How to Test the virtual voting system

The NFB of California is testing a virtual voting system at our state convention this November 3-6, 2022. While we cannot offer virtual voting functionality at the convention this year, we would like to consider a system that would enable members to vote in the future without requiring a physical presence at the in-person convention.  We will be testing the system on simulated topics throughout the convention general session agenda. The system we are testing collects votes through text messages or phone