

# Your vote is your voice. Su voto es su voz.

Presented by the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department





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Why does your vote matter?

Fuerza Latina: Unless You Vote



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OK, that was TV land. But this is not Hollywood.  
Why does anyone's vote really matter?

What do you care about?

The cost of tuition? Black Lives Matter? Climate change? Fair wages?  
Affordable healthcare? Immigration? Transphobia? Cash bail? Reproductive  
justice? Social justice? ...

Who gets to make decisions about these things?



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## But really, why does your vote matter?

2016 eligible voter turnout (Hillary Clinton vs. Donald Trump):

**Only 61% of all eligible voters voted—including only 46% of eligible voters age 18 to 29**

Many eligible voters were not registered; many who were registered did not vote

This year we can do better, as intersectional feminists, as activists, as advocates for social justice.



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## How can we do better?

Increasing numbers of young voters have been invigorated to action by all the issues that concern them and are affecting them directly today:

Again, the cost of tuition, Black Lives Matter, climate change, fair wages, affordable healthcare, immigration, cash bail, reproductive justice, social justice, MeToo, the increase in visible and violent expressions of racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia, xenophobia, etc.

These young activists are a powerful voting and activist bloc.

When the targets of oppression find their voices and use them en masse—in a unified way—social change can happen.



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## How can we do better collectively?

We can work together toward social justice, with an interdisciplinary approach, by learning about the issues from multiple points of view, learning from each other, being activists, and organizing a diversity of activists and voters.

PEW Research Center: While the percentage of non-Hispanic, white eligible voters declined between 2000 and 2018, **Hispanic voters have been making up increasingly large shares of the voters in every state.**

Not every Latinx voter votes the same way, but this still represents a mass of voters, a voting bloc, that can sway an election if enough of them with similar ideologies register and cast their votes.



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How do we do better as individuals?  
It's pretty simple.

1. If you are eligible to vote in California, be sure you're registered **before 19 October, the California deadline.** (Check other state's guidelines here: <https://vote.gov/>.)
2. If you are not eligible to vote, help get out the vote. Anyone registered or not can help with this.
3. Once you're registered, vote!



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## 1. Voter registration

To register to vote in California you must be:

- A U.S. citizen and a California resident
- At least 18 years old on or before the next election, 03 November
- Not in state or federal prison, or on parole for a felony conviction
- Not declared mentally incompetent by a court action

Not sure if you're registered or if your registration is up to date?

- Check your San Diego County registration here:  
<https://www.sdvote.com/content/rov/en/Registration.html>
- Check your registration in other counties here:  
<https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>.



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## 1. Voter registration

### A few key points:

- If you have moved since you registered, you must re-register at your new address.
- If your name has changed since you registered, you must re-register with your new name.
- You can register online as a California voter or update your California registration here: <https://registertovote.ca.gov>

BTW, check out the California Students Vote Project (CSVP) Ballot Bowl [here](#).

If you are eligible to vote, but not registered, and you want to participate in the Ballot Bowl, follow the directions at the link above.



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## 2. GOTV

Just as important as registering to vote and voting, is helping Get Out The Vote. What can you do to help GOTV?

1. Encourage five friends and family to register to vote before the deadline, 19 October. Voters registered by the 19th will receive a mail-in ballot.
2. Make sure they cast their votes. Call them, go to the polls with them, take them to the post office to mail their ballots, nag them if necessary.
3. Volunteer with a GOTV effort through a candidate's campaign or your political party or another campaign, such as Rock the Vote, which has a cool [GOTV app \(https://www.rockthevote.org/get-involved/relational-organizing/\)](https://www.rockthevote.org/get-involved/relational-organizing/).

Remember, anyone can volunteer on a candidate's campaign or for a GOTV effort, voter or not.



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## 3. Vote—and continue your GOTV work

What will the ballot look like? Here's a sample ballot:

[https://rov.sandiegocounty.gov/ROV/Sample\\_ballots/ENG/SB-ENG-507.pdf](https://rov.sandiegocounty.gov/ROV/Sample_ballots/ENG/SB-ENG-507.pdf)

In addition to the politicians' names, you'll see 12 ballot propositions. Depending on how folks vote, some of these propositions could directly affect you, but that's a whole other workshop, which just happens to be coming up Thursday, tomorrow, 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Register for “Speaking of Democracy,” a presentation by the League of Women Voters, here:

<https://www.csusm.edu/nsfp/wow.html?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D446205117>



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If you are registered to vote in California, you can drop off you mail ballot at any polling place in the state or any mail ballot drop-off location. Here are San Marcos polling places:

San Marcos Community Center	3 Civic Center Dr
San Marcos Senior Center	111 Richmar Ave
Walnut Grove Park Red Barn	1950 Sycamore Dr
<b>CSUSM-Clarke Field House</b>	<b>333 S Twin Oaks Valley Rd, Lot L</b>
Discovery Elementary School	730 Applewilde Dr
La Mirada Academy	3697 La Mirada Dr
San Elijo Elementary School	1615 Schoolhouse Way

Find other mail ballot drop-off sites at this link:

[https://www.sdvote.com/content/dam/rov/en/pdf/Mail\\_Ballot\\_Drop\\_Off\\_Locations.pdf](https://www.sdvote.com/content/dam/rov/en/pdf/Mail_Ballot_Drop_Off_Locations.pdf)



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Women's National Basketball Players Association:

Your voice matters.



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Finally, let's take the poll again:

Are you planning to vote in and/or help get out the vote for this November's Presidential Election?





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