **Join a group working on gerrymandering ([All on The Line](#))**
88. Join a watchdog org to hold your election officials accountable
89. If you have any recently deceased family members, check that they have been taken off the voter rolls, and if not contact your election officials to get it fixed
90. Make public comments at any local hearing about elections
91. Make public comments about the redistricting process
92. If we have a Congress and President that cares about expanding the franchise then go big! Start pushing for national automatic voter registration, baseline election system rules, and more!
93. If we have a split, then push for online registration in all states, postage on all ballots, rolling back Voter ID laws, and reinstating preclearance
94. If the next batch of electeds are all about voter suppression, then the fight is going to be happening on all levels: state, federal, and judicial
95. Volunteer with an org that does voter registration
96. Find out what kinds of civics education happens at your local schools and advocate for more funding and resources for civics
97. Publish an op-ed about voter suppression
98. Start working with your election officials on how to improve for the next election
99. Read a book or watch a documentary about voter suppression, some recommendations:
  - *Ratf\*\*ked: Why Your Vote Doesn't Count* by David Daley
  - *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy* by Carol Anderson
  - *Voter Suppression in U.S. Elections* edited by Jim Downs
  - [Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook](#)
100. Internalize that voting is a right: it should be free, easy, and never denied