



*California's protection & advocacy system*

# YOUR VOTING RIGHTS UNDER CONSERVATORSHIP (SB 589)

---

*October 2016, Pub. #5590.01*

**Co-Authored by  
Disability Rights California & ACLU of California**



## **Who has the right to vote in California?**

You are eligible to vote in California if you are:

- A United States citizen;
- A resident of California;
- 18 years of age or older on Election Day;
- Not currently imprisoned or on parole for the conviction of a felony;  
and
- Not under a conservatorship where a court ruled you are not allowed to vote.

## **Can I still vote if I am under conservatorship?**

Yes. You can vote unless a judge ruled that you are not allowed to vote. When you were first assessed for a conservatorship, the court made a decision about whether you can vote.

If the court said you cannot vote it is possible they made a mistake, especially if your conservatorship was set up before 2016. Starting in 2016, California changed how it decides who can vote. **Now the only time** a court can take away your right to vote is if you cannot let them know you want to vote. **You may be able to get your right to vote back.**

## **How do I find out if I lost my right to vote?**

There are lots of ways to find out if you are eligible to vote:

- Check the order appointing a conservator (look at the form with the number GC 340).
  - There is a section that says whether or not you are allowed to vote.
  - If the box on the form is not checked, then you are eligible to vote and you just need to fill out a voter registration application and you can vote.
  - If the box on the form is checked, then the court said you cannot vote. See the next question to find out how to apply to get your right to vote back.
- If you cannot find your form GC 340, you can ask your conservator if you have the right to vote or ask the case manager at your regional center to check for you
- Call your county elections office to ask if you are eligible.

## **How can I get my right to vote back?**

To get your right to vote back:

- You need the court to make a new decision. You can do this by either waiting for the court's regular review of your conservatorship or by contacting the court and requesting a review now.
- If you want to wait for your next review, it should happen every one or two years. It could be longer in some counties where they are behind on reviews because they do not have enough staff.

- If you want your voting rights reviewed right away you need to contact the court to request a review of your right to vote. You can use the sample letter on page 3 to contact the court and tell the judge you want to vote. The judge should review your case and might decide to let you to vote. If an election is soon, ask the court to do your review as soon as possible.

### **Who can help me contact the court?**

You can get help from anyone you want, such as a friend or family member. Some other people who might help are:

- Your conservator
- Your case manager at your regional center
- Your attorney
- Disability Rights California Voting Rights Unit (1-888-569-7955).

### **What do I do if the judge or court investigator asks me about voting?**

All you need to say to a judge or court investigator is, "I want to vote." If you are being asked more questions and feel nervous or intimidated, contact Disability Rights California Voting Hotline: 1-888-569-7955.

### **What if I cannot speak, can I still vote?**

Yes. You can let the judge know that you want to vote any way you are able to. For example, you can use any device that helps you let people know what you want.

### **What if I cannot read or write without help, can I still vote?**

Yes. You are entitled to assistance with registering to vote and with voting. For example, you can have anybody help you fill out a voter registration card or help you fill out a ballot. Also, each polling place has a machine that will read the ballot to you and even help you mark the ballot.

## **What if court does my review and says I cannot vote?**

If you have told the court or the court investigator you want to vote, the court should hold a hearing to decide if you can vote. If the court decides you cannot vote, contact the Disability Rights California Voting Hotline: 1-888-569-7955.

## **How can I protect my right to vote?**

If this is the first time you are being reviewed for a conservatorship, make sure to tell your case manager at your regional center, the court investigator who comes to speak to you, and the judge that you want to vote. Every time your conservatorship is reviewed, tell the court investigator and the judge that you want to vote.

## **What do I do if people are trying to tell me I should not vote or trying to stop me from voting?**

If you feel you are being discouraged from voting or have faced discrimination, please contact the Disability Rights California Voting Hotline: 1-888-569-7955.

