

The Voter's Choice Act: changing the way we vote

Starting in 2018, San Mateo County will be one of the first to implement the Voter's Choice Act; a new law that expands voters' choices as to where, when and how to vote.

All registered voters will receive their ballot in the mail about a month before the election. Instead of going to your old polling places, you will have **3 choices** for how to vote:



Vote by Mail

You can mail your ballot starting as soon as you receive it.



Drop Box

You can drop off your ballot at any secure Drop Box starting as soon as you receive it. No postage required at Drop Boxes.



Vote Centers

You can go to any Vote Center in your county to vote in person. Vote Centers will be open for **up to** 11 days in a row through 8 PM on Election Day. At every Vote Center you can: vote, register and vote the same day, drop off your ballot, use an accessible voting machine, and get help and voting materials in multiple languages.

San Mateo County's Election Plan

The new law requires San Mateo County to get community input on the new election plan, called the Election Administration Plan. The plan must carefully consider how to make voting convenient and easy to access for everyone, and how to educate people about the changes.

You have the best information about where you and your neighbors will be comfortable voting and what you and your neighborhoods need. Review your county's plan and use the attached form to offer feedback.

The Voter's Choice Act Community Review Guide

The county's new election plan will describe a number of topics. Feel free to read the entire plan or skip to the sections that matter the most to you. Use the attached form to write down your thoughts and suggestions. It's ok to leave areas blank if you don't have an opinion on something.

Below are a few topics that you will see covered in the Election Administration Plan:

- Vote Center locations
- Ballot Drop Box locations
- Public education plans
- Media outreach ideas
- Support and tools for voters with disabilities
- Assistance for voters who speak a language other than English

The locations of Vote Centers and Ballot Drop Boxes are very important because they need to be as easy as possible for everyone to access.

As you review the Vote Center and Ballot Drop Box locations think about whether these are convenient or close to:

- Popular community locations
- Free and accessible parking
- Communities of people with disabilities
- Communities where people speak a language other than English
- Public transportation
- Low-income communities
- Neighborhoods where not many people own cars
- Geographically isolated populations (like rural areas)

To learn more about the Voter's Choice Act and getting involved visit our website at www.voterschoice.org

To learn more about what is happening in your county contact your elections official at:

Phone: (650) 312-5222

Email: registrar@smcare.org

Thank you for participating!

The Voter’s Choice Act Community Review Guide – San Mateo County

Please skip any questions you do not know

Vote Centers and Ballot Drop Boxes	Yes	No
Are Vote Center locations convenient and easy to access for you and your community? <i>See Page 2 for list of considerations.</i>		
Are Ballot Drop Box locations convenient and easy to access for you and your community? <i>See Page 2 for list of considerations.</i>		
Are Vote Centers and Ballot Drop Boxes in places that are familiar and comfortable for you and your community?		
If you need language assistance, is it offered at conveniently located Vote Centers?		
If you need assistance to cast an independent and private ballot, is it available at Vote Centers?		
Do you think that there is a need for a mobile Vote Center for people who can’t easily get to a listed location?		
Are Vote Center and Ballot Drop Box hours convenient?		
What concerns, if any, do you have about location(s) or hours?		
What ideas do you have for other locations or changes to hours?		
Community Advisory Committees	Yes	No
Are you interested in serving on a committee advising the county on issues related to access for voters with disabilities?		
Are you interested in serving on a committee advising the county on issues related to access for people who speak a language other than English?		
If Yes, please list contact information:		
Name:	Phone:	Email:
Additional Comments:		

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Please skip any questions you do not know

Public Education	Yes	No
Is there a plan to educate voters who speak languages other than English (i.e. workshops)?		
Is there a plan to educate voters with disabilities (i.e. workshops)?		
Does the plan describe public education for other underrepresented voters (i.e. youth and people of color)?		
What are your ideas for public education (i.e. community events, names of organizations or groups that reach voters)?		
Where do you get information about things happening in your community (i.e. bulletin boards, email list)?		
Media	Yes	No
Do you use the news sources listed in the plan? (i.e. social media, newspapers, radio and TV)		
Do you think the items listed will be enough to inform your neighbors about the new way of voting?		
Will the news sources listed be accessible for voters who are deaf or hard of hearing and blind or visually impaired?		
Will the news sources listed be accessible for voters who speak languages other than English?		
What media sources do you and your neighbors use (i.e. local paper, radio, TV, social media)?		
What media sources will reach voters with disabilities?		
What media sources will reach voters who speak languages other than English?		
What additional ideas or actions do you recommend for public education? (Add additional sheets if needed)		