



AAUW California

September 23, 2024

Getting Out the Vote (GOTV) in a Polarized World



Standing together for equity.



Welcome

Presentation materials:

- Download the presentation from the AAUW California website home page.
- The meeting recording, a summary Q&A document and example documents will be posted following the meeting.

Questions:

- Use the Q&A function to pose a question. We'll stop periodically to answer general questions.
- Chat has been disabled.

The screenshot shows a Zoom 'Question and Answer' window. At the top, there are two tabs: 'All questions (1)' and 'My questions (1)'. A red dashed arrow points from the text 'Check here for answers to all questions.' to the 'All questions (1)' tab. Another red dashed arrow points from the text 'Check here for answers to your questions' to the 'My questions (1)' tab. The main content area shows a question from 'You' at 09:45 AM: 'Where can I download the presentation?'. Below the question, there is a 'Collapse all (1)' button and a response from 'AAUW California' at 09:45 AM. At the bottom, there is a text input field with the placeholder 'Type your question here...'. A red dashed arrow points from the text 'Type your question here.' to this input field. In the bottom left corner, there are two circular buttons: 'Chat' (highlighted with a yellow circle) and 'Q&A' (highlighted with a red circle). A message on the left side of the window states 'Chat has been disabled. Use the Q&A function'. A 'Leave' button is visible in the bottom right corner.

Welcome! Meet Your Presenters:



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Also a BIG thank you also to Amy Hom, Asha Bajaj, and Donna Kindschuh



What We Will Cover



Topic 1: Voter Registration



Topic 2: GOTV Logistics



Topic 3: Voter Education/Suppression



Topic 4: Community Collaboration and Having Difficult Conversations



Topic 1: Voter Registration





Voter Registration Process: Educate Your Communities

As of July 5, 2024, there are **22.17 million registered voters in California** (out of a **possible 26.9 million eligible voters**).

Eligible Californians have several ways they may register to vote:



- Electronic
- Mail-In
- Same Day



In California, 16 and 17 year olds can register. They will then be ready to vote when they turn 18.





Already Registered to Vote?

Find out if you are currently registered to vote!

- Check your own registration now to confirm and share resources for others to check on their status. Suggested tools below:



- CA Secretary of State: [My Voter Status](#)
- Resistbot (nonpartisan and community funded): [Check](#)
 - Can also text "Check" to 50409



You will need to re-register to vote if:

- You changed your residence address or mailing address
- You changed your name
- You changed your political party affiliation





How To: Electronic Voter Registration



The California Secretary of State website is the primary hub.

- Application is available in ten languages
- Electronic registration must be submitted no later than **October 21, 2024**



You should always be re-routed to the CA Secretary of State website via other voter registration resources, as you are with the federal government's [vote.gov](https://www.vote.gov)





How To: Mail-in Voter Registration



Pick Up In-Person

- Paper voter registration applications **can be picked up at specific locations**, including the Library, DMV, and U.S. Post Offices.
- You can also find them at county elections offices (find locations [HERE](#))

Request By Mail

- You can request a paper voter registration application be mailed to you by calling **(800) 345-VOTE (8683)** or **filling out a form online** at the [Elections Division of the CA Secretary of State](#).



The last day to complete a voter registration form and postmark or deliver to your county elections office **October 21, 2024**





How To: Same Day Voter Registration



Same Day Voter Registration, **known as Conditional Voter Registration**, is available for people who missed the deadline to register to vote.

There are **two ways** to register after the deadline:

- Complete the *Same Day Voter Registration Process* at an early voting location (**open from October 26, 2024**).
- Register on Election Day at your Polling Place/Vote Center.*



****Traditional precinct-based polling places have been replaced by Vote Centers***



Find early
voting locations
[HERE](#)

Find your polling
place / vote
center [HERE](#).





How To: Voter Registration for New Citizens

New citizens may register to vote online or by mail **before October 21, 2024**

- **New citizens** should bring their **proof of New Citizenship** to their **county election office** (find locations [HERE](#))
 - New citizens can register to vote right up to election day.
- **All citizens registering to vote for the first time** will need the following:
 - A driver's license number, and
 - A California identification number OR
 - The last four digits of your social security number.





