



## September 14, 2021, California Gubernatorial Recall Election

# Accessible Voting and Services

The Department of Elections provides various accessible services and resources to help all voters cast their vote privately and independently in the September 14, 2021 election.

### Accessible Vote-by-Mail System

Any voter may use the accessible vote-by-mail (AVBM) system to mark a screen readable vote-by-mail ballot. The AVBM system is compatible with personal assistive devices such as head-pointers and sip-and-puffs. Voters may access the system through 8 p.m. on Election Day by going to [sfelections.org/access](https://sfelections.org/access).

After logging into the AVBM system, voters can read or listen to ballot navigation and voting instructions, connect an assistive device, or adjust the settings.

AVBM ballot must be printed, enclosed in an envelope, and returned in person or by mail, following the instructions provided through the AVBM system.

### Ballot Delivery and Pickup

The Department of Elections will mail ballots for the September 14 election to all registered San Francisco voters. Any voter may request to receive their ballot packet at a temporary address, such as a hospital, care facility, or family member's home, by contacting the Department of Elections or visiting [sfelections.org/voterportal](https://sfelections.org/voterportal).

From September 8 through Election Day, September 14, any voter unable to travel due to illness, disability, or confinement, including a voter under COVID-19-related quarantine, may authorize another person to pick up and deliver their ballot to them by completing an **Emergency Ballot Pickup Form** at [sfelections.org/ballotservices](https://sfelections.org/ballotservices) or contacting the Department of Elections. The authorized person may pick up the voter's ballot at the Voting Center on the ground floor of City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place.

Any voter who is unable to return their vote-by-mail ballot may authorize another person to return their ballot by mail, or to any voting or ballot drop-off site by completing and signing the Ballot Return Authorization section of the back of the return envelope.

From September 8 through Election Day, Department of Elections staff can also deliver and pickup ballots for hospitalized or homebound voters. All staff involved in ballot deliveries are trained on health and safety protocols, including cleaning and sanitization, physical distancing, and proper wearing and disposal of PPE, and provided with N95 respiratory protection, face shields, gowns, and gloves.

## **In-Person Voting Assistance and Tools**

All voting locations in San Francisco offer accessible voting tools such as page magnifiers, pen grips, and seated voting, accessible ballot-marking devices, and personal assistance. American Sign Language interpretation and multilingual services are also available.

“Accessible Entry” signs are posted outside voting sites to direct voters towards accessible entrances. Polling place accessibility information is also printed on the back cover of the Voter Information Pamphlet that all voters will receive in August.

Any voter may request “curbside voting service” by calling (415) 554-4375 or asking a companion to enter the voting site to request this service for the voter. When voting curbside, a voter has an option to request a paper ballot or to use a ballot-marking device.

In compliance with guidance from public health officials, the Department of Elections has adopted health and safety protocols at all in-person voting facilities. Every site will offer face coverings, hand sanitizer, and gloves to all voters.

## **Accessible Ballot-Marking Devices**

Accessible ballot-marking devices are available at all in-person voting sites. These devices allow voters to mark ballots using any combination of the following accessible features:

- Touchscreen, audio, and touchscreen/audio ballot format options.
- Braille-embossed handheld keypads with audio-tactile interfaces.
- Adjustable language, text size, audio speed, volume, and color options.
- Audio instructions in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish, and Filipino.
- Touchscreen privacy screens and headphones with removable covers.
- Compatibility with sip-and-puff, paddle, head-pointer, and other devices.
- Audio or visual review of vote selections in all contests.

## **Accessible Election Materials**

The San Francisco Voter Information Pamphlet (VIP) is available in multiple accessible formats and provides information about voting, candidates running for local offices, and local ballot measures. Voters may access the VIP in PDF, HTML, XML, or MP3 formats at [sfelections.org/vip](https://sfelections.org/vip), or contact the Department of Elections to request large print, USB, compact disc (CD), or National Library Service (NLS) cartridge formats.

Any voter may request a large print vote-by-mail ballot by contacting the Department. Voters may also request their sample ballots and facsimile ballots in several formats.

The Department’s website, [sfelections.org](https://sfelections.org), features key election information and voter self-help tools presented with accessibility features, including screen-reader compatibility, high contrast and adjustable font size, and Alt text for images.