



**SAN MATEO COUNTY
PROBATION DEPARTMENT
INSTITUTIONS SERVICES MANUAL**

**Minor/Nonminor Voting Rights
1603**

Topic	Minor/Nonminor Voting Rights
Purpose	To establish the proper guidelines and procedures to ensure the minors/nonminors that are detained or serving a commitment term at the San Mateo County Youth Services Center can participate in the voting process in a manner that is both practical and respectful of their current status.
Policy	This policy applies to all minors/nonminors that are currently detained or serving a commitment term at the San Mateo County Youth Services Center who meet the criteria and are eligible to vote as defined by local and national laws. This policy affirms the requirement to provide the eligible minors/nonminors the opportunity to register and to vote during elections, pursuant to the Fifteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, Article 2 of the California Constitution, and California elections statutes (Election Code section 2105.7). The San Mateo County Probation Department shall identify minors/nonminors who are eligible to vote and assist the minors/nonminors to register and/or vote in any election.

1603.1 ELIGIBILITY

This policy applies to all minors/nonminors that are currently detained or serving a commitment term at the San Mateo County Youth Services Center who meet the criteria and are eligible to vote as defined by local and national laws. This policy affirms the requirement to provide the eligible minors/nonminors the opportunity to register and to vote during elections, pursuant to the Fifteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, Article 2 of the California Constitution, and California elections statutes (Election Code section 2105.7). The San Mateo County Probation Department shall identify minors/nonminors who are eligible to vote and assist them to register and/or vote in any election.

All minors/nonminors who meet the above criteria are eligible to vote. The minors/nonminors who are 16 and 17 years old may pre-register to automatically become registered voters upon their 18th birthday.

Upon registering, the minor/nonminor will not need to register to vote again unless they move to a new address, change their name, or change their political party preference. The minor/nonminor can check their current registration status at <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov>.

1603.2 REGISTRATION

A. Address information

A juvenile facility does not qualify as a permanent address but can be used as a mailing address.

If the minor/nonminor will be residing at the juvenile facility on the date of the election, the minor/nonminor can use either the facility address or their home address as their mailing address when registering. The minor/nonminor who use the juvenile facility address as their mailing address will receive their vote-by-mail ballot at the juvenile facility. The minor/nonminor who use their home address as their mailing address will be able to coordinate with family members to bring their ballot to the juvenile facility.

If the minor/nonminor will not be residing at the juvenile facility on the date of the election, the minor/nonminor will use their home address or the address they plan to reside upon release as their mailing address.

If the minor/nonminor was not residing at a home prior to incarceration or does not have a permanent address, they may use two cross streets as a permanent address.

A minor/nonminor from another county shall also be eligible to register utilizing the process listed in this policy. The completed voter registration application will be mailed to the Registrar of Voters for the resident's home county.

B. Identification documents

The San Mateo County Probation Department may need to help individuals obtain necessary identification documents for registration or voting. These documents may include:

- A California Driver's License
- A California issued identification card
- A United States passport
- A birth certificate
- The last 4 digits of a Social Security Number (SSN)

All minors/nonminors eligible to vote will be provided with information on the voter registration process. Staff will assist the minors/nonminors in completing and submitting voter registration forms if needed.

The San Mateo County Youth Services staff will collaborate with the Youth Law Center and the local election office to ensure that all eligible minors/nonminors are registered to vote.

1603.3 PARTNERSHIP WITH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

The San Mateo County Probation Department will engage with the Department of Elections to both help educate young voters about the voting process and to ensure smooth acceptance and delivery of all voting materials to and from the juvenile facility. The San Mateo County Probation Department will also ensure that the minors/nonminors are aware of the role of the Department of Elections and that the minors/nonminors have access to contacting the Department of Elections with questions or concerns.

1603.4 MINOR/NONMINOR VOTER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION

The San Mateo County Probation Department will coordinate with community-based organizations (CBOs) that can help educate young voters about civic engagement, voting, and ballot measures. The Department should make every effort to allow consistent and easy access for these CBOs before and during elections to ensure that the minors/nonminors can ask questions and seek assistance during the voting process.

See Procedures Manual on Minor/nonminor Voting Rights for further information.