



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



December 23, 2021

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: I 21-41

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS

(References: Medi-Cal All County Welfare Director's Letter No. 94-85, 95-36, 95-67, Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter 12-02, 14-40, 14-54, 19-04E, California Department of Social Services All County Information Notice No. 1.46-94, 1-56-95, 1-17-96, 1-09-09, I-01-12 and 1-04-13, All County Letter 18-39, Public Law 103-31, Section 7, May 20, 1993)

SUBJECT: National Voter Registration Act: Update to California Voting Eligibility Requirements and Ordering New Voter Registration Cards

The purpose of this letter is to inform County Welfare Departments (CWDs) of recent changes to the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) because of the passing of California Proposition 17, Voting Rights Restoration for Persons on Parole Amendment (2020). The Secretary of State (SOS) issued a notice, dated August 2021, advising Voter Registration Agencies (VRAs) of changes to the voter registration eligibility requirements in California and encouraging the replacement of any outdated Voter Registration Cards (VRCs).

### Background

On December 9, 2019, the Department of Health Care Services issued Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL) [I 19-04E](#), which details the County Welfare Department's (CWD's) responsibilities under the NVRA. Responsibilities include providing households with VRCs and Voter Preference Forms that list eligibility requirements.

Prior to 1974, California law prohibited those who had been convicted of a felony from voting. However, California Ballot Proposition 10 of 1974 amended the California Constitution and restored voting rights to those who had completed both incarceration **and** parole. In September 2016, California Assembly Bill (AB 2466) further clarified voter eligibility and changed various sections of California's Elections Code to define a person who could register and vote as "(a) A person entitled to register to vote shall be

a United States Citizen, a resident of California, not imprisoned **or** on parole for the conviction of a felony, and at least 18 years of age at the time of the next election.”

Most recently, California voters passed Proposition 17 on November 3, 2020, which amends the California State Constitution and restores voting rights to those who had previously been disqualified from voting after completing their prison term for the conviction of a felony **but were still on parole.**

### **Change to Voter Registration Eligibility Requirements**

The SOS issued a notice dated August 5, 2021 informing NVRA agencies of the change to voter registration eligibility requirements.

The updated eligibility requirements in California are as follows:

- A United States citizen and a resident of California,
- 18 years old or older on Election Day,
- *Not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony, and*
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.

### **Replacing Voter Registration Cards**

The SOS requests that VRAs replace any outdated VRCs with updated VRCs to avoid the possibility of unintentionally disenfranchising voters.

Counties may order new supplies of VRCs from your county elections office. Please visit <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices> for a listing of each county elections office within the state. Please make sure to let your county elections office know your agency/department is a VRA when you contact them.

CWDs must comply with the NVRA requirements or the county and state may be subject to a civil action by the United States Department of Justice or a private party. The SOS has authority to conduct a review of each voter registration agency's compliance with the NVRA.

### **Other NVRA Resources**

To stay up to date on new and noteworthy items related to the NVRA, VRAs are encouraged to check the “NVRA Updates” section, which can be found at <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/nvra/pdf/nvra-updates.pdf>. It is recommended that CWDs check back periodically as new items may be added throughout the year.

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: I 21-41  
Page 3  
December 23, 2021

If you have questions about replacing your VRC stock, or any other NVRA related matter, please email [nvra@sos.ca.gov](mailto:nvra@sos.ca.gov).

For any questions regarding the information contained in this letter, please contact Irene Hunter at (916) 345-8171 or by email at [Irene.Hunter@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Irene.Hunter@dhcs.ca.gov).

**Original Signed by**

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Policy Development Branch  
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division