Promoting Voter Registration

Show Up To Select Locations

Colleges

- Set up a table with materials at a university, college, or community college in your area.
- Include registration forms, a printed QR code of the CA Secretary of State website, and free bagels, cookies, and/or water bottles.

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Gathering Places

- Send volunteers to places where large groups of people congregate - malls, festivals, farmers markets, etc. (Be sure to get permission first.)

AAUW Events

- Hold an issue forum on an AAUW priority issue that is important to your community, and make a voter registration pitch at the end of the event.





Promoting Voter Registration: AAUW California Social Media Campaign

Participate in our **social media campaign** to mobilize all of our members to collectively **Get Out The Vote!** Look in your inboxes for more information in the coming weeks.

- Through this campaign, all branches can be involved in Getting Out the Vote. AAUW California had a successful social media campaign in 2022 promoting registration and voting!
- Posting the message on your personal or branch social media accounts with our hashtags will make our messages trend!





Topic 2: GOTV Logistics



Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Ballots



Since 2020, county officials mail ballots to all active registered voters—usually about a month before the election. These are Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballots.

How Do I Submit VBM Ballots?

- **Mail.** Fill out your ballot and ballot envelope and drop it in the mail on or before election day. No stamp needed. Must be postmarked by November 5.
- **Vote Center.** Drop completed VBM at any vote center on or before election day at 8pm.
- **County Elections Office.** Drop your completed VBM at your county elections office
- **Official Drop Box.** Drop your completed VBM in any official* drop box. Avoid fake drop boxes.



There are remote accessible VBM options (RAVBM). Read more [HERE](#).



Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Ballots, con.



Can I still vote in-person?

- **YES!** Whether or not you have to surrender your VBM ballot to vote in-person varies by county, depending on participation in the Voter's Choice Act (VCA). Learn more and check your county status [HERE](#).

Can someone else drop-off my VBM ballot?

- **YES!** Anyone can return your VBM ballot for you, as long as they are not paid on a per ballot basis. However, the you, the voter, have to fill out the authorization section found on the outside of your ballot envelope.

I don't see a VBM ballot in my mail?

- If you are registered to vote, you should have one in your mailbox in early October. If you do not, double check your voter registration and details. **If everything is correct and you still don't have one by October 12**, contact your local county elections office



You can track your ballot [HERE](#).

Where's my VBM Ballot?



The California Secretary of State offers **Where's My Ballot?**— a way for voters to track and receive notifications on the status of their Vote-by-Mail ballot. Receive notices via email, text, or voice message including:

- When the ballot has been delivered.
- If the ballot is returned as undeliverable to the county elections official by the USPS.
- When the completed ballot has been received by the county.
- Whether the completed ballot has been accepted or a reason why the ballot could not be accepted and instructions to complete in order to have the ballot accepted.
- The deadline for the voter to return his/her ballot if the county has not received a voter's completed ballot on time.

Sign-up Now!



Made a Mistake?



- **Draw a single line through your mistake and make a correction.**
- If it is early enough, you can **request a new VBM ballot.**
 - **Submit A Request Form In-Person.** You can fill out the Replacement Ballot Form [HERE](#) and return it to your county elections office. If you cannot physically go to a county office, you should fill out [THIS FORM](#) so someone else can submit it on your behalf.
 - **Submit A Request Form Online.** Some counties have electronic VBM replacement forms (e.g. LA; OC).
 - **Contact your county elections office for replacement deadlines & more information.**
- **Vote in-person.**
 - **In some counties, you will not need to bring the spoiled ballot with you.** Just show up and vote!
 - **In others, you will have to take the ballot with mistake with you** to a Vote Center/polling place, give it to the election official, and request a replacement/ provisional ballot.
 - **Contact your county elections office for more information.**



Checklist: To-Do's for Every VBM Ballot



- Make sure you fill out your ballot completely (don't forget the proposition voting!)
- Make sure you have signed, addressed, and dated the return envelope for the ballot.
- **Vote Early to make sure VBM ballot received before deadline.**
- If using a Drop Box, make sure it is official. →
- Track your ballot before and after voting using the [ballot tracker](#).





Identification (ID) and Voting in California



Why are we talking about ID? ID is not required to vote in CA, right?

- In most cases, registered voters in CA will NOT need to show ID in order to vote; however, there are some instances in which ID may be requested.

