

## 4<sup>th</sup> District PTA Legislation:

### **Kick Off the Year by Registering Voters**

How can you start the school year in a very meaningful way for legislation? Register people to vote!!! This is a non-advocacy activity which can take place on campus at your school. Do not combine voter registration with advocacy activities. Registration drives and reminders to vote on Election Day are appropriate on campus.

Voter registration forms can be obtained in quantity from the Orange County Registrar of Voters at 1300 South Grand Avenue, Building C, Santa Ana, CA 92705 (At the corner of Grand Avenue and McFadden). People fill out the form and drop it in a mailbox. That's all there is to it! Registration may be done up until 15 days before the election; in the case of the November 8<sup>n</sup> special election that is October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Back to School Night is a wonderful opportunity to put out registration materials and to remind people to vote. The boxed information below may be duplicated in your school newsletter or for flyers with your registration materials.

## **Participate in Democracy: VOTE! Voter Registration Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who may register to vote?**

You may register to vote if you are all these:

- A US citizen
- A resident of California
- At least 18 years of age on or before the next election
- Not in prison or on parole for a felony conviction
- Not declared mentally incompetent by court action

### **How do I register to vote?**

By filling out a Voter Registration Form available at all Post Offices, city halls, most public libraries, Department of Motor Vehicles and most governmental agencies. You can also fill out forms online through Orange County Registrar of Voters (<http://voters.ocgov.com>) or through the Secretary of State (<http://www.ss.ca.gov>)

### **When must I reregister to vote?**

When you move, change your name or wish to change your political party affiliation. A voter must be registered 15 days before Election Day.

### **If I didn't vote in the last election, do I have to reregister?**

No. generally, you are registered to vote as long as you live at the same address.

### **I just moved into California, when am I able to register to vote?**

There is no waiting period in the state of California before you can register to vote. However, you must be registered 15 days prior to an election to be eligible to vote.

### **Must I register with a specific party?**

No. California law states that an individual may choose either to register with a specific political party, register as non-partisan or decline to state.

### **How can I find out if I am already registered to vote?**

If you received a sample ballot for the last election, you are registered to vote. You can call the Registrar of Voters office at (714) 567-7600 to see if you are registered.

### **What is "absentee voting"?**

Absentee voting is voting by mail. You can request that your ballot be mailed to you, and then you return the ballot by mail or hand it in at a polling place on Election Day. The request form for an absentee ballot is available online at [www.oc.ca.gov/election](http://www.oc.ca.gov/election) and is also printed on your sample ballot.

### **Websites Containing Voter Information:**

Orange County Registrar of Voters: [www.oc.ca.gov/election/](http://www.oc.ca.gov/election/)

League of Women Voters: [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)

California Secretary of State Voter Information: [www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections](http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections)