



UNDERSTANDING YOUR BALLOT

WHAT'S ON YOUR BALLOT?

Local

City council, school boards, and local measures affecting your neighborhood.

State

State representatives and propositions that impact California laws.

Federal

Presidential and Congressional races that shape national policy.



**COMMON ELECTION TERMS**

- **Incumbent:** The current holder of a political office.
- **Proposition:** A proposed law or constitutional amendment.
- **Referendum:** A direct vote by the electorate on a specific proposal.
- **Write-in:** A candidate whose name voters can manually write on the ballot.

**TIPS FOR VOTER GUIDES**

- **Official Sources:** Use the Voter Information Guide from the Secretary of State.
- **Nonpartisan Guides:** Look for neutral sources like the League of Women Voters.
- **Check Endorsements:** Review who supports or opposes a measure to see its impact.
- **Sample Ballots:** Practice with your sample ballot before Election Day.

Need assistance? Visit vote411.org or contact the Alameda County Registrar of Voters at **(510) 272-6933** for trusted guidance.