

May 2022

SACRAMENTO AREA

HOMELESSNESS PROGRESS REPORT

Homeless does not mean voteless

By Janna Haynes

With California's June 7 primary election rapidly approaching, the County of Sacramento is reminding residents that all eligible voters have the right to vote, including people who are experiencing homelessness.

Unhoused persons can register to vote so long as they have a location where they can receive mail and be properly assigned to the voting precinct where they spend most of their time. This can include a shelter where they are living or a nearby shelter or service provider that will receive their mail.

Post office boxes or business addresses cannot be used to register but can be used to receive mail, officials said.

If voters are unable to use an address when they register to vote, they must describe the location where they live so it is clear enough for County elections officials to find their voting precinct.

Cross streets, nearby parks or business addresses are great indicators of location. With cross streets or other information provided by the voter, the County can locate their precinct and the correct ballot type for them.

Currently, approximately 450 voters in the County of Sacramento have identified themselves as unhoused and are actively registered to vote.

The County aims to increase this number with additional outreach and education about unhoused residents and their right to vote.

Voters who missed the online registration deadline can register and vote at any vote center by using a process called conditional voter registration, also known as "same-day voter registration."

For unhoused voters who did receive a vote-by-mail ballot, there are three easy ways to vote in the June 7 primary election:

- **By Mail:** All registered voters received a ballot in the mail. Place the voted ballot inside the envelope provided, sign the envelope and return – your postage is paid!
- **Vote Center:** Vote centers are open for up to 11 days, including election day. This means voters can choose when, where and how they want to vote – at ANY vote center in the County. Avoid the lines, vote early. At the vote center you can drop off your completed ballot OR vote in person.
- **Drop Boxes:** Voted/signed ballots may be placed in any of the 77 secure drop box locations throughout Sacramento County.



About this Report

The City of Sacramento, Sacramento Housing and Development Agency, Sacramento Steps Forward and the County of Sacramento are publishing this monthly report to keep the community informed about our collaborative work to address homelessness in Sacramento.

A complete list of vote center and drop box locations [can be found online.](#)

For more information on voting options for the unhoused, [view this flyer.](#)



The City of Sacramento is prepared to open respite centers during heat waves and other adverse conditions. A new location, the City-owned former Science & Space Center Museum (3615 Auburn Blvd.), has been renovated and can accommodate approximately 50 people.

The City will activate respite centers when the [National Weather Service](#) issues a heat advisory for expected dangerous heat conditions. That roughly coincides with a temperature forecast of 100 degrees or higher for at least two days and nighttime temperatures of 75 degrees or higher. The City may also offer respite centers during other adverse conditions, including intense smoke from wildfires.

City Hall and City community centers including Hagginwood and the Hart Senior Center have served as [overnight respite centers in the past](#) and can be utilized as needed, officials said. During the day, community centers and public libraries also offer a safe place to escape the heat for a few hours as part of their normal day-to-day operations.

Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

Some newly housed homeless residents are getting a thoughtful housewarming gift from young students at Leonardo Da Vinci K-8 School in Hollywood Park. Staff at Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency's (SHRA) Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program have been partnering with the Transitional Kindergarten (TK) - Kindergarten team who are creating welcome home bags for homeless residents when they move into their units. The California Teachers Association (CTA) awarded a grant to the school which funded the purchase of art supplies, pencil pouches, and 120 canvas tote bags. The TK/Kindergarten team and their students decided that household supplies would help residents get started in their new units. Parents got involved by donating paper towels, cleaning supplies, dishes, etc. The children decorated each bag with their own original designs and filled them with the supplies. So far, approximately 30 bags have been given to the residents. The Sacramento Housing Authority administers the Emergency Housing Voucher program which provides subsidy assistance to families who meet one of the following criteria: homeless, at risk of becoming homeless, people escaping domestic violence, or recently homeless. Applicants must be referred by a homeless service provider. More information is available by calling 211, or online at <https://sacramentostepsforward.org/2021-sacramento-ehvs/>.



Sacramento Steps Forward

The Sacramento Homeless Policy Council (SHPC) was launched in 2021 to promote regional collaboration to end homelessness. The SHPC, which includes elected officials and Sacramento's Continuum of Care leaders, came together for the first time on August 27, 2021 to engage in broad-based, collaborative, and strategic discussions in response to Sacramento's homelessness crisis.

Recognizing that there are ongoing and emerging opportunities where increased collaboration can make a significant regional impact, the SHPC strives to:

- Accelerate knowledge sharing and actionable best practices for addressing homelessness in Sacramento;
- Develop shared policy direction on solutions to address the homelessness crisis; and
- Champion and promote alignment of coordinated system policies and integrated approaches.

Current SHPC membership consists of elected officials from Sacramento County and the cities of Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, and Galt. In addition, the SHPC also includes leaders of the homeless response system's coordinating bodies, including the Chair of the Continuum of Care (CoC) and the Chair of the CoC lead agency, Sacramento Steps Forward.

Meetings are held quarterly, with ongoing discussion and collaboration between community leaders and staff continuing year-round. Although not a formal decision-making body, the SHPC provides a critical space for discussion on how to best inform and connect investments, initiatives, and resources across jurisdictions.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, June 17, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. For more information and to register to the meeting, please [visit our website](#).

County of Sacramento

At the May 11 Board of Supervisors meeting, county staff presented to the Supervisors a list of County-owned parcels that have been reviewed for potential viability to site Safe Stay or Safe Parking programs for persons experiencing homelessness. The presentation was for information only and at the request of supervisors to review County-owned land based on object criteria and bring the resulting list of appropriate sites back.

After receiving numerous calls from concerned constituents under the impression that these sites were already selected and moving forward, it is necessary to provide context around the presentation and the discussed sites.

Link to full story: <https://www.saccounty.gov/news/latest-news/Pages/Clarification-on-the-Safe-Stay-Site-Presentation.aspx>

Safe Stay Community Site Location Clarification

