



Dear Spartan Community,

Democracy is one of the most enduring ways we, as a people, make decisions together. It allows for spirited disagreement, challenges us to be open to other perspectives, and provides peaceful ways to resolve issues. The United States enjoys one of the most long-standing and widely emulated democracies in the world, precisely because it includes the tools to improve itself over time. At the very core of this system is the right to vote, an act that gives every eligible person a voice in shaping our shared future.

Today is [National Voter Registration Day](#), an initiative created to focus attention on the importance of voting as a central feature of our democracy. Many in our Spartan community are not currently registered. Maybe you didn't update your address when you joined us on campus this semester. Or, maybe you recently turned 18 and have never had the chance to register or preregister to vote. But if you want a say in how your local, state and federal lawmakers represent you, now is the time to do something about it.

On November 4th, there is a Statewide Special Election. The California Primary Election is on June 2, 2026. Celebrate National Voter Registration Day by registering to vote, if you are eligible. If you are not already registered to vote, we encourage you to [register today](#). It only takes a few minutes. You can also check your registration status on that same page.

The deadline to register to vote in California and receive a vote-by-mail ballot is 15 days before the election. For the November 4th Statewide Special Election, the deadline is October 20th. If you miss the voter registration deadline, you can also register to vote in person at the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' Office or a vote center using ["same-day" voter registration](#).

If you are not eligible to vote, you can still be engaged by attending civic and community events, contacting your elected representatives, volunteering in your community, and encouraging others to register and vote. Reach out to [SJSU Votes](#) to learn more about how you can get involved.

You can also get involved by attending the **SJSU Votes Festival. It will be held on the Smith Carlos Lawn today 10:00 am – 3:00 pm.** At the SJSU Votes Festival, you can obtain nonpartisan information about voting and voting rights and other civic engagement opportunities from over 20 campus and community partners. You can also register to vote in person at the SJSU Votes Festival today.

[SJSU Votes](#) is a nonpartisan initiative, housed under the [SJSU Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement \(IPACE\)](#), focused on voting and other civic engagement, managed by the SJSU Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator, Dr. Mary Currin-Percival. Along with many campus partners - including Associated Students, Student Affairs, the Center for Community Learning & Leadership and our

Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - SJSU Votes works hard to encourage our community to register and vote. I'm proud of all they do in the name of democracy and civic responsibility.

Stay in touch with SJSU Votes and [SJSU's elections website](#) to obtain information and updates about upcoming elections. Be sure to also check out upcoming events scheduled for National Voter Education Week October 6-10, so you can be #VoteReady.

Voting is a peaceful act of participation, even in moments of division, tension, and disagreement. Perhaps our public discourse feels strained; but we signify and reaffirm our commitment to democratic processes by exercising our right to be included. Your vote and your participation ensures the fundamentals of our democracy persist. It's important to remember it's a two-step process: register and vote. And when each of us exercises our constitutional right to vote we ensure the collective impact of our democracy remains the resilient practice our founders intended.

Sincerely,



Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson  
President  
(She/Her/Ella)

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