

Q1. When will I receive my ballot?

Your ballot will be mailed to you February 2 through February 4, 2021. If you do not receive your ballot by Thursday, February 11, 2021 please notify VTA, SocialSecurity.Section218@vta.org, or your union representative immediately.

Q2. What will I receive with my ballot?

You will receive voting instructions, a receipt for your ballot, a voting ballot, a pen for marking your ballot, and a postage-paid return envelope in which you will mail your ballot back to VTA headquarters at River Oaks.

Q3. Is my vote anonymous?

Yes, your vote is absolutely anonymous. Your ballot does not identify you but there will be a tracking number on the postage-paid return envelope that will indicate that your ballot was received. Ballot envelopes will NOT be opened until all votes are counted which will be after voting closes at 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

Q4. When can I vote?

Voting begins on Monday February 8, 2021 and goes through Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Please vote and return your completed ballot as early as possible. Your ballot MUST be returned to VTA before 9:00 p.m. on March 9. Postmarks are not accepted.

Q5. What does the ballot look like?

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

OFFICIAL MAJORITY VOTE ELECTION BALLOT

SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:

To vote on the question below, mark **X** in the voting square after the word “YES” or the word “NO”. All other marks are forbidden and void the ballot.

QUESTION:

Shall eligible employees of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority who are members of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265 Pension Plan have extended to them the Social Security (Old-Age, Survivors, Disability, and Health Insurance) program embodied in the Social Security Act, with coverage under such program effective as to services performed on and after January 1, 1973?

YES NO

Q6. Are there any rules about marking the ballot?

YES! CalPERS/Social Security Administration (SSA) rules are very specific about this. *Only* an **X** in the YES or NO box constitutes a valid ballot. Check marks, filled in boxes, or any extraneous mark will invalidate your vote.

If a majority of your voting group votes Yes, nothing changes. Remember, placing an **X** in the **Yes** box **counts toward protecting your current and future Social Security benefits**. Placing an **X** in the NO box means potential serious impacts to your current and future social security benefits.

Q7. How do I return the completed ballot?

You have two options: (1) mail the completed ballot in the post-paid, return envelope **no later than March 1, 2021** to ensure your ballot is received by the deadline (9:00 p.m. on March 9); or (2) drop your ballot into a Section 218 branded ballot box located at designated locations at each work site.

Q8. When and where will the ballot boxes be placed?

Beginning Monday, February 8, 2021 through March 9, 2021, the ballot boxes will be available at each Operating Division, River Oaks, and the Downtown Customer Service Center. You may drop your ballot in the secure ballot boxes at any listed location, not just at your assigned facility, up to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. The ballot boxes are available on the following times:

- Cerone Monday to Sunday 7:00 AM to 9:00 p.m. Outside Guardhouse
- Chaboya Monday to Sunday 7:00 AM to 9:00 p.m. Outside Guardhouse
- Guadalupe Monday to Sunday 7:00 AM to 9:00 p.m. Outside Guardhouse
- North Monday to Sunday 7:00 AM to 9:00 p.m. Outside Guardhouse
- River Oaks Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 p.m. Building B lobby
- Downtown Customer Service Center Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 6:00 p.m. Behind customer counter

Q9. How secure are the ballot boxes?

The ballot boxes are locked, secured in place, and will be attended during the voting hours. VTA's security team, Allied Universal, will place the ballot boxes in secure storage areas during non-voting hours.

Q10. If I mail my ballot back, why should I mail it by March 1, 2021?

We want to make sure every vote counts! Mailing it by March 1st will ensure your ballot arrives at VTA before voting closes on March 9th at 9:00 p.m. Ballots received after that time are not valid and will not be entered into the ballot count.

Q11. How will I know that VTA has received my ballot?

Your ballot packet has a receipt. On that receipt is a random tracking number assigned to your return envelope. The numbers are not assigned sequentially to assure confidentiality. Keep your receipt because it is the only way to trace your number.

When the envelope containing your ballot returns to VTA either by mail or through the ballot box, the envelope will be scanned to register your ballot as being received. Ballot boxes will be collected once a week so there may be a few days before your ballot is officially logged into the system. Envelopes will not be opened until ballot counting begins.

Go to VTA's HUB ([Section 218](#)) and enter your unique tracking number to find the status of your ballot.

Q12. What if I misplace my ballot or it is destroyed before I can vote?

Contact VTA, SocialSecurity.Section218@vta.org. Someone will work with you to replace your ballot.

Q13. Does that mean I will have two tracking numbers?

We will go into our system and void the first assigned number. Subsequently you will be issued a second number and ballot that you will use for tracking.

Q14. What if I change jobs or leave VTA/retire before March 9, 2021?

By law we cannot count your vote if you leave or retire before March 9, 2021. A vote can be counted only if the voter was employed in the same voting group on the day the notice of election was mailed (December 4, 2020) **and** on March 9, 2021. If you change jobs to a different voting group or if you leave VTA, then by law we cannot count your vote.

Q15. Who is counting the votes?

Votes will be counted by VTA Elections Officer and VTA Board Secretary Elaine Baltao. She will be assisted by staff who will operate the scanning equipment that will count the votes. VTA staff will also hand count the votes to validate the results. The vote count will be monitored by representatives of each labor union at VTA as well as VTA General Counsel and CALPERS/SSA staff.

Q16. When will the votes be counted?

We can accept ballots up to 9:00 p.m. on March 9, 2021 at all ballot box locations. All the ballots will then be delivered to River Oaks after 9:00 p.m. that day and will be opened and counted the following day, March 10, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

Q17. Why are you not opening the ballots until March 9, 2021?

By law, we can count votes only from employees who were in a voting group on both the date the notice of the election was mailed **and** March 9, 2021. The reason we are not opening the ballots until March 9, 2021 is to ensure that only votes from eligible voters are counted. After we verify the validity of the returned ballots, we will separate the ballots from the envelopes with tracking numbers before the votes are counted. This will preserve the anonymity of your vote.

Q18. When will we know the outcome of the vote?

You will be notified of the vote outcome as soon as CalPERS/SSA validates VTA's count. We want you to know the outcome as quickly as possible and expect the announcement to be within 24 hours of the ballot tally.