# **SAMPLE LETTER STATING YOUR DESIRE TO VOTE**

September 15, 2016 (*Today's current Month, Day, Year*)

*Insert judge's name and address for the court; see list of court addresses starting on page 6 and continuing through page 8; below is just a sample*

**Judge Judy Smith** (*First and Last Name if you have the name*)

**OR**

**Clerk of the Court** (*If you don't know the name of the judge*)

**Superior Court of \_\_\_\_\_ County**

**Probate Clerk**

**1234 Main Street** (*Insert address for the court. See list of court addresses starting on page 6*)

**City, CA 94123**

**Your First and Last Name**

(*Name of Conservatee*)

**Your Case Number**

(*Case # of Conservatorship. Check your order appointing a conservator for the case number*)

**First and Last Name of Contact Person**

(*Contact person for Conservatee*)

**789 First Avenue**

(*Your street address, City and State*)

**City, CA 94321**

(*Your city, state, and ZIP code*)

**714-333-3333**

(*A telephone number*)

**name@gmail.com**

(*An email address*)

**Dear Judge \_\_\_\_\_:** (*or use "Clerk of the Court"*):

**I would like to vote. Please restore my right to vote pursuant to California Senate Bill 589 as soon as possible.** (*If there is an upcoming*

*election, ask to have your voting rights restored before the voter registration deadline, which is 15 days before the election.)*

**Please send a copy of the order reinstating my right to vote to me, and send a copy to the county elections office.**

**Thank you,**

*[Your Signature Conservatee signature]*

**Print your name**

*Print name of Conservatee*

**cc:** *(Send copies of the letter to your conservator and your attorney)*

*[Name of your Attorney if you know their name]*

*[Name of your Conservator]*

# LIST OF MAILING ADDRESS FOR PROBATE DIVISION COURT HOUSES

Superior Court of Alameda County  
Berkeley Courthouse  
Probate Division  
2120 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way  
Berkeley, CA 94704

Superior Court of Amador County  
Probate Clerk  
500 Argonaut Lane  
Jackson, CA 95642

Superior Court of Butte County  
Probate Clerk  
1775 Concord Avenue  
Chico, CA 95928

Superior Court of Calaveras  
County  
Probate Clerk  
400 Government Center Drive  
San Andreas, CA 95249-9794

Superior Court of Colusa County  
Probate Clerk  
532 Oak Street;  
Colusa, CA 95932

Superior Court of Contra Costa  
County  
Probate Clerk  
725 Court Street  
Martinez, CA 94553

Superior Court of Del Norte  
County  
Probate Clerk  
450 H Street  
Crescent City, CA 95531

Superior Court of El Dorado  
County  
Probate Clerk  
Placerville Fair Lane Branch  
295 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667

Superior Court Fresno County  
Probate Clerk  
1130 O Street  
Third Floor  
Fresno, CA 93721-2220

Superior Court of Glenn County  
Probate Clerk  
526 West Sycamore Street  
Willows, CA 95988

Superior Court of Humboldt  
County  
Probate Clerk  
421 I Street,  
Eureka, CA 95501

Superior Court of Imperial County  
Probate Clerk  
939 West Main Street  
El Centro, CA 92243

Superior Court of Inyo County  
Probate Clerk  
168 North Edwards  
Independence, CA 93526

Superior Court of Kern County  
Probate Clerk  
Department 1  
1215 Truxtun Ave  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Superior Court of Kings County  
Probate Clerk  
1640 Kings County Drive  
Hanford, CA 93230

Superior Court of Lake County  
4th Floor, Room 417  
255 North Forbes Street  
Lakeport, CA 95453

Superior Court of Lassen County  
Probate Clerk  
2610 Riverside Drive  
Susanville, CA 96130-2610

Superior Court of Los Angeles  
County  
Michael Antonovich Antelope  
Valley Courthouse  
42011 4th Street West  
Lancaster, CA 93534

Superior Court of Los Angeles  
County  
Stanley Mosk Courthouse  
Probate Clerk  
111 North Hill Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Superior Court of Madera County  
Probate Clerk  
200 South "G" Street  
Madera, CA 93637

Superior Court of Marin County  
Probate Clerk  
Civic Center Hall of Justice Rm  
#113  
P.O. Box 4988  
San Rafael, CA 94913

Superior Court of Mariposa  
County  
Probate Clerk  
P.O. Box 28  
Mariposa, CA 95338

Superior Court of Mendocino  
County  
Probate Clerk  
100 North State Street  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Superior Court of Merced County  
Probate Clerk  
627 W. 21st Street  
Merced, CA 95340

Superior Court of Modoc County  
Probate Clerk  
205 South East Street  
Alturas, CA 96101