When Might I Need to Show ID?

- When you register (see slide 11).
- When there is missing information in your voter registration file.
 - **Voting by mail?** If information is missing, you will be contacted by your county elections official upon receipt of your voted ballot to request the required proof of identity before your ballot will be opened.
 - **Voting in person?** Prior to receiving a ballot at the polling place, you will be asked to provide an acceptable form of identification before election officials will give you a ballot.



If you are not sure about the types of ID that might be requested, please review [THIS LIST](#) of acceptable forms of ID.





Voting Dates and Deadlines 2024



- October 7.** Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Ballots are sent to registered voters.
- October 8.** Ballot drop-off locations (official drop boxes) become available.
- October 12.** Check with your county elections office if you have checked that your voter registration details are correct but do not yet have a VBM ballot.
- October 21.** Most voter registration closes (but you can still register in-person on election day).
- October 26.** Vote Centers open for early in-person voting and VBM drop-off in select counties.
- October 29.*** Last day to request a replacement VBM ballot (if you make a mistake) in certain counties (e.g. LA). Check your county elections office.
- November 5.** Election Day! VBM ballots must be postmarked by today or dropped off at a Vote Center by 8pm.
- November 12.** VBM ballots must be received to be counted. See tracking tool on last slide!



Topic 3: Voter Education/Suppression





Voter Education

Voter education remains important, especially in a political system where people feel frustrated or disempowered.

- If voters know more about the election, they will turn out to vote.
- If voters know more about the candidates, they will choose leaders who reflect their concerns and views.
- If voters understand the issues – what they are voting for or against – they will feel more confident and have more interest in voting.
- This is our power – to help voters understand how voting impacts their daily lives.

→ You can help educate voters through holding candidate forums, through creating/sharing information including voter guides, monthly AAUW Public Policy News content, and ballot measure positions.





Voter Education: Candidate Forums

What to Know About Candidate Forums

- Times have changed! In person or virtual?
- In California the 'top-two' format for Congress and state-wide offices limits the number of candidates. Local elections may have more candidates.
- Can you partner with another group for a forum? Eg. LWV
- Check out [AAUW National Election Resources](#) to organize a forum.





Voter Education: Voter Guides (Candidates)

- AAUW Public Policy has prepared Voters Guides **for select California Congressional district races** to share at candidate forums, your website, Facebook, newsletter, or any other event where you aren't endorsing a candidate. See Public Policy News for links.
- A branch can use the template to create a guide for your local congressional district, state assemblyperson or senators, or even local forums, but only if you keep to the statements on the template.

Remember these voter guides are not to choose a candidate, but to educate voters on the positions relevant to AAUW's mission. Even so, **ONLY 501(c)(4) may share out the candidate voter guides.**

***501(c)(3) can focus on PPPs & the Election. See [Aug](#), [Sept](#), and [Oct](#). [Public Policy News](#).**





Candidate Voter Guide Template



You can find the template [HERE](#). Download to add content.

2024 Voter Guide

Candidates for ... Congressional District

Democrat	Where the candidates stand on	Republican
	Passing the Paycheck Fairness Act (HR 7) to strengthen existing employment discrimination laws aimed at closing the gender pay gap	
	Passing the FAMILY Act (S248) to create a national paid family and medical leave insurance program	
	Defending and strengthening Title IX protections for all students.	
	Increasing funding for college affordability programs like Pell Grants and student loan cancelation programs	
	Investing in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education for women and girls	
	Ensuring access to reproductive healthcare—including contraception and abortion	
	Supporting the John R. Lewis: Voting Rights Advancement Act (HR 4) to restore and expand voting access	
	Supporting publication of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution.	



Voter Education: Voter Guides (Candidates), con.

