

## Student and Voter Empowerment Act (SCVEA) Academic Calendar Requirements

### **Background**

In 2019, the [Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act \(formerly AB 963\)](#) codified the California Students Vote Project (SVP) and added sections 66850 through 66852 into the California Education Code, allowing the Secretary of State’s Office to continue its mission of engaging California students in the democratic process.<sup>1</sup> The legislation was introduced in response to low voter turnout during previous general elections among voter-eligible youth. For instance, during the 2014 Election, only 8.2% of eligible youth ages 18 to 24 eligible voted. During the 2018 Midterm Election, that figure climbed to 27.5%. Less than one-third of them were voting, engaging in democracy, and making their voices heard.<sup>2</sup>

Beginning January 1, 2020, the law charged the Secretary of State, in partnership with the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California to conduct the Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Program.<sup>3</sup> In response, all institutes of higher education funded by the state must help educate, engage, and empower students to participate in elections. One of the components of the law includes a requirement for public colleges and universities to list election dates and deadlines in their academic calendars.

### **Academic Calendar Requirement**

The State of California’s Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act (SCVEA) requires that all California Community Colleges, the California State University, and recommends that the University of California include in both printed and electronic academic calendars the dates for:

- A. National Voter Registration Day, is held annually on the fourth Tuesday in September.
- B. The last day to register to vote online or to register to vote by mail or in person.
- C. The date when a county may begin to offer early voting at the office of the elections official or a satellite location, pursuant to Section 3018 of the Elections Code,
- D. A statement that the date, times, and locations for early voting and conditional voter registration may be confirmed on the internet website of the Secretary of State or at the county elections office; and
- E. The primary and general election dates as provided in Chapter 4 of Division 0.5 of the Elections Code and Division 1 of the Elections Code.

Topic	Dates	Source	Definitions
<b>Constitution Day</b>	September 17, 2022	<a href="#">U.S. Dept. of Education</a>	Annually on the same day.
<b>National Voter Registration Day</b>	September 20, 2022	<a href="#">NVRD</a>	Annually on the fourth Tuesday in September.
<b>Early Voting Begins in LA County*</b>	October 10, 2022	<a href="#">Los Angeles RR/CC</a>	Determined by Los Angeles County RR/CC
<b>Last Day to Register to Vote Online or by Mail</b>	October 24, 2022	<a href="#">CA Secretary of State</a>	15 days before Election Day.
<b>General Election Day</b>	November 8, 2022	<a href="#">CA Secretary of State</a>	The Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
*The date, times, and locations for early voting and conditional voter registration may be confirmed on the internet website of the Secretary of State at <a href="http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections">www.sos.ca.gov/elections</a> or by visiting the county elections office.			

<sup>1</sup> California Education Code, Section 66850 - 67400:

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&division=5.&title=3.&part=40.&chapter=10.5.&article=](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&division=5.&title=3.&part=40.&chapter=10.5.&article=)

<sup>2</sup> California Students Vote: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/castudentsvote>

<sup>3</sup> California Students Vote: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/castudentsvote>