Superior Court of Mono County  
Probate Clerk  
P.O. Box 1037  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Superior Court of Monterey  
County  
Probate Clerk  
1200 Aguajito Road  
Monterey, CA 93940

Superior Court of Napa County  
Probate Clerk  
825 Brown Street  
Napa, CA 94559

Superior Court of Nevada County  
Probate Clerk  
201 Church Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Superior Court of Orange County  
Probate Clerk  
Central Justice Center  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Superior Court of Plumas County  
Probate Clerk  
520 Main Street Room 104  
Quincy, CA 95971

Superior Court of Riverside  
County  
Probate Clerk  
4050 Main St  
Riverside, CA 92501

Superior Court of Sacramento  
County  
Probate Clerk  
3341 Power Inn Road  
Sacramento, CA 95826

Superior Court of San Benito  
County  
Probate Clerk  
450 Fourth Street  
Hollister, CA 95023

Superior Court of San Bernardino  
County  
Probate Clerk  
247 West Third Street  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0212

Superior Court of San Diego  
County  
Madge Bradley Courthouse  
Probate Clerk  
1409 Fourth Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92101

Superior Court of San Francisco  
County  
Probate Clerk  
Room 202  
400 McAllister Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4514

Superior Court of San Joaquin  
County  
P.O. Box 201022  
Stockton, CA 95201

Superior Court of San Luis Obispo  
County  
Probate Clerk  
1035 Palm Street, Room 385  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Superior Court of San Mateo  
County  
Probate Clerk  
Hall of Justice  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

Superior Court of Santa Barbara  
County  
South County  
Anacapa Division  
1100 Anacapa Street  
P.O. Box 21107  
Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1107

Superior Court of Santa Barbara  
County  
North County  
Cook Division  
312-C East Cook Street  
P.O. Box 5369  
Santa Maria, CA 93456-5369

Superior Court of Santa Clara  
County  
Probate Clerk  
191 North First Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

Superior Court of Santa Cruz  
Probate Clerk  
701 Ocean Street, Room 110  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Superior Court of Shasta County  
Probate Clerk  
1500 Court Street, Room 319  
Redding, CA 96001

Superior Court of Sierra County  
Probate Clerk  
P.O. Box 476  
Downieville, CA 95936

Superior Court of Siskiyou County  
Probate Clerk  
311 Fourth Street, Room 206  
Yreka, CA 96097

Superior Court of Solano County  
Probate Clerk  
Hall of Justice  
600 Union Avenue  
Fairfield, CA 94533

Superior Court of Sonoma County  
Probate Clerk  
Hall of Justice  
600 Administration Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Superior Court of Stanislaus  
County  
Probate Examiner  
801-10th Street, Sixth Floor  
Modesto, CA 95354

Superior Court of Sutter County  
Probate Clerk  
1175 Civic Center Blvd  
Yuba City, CA 95993

Superior Court of Tehama County  
Probate Clerk  
633 Washington St., Room 17  
Red Bluff, CA 96080

Superior Court of Trinity County  
Probate Clerk  
P.O. Box 1257  
Weaverville, CA 96093-1258

Superior Court of Ventura County  
Probate Clerk  
P.O. Box 6489  
Ventura, CA 93006-6489

Superior Court of Tulare County  
Probate Clerk  
221 South Mooney Blvd, Room  
201  
Visalia, CA 93291

Superior Court Yolo County  
Probate Clerk  
1000 Main Street  
Woodland, CA 95695

Superior Court of Toulumne  
County  
Probate Clerk  
41 West Yaney Avenue  
Sonora, CA 95370

Superior Court of Yuba County  
Probate Clerk  
215 Fifth Street, Suite 200  
Marysville, CA 95901

[We want to hear from you! Please complete the following survey about our publications and let us know how we are doing!](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1d6ezTI2M5UMAWU66exLbc1SQ9wDPzvtuS3AGR4-cgwE/viewform?c=0&w=1)  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1d6ezTI2M5UMAWU66exLbc1SQ9wDPzvtuS3AGR4-cgwE/viewform?c=0&w=1>

For legal assistance call 800-776-5746 or complete a [request for assistance form](#). For all other purposes call 916-504-5800 (Northern CA); 213-213-8000 (Southern CA).

*Disability Rights California is funded by a variety of sources, for a complete list of funders, go to <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/Documents/ListofGrantsAndContracts.html>.*