- AAUW CA's statements on its Voter Guide template come from AAUW's *"It's My Vote 2024 Voter Issue Guide"*.
- Candidate positions should be researched. Research information in the public domain. Be sure your information is accurate:
 - Statements or speeches by the candidates
 - Voting records
 - Direct quotes published by the media – not media commentary
 - Information on candidates' websites or in campaign pieces
 - Call the candidate's office and ask
- Once complete, distribute the document by mail, email, website, at candidate forums, **but not at Vote Centers or Polling Places.**





Voter Education: Ballot Measures

- Members need to know AAUW CA's positions on California ballot measures that relate to our mission. The Public Policy committee is focusing on:
 - **Propositions 2:** Authorizes bonds for public school and Community College facilities
 - **Proposition 3:** Enshrine the right of same-sex couples to marry in CA Constitution
 - **Proposition 4:** Authorizes bonds for parks, environment, energy, and water.
 - **Proposition 32:** Raise state minimum wage to \$18 an hour
- Set up a branch discussion meeting on the propositions - live or virtual.
- Include information in the branch newsletter or send out a newsletter update.
- Write letters to the editor citing AAUW's positions on the measures.

See **September Public Policy News** for more on propositions!





Misinformation Helps Suppress Voting

- Misinformation spreads on social media about who can and who can't vote.
- Voting is suppressed by both physical hindrances and rule restrictions in many states.
 - Distance to few polling places means extended waits during high voting hours.
 - New stringent rules for a mail-in-ballot are not well-publicized.
- In California the issue in 2020 was fake Drop Boxes. In 2024 voters must be wary of misinformation.
- Voting Rights Act, Civil Rights Act, and the National Vote Regulations Act make it unlawful to stalk, threaten with criminal prosecution, disseminate false information, or make threatening phone calls.
- California lists regulations for poll workers, poll watchers, campaigns near voting sites, and actions for election officers to safeguard against voter intimidation.





Overcome Mis/Disinformation and Suppression

- To Check on Mis and Disinformation
 - [Politifact](#)
 - [FactCheck.org](#)
 - [NPR FactCheck](#)
- Triumph over Suppression by urging voters to get registered and get their ballots counted
- Try phone banking, texting, and on the ground canvassing
- Write letters or postcards to less frequent voters
 - [Reclaim Our Vote](#)
 - [Vote Riders](#)
 - [Vote Forward](#)

*** Maintain AAUW's non-partisan policy. Don't support or oppose any PARTISAN candidate or political party.***





Be Alert - Take Action

Two more ways to vote for legislation that provides opportunity for women and girls.

Sign Up for National AAUW Action Network:

[Two-Minute Activist - AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

Sign Up for AAUW California Legislative Action Alerts:

<https://forms.gle/zkbyQM8gByqjGymTA>





Topic 4: Community Collaboration and Having Difficult Conversations



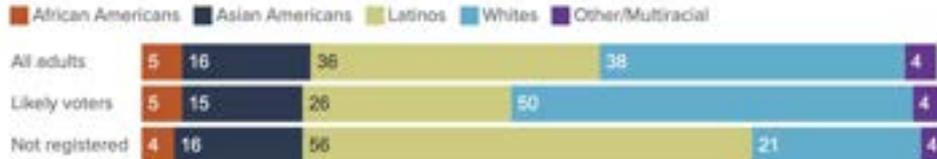


Community Collaboration

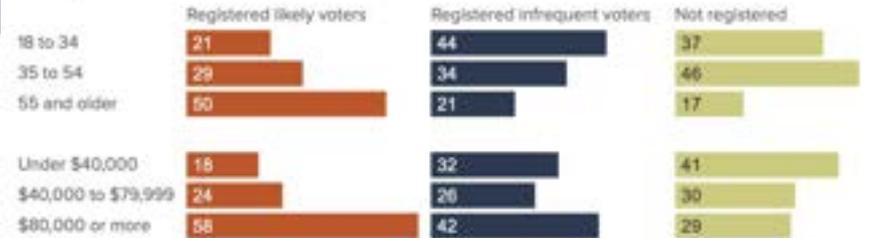
Collaborating with groups and organizations within our communities is important for building capacity, sharing workload, and reaching audiences who may not otherwise be reached.

→ Who in YOUR community may need GOTV information?

Latinos are dramatically underrepresented among likely voters



Likely voters tend to be older and more affluent



Information from [Public Policy Institute of California](#)



Linking together for our mission.



Community Collaboration, con.

→How can you reach these potential voters?

Once you identify **who** you might target locally (e.g. younger voters), you can...

- **Research.** Do some digging to figure out which organizations in/outside of your community are already doing GOTV and voter education work. Talk to people. Check your local newspapers and online forums. (e.g. [LWV](#); CFA)
- **Connect.** How can you share information and tasks to reach a wider audience? Reach out to local community groups, organizations, businesses, and educational institutions (e.g. voting coordinators on university campuses). **Ask existing groups what they need most relative to GOTV and combine forces.**
- **Create.** While some organizations may already have active campaigns, you may also have ideas for where/when/how to...
 - **run registration drives,**
 - **knock on doors,** or
 - show up with materials at **key locations and community events.**





Importance of Engaging Differences

Part of engaging in GOTV outreach and community collaboration will also require having conversations across difference. This may entail differences in life experience, political positions, and/or worldview.

- Due to politeness and other norms, **some may feel nervous** engaging in conversations when there are known political or other differences.
- However, research has shown that **engaging differences constructively** leads to new insights and better decisions—within any group or organization as well as in wider society.
- Engaging differences constructively is essential to the democratic process—from choosing elected officials to creating meaningful legislation—because **it is practically necessary to make well-informed decisions and achieve consensus positions.**





The Perception of Differences in a Polarized World

Having conversations across difference is already difficult—but it becomes more difficult when we encounter spikes in political polarization.

- Increasingly in the United States, divergent political positions and party affiliations have come to represent groups with **fundamentally different kinds of beliefs**.
- **But is this true?** A belief in difference itself, and the socialization of difference, leads to the perception of difference.
- **However**, the perception of difference alongside the consumption of different “facts” leads to a divergence in worldview—and miscommunication.
- Widespread polarization **has radiating impacts** on our ability to talk about issues, solve problems, and collaborate with each other in our homes, workplaces, and communities (e.g. schoolboards!)—**even when we are not talking about politics**.

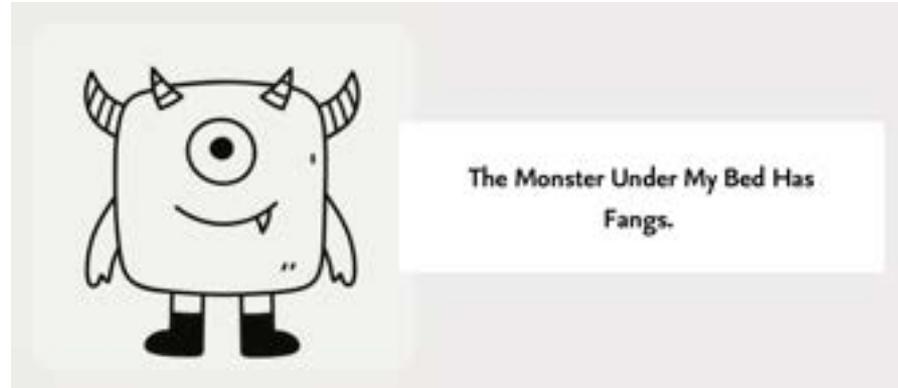




The Perception of Differences in a Polarized World (con)

The perception of difference alongside the consumption of different “facts” leads to a divergence in worldview—and miscommunication—even when we are not talking about politics.

Impact: lack of shared baseline assumptions.



We have to work together to find ways that we can talk to each other to reach consensus positions and make good choices. A good focus area is learning to reflect on, monitor, and shift our everyday conversations.



Having Conversations Across Difference: Reflecting & Monitoring

Engaging in self-reflection and monitoring is an important skill. Before you begin to assess others, look critically at your own approach to political conversations, especially across difference.

Self-Reflection Questions

- How do you approach an explicitly political conversation? What are your goals?
- Do you avoid these conversations? Why?
- How do you respond to the use of certain words and phrases? What are your biases?
- What are your underlying assumptions?

The diagram illustrates the goal of authoritative expression of opinion using the example "A Hotdog is A Sandwich." It features a central text box with the sentence "A Hotdog is A Sandwich." and a drawing of a hotdog in a bun. Below this, two boxes show different conversational goals:

- Goal: Authoritative Expression of Opinion**
"A hot dog is a sandwich. A sandwich is meat between two pieces of bread."
- Goal: Establish Consensus**
"I think a hot dog is a sandwich because I define a sandwich as meat between two pieces of bread. What do you think?"



Having Conversations Across Difference: Bridging Difference

We want everyone to feel more empowered to speak up when you disagree, misunderstand, or hear something that you find problematic. However, we also want to practice speaking up in a way that does not perpetuate polarization—by trying to make connections and build common ground.

Key Communication Skills

- Active Listening
- Asking Questions
- Using Careful Word Choices
- Telling Personal Stories
- Avoiding Scripted Talk



Apply These Skills To...

- Identify Differences in Assumptions
- Consider Your Audience
- Foreground Shared Identities & Issues
- Center Storytelling
- Engage in Repeated Conversations





Reflection & Action: What Can YOU Do?

Can you come up with 1-2 goals you will try to achieve **as an individual** and 1-2 goals you will try to achieve **as a branch** to address one of the topics discussed today?

Topic 1: Voter Registration

Topic 2: GOTV Logistics

Topic 3: Voter Education/Suppression

Topic 4: Community Collaboration and Having Difficult Conversations

Take a few minutes to consider your action plans and jot down some notes. Feel free to drop your ideas in the Q&A so we can share out. The goal is for us to all leave the webinar with a concrete plan for how we can act to GOTV and educate others in a polarized world.



Questions & Answers



Give Us Feedback

Please click **Continue** to participate in a short survey.

you will be leaving zoom.us to access the external URL below

[https:// docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjggnUvivyOhGhkS2Rzohxubbs-ufS9ujasuT4Vn0qdCFHiwg/formResponse](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjggnUvivyOhGhkS2Rzohxubbs-ufS9ujasuT4Vn0qdCFHiwg/formResponse)

Are you sure you want to continue?



References & Links

by organization

- **AAUW California**
 - [AAUW California Public Policy News.\(Archive\)](#)
 - [August 2024](#)
 - [September 2024](#)
 - [2024 Voter Candidate Guide Template](#)
 - [Action Alerts-Sign up](#)
- **AAUW National**
 - [Election Resources](#)
 - [Two Minute Activist Sign up](#)
- **California Secretary of State.**
 - [Ballot Tracking](#) (service-where's my ballot?)
 - [California Voter's Choice Act](#) (counties that have opted in)
 - [County Election Offices](#)
 - [Find Your Polling Place](#)
 - [Identification Guide](#)
 - [My Voter Status](#)
 - [Voter Registration](#)
 - [Elections Division](#) (email)
 - [Early Voting Locations](#)
 - [Remote Accessible Vote by Mail](#)
 - [Replacement Ballot Form](#)
 - [Replacement Ballot Form](#) (if you personally cannot appear)
- **Resistbot**
 - [Check](#) (voter registration status)
 - [AAUW CA](#) (follow for action alerts via Resistbot)
- **United States General Services Administration**
 - [Register to Vote in California](#) (vote.gov)

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References & Links

by topic (does not repeat from previous page)

- **Engage Less Likely Voters**
 - Center for Common Ground. 2024. "[Reclaim Our Vote.](#)"
 - Vote Riders. 2024. "[Protect Our Right To Vote.](#)"
 - [Vote Forward.](#)2024.
- **General Voter Information (logistics)**
 - [Vote 411: California.](#)2024.
- **General Voter Information (candidates/propositions)**
 - [Ballotpedia.](#)
- **General Voter Information (issues/fact check)**
 - [Politifact](#)
 - [FactCheck.org](#)
 - [NPR FactCheck](#)
- **GOTV Nationwide**
 - [Mom's Rising,](#)
 - [Fair Fight](#)(GA)
- **Have Conversations Across Difference**
 - Maceyko, Melissa."[Reducing Polarization.](#)"*WillingObservers.com*, July 2024.
 - National Institute for Civil Discourse. nd. "[Engaging Differences: Key Principles and Best Practices.](#)"
- **Vote By Mail**
 - Biljan, Caitlin and Caitlin Hernandez. "[How Do I Vote By Mail?](#)" *LAist.com*, September 9, 2024.
 - Denkman, Libby. "[Fake Ballot Drop Boxes Have Popped Up In Southern California. They're Not Legal.](#)" *LAist.com*, October 12, 2020.
- **Voter Registration Statistics-CA**
 - Public Policy Institute of California. 2024. "[California's Likely Voters: Factsheet.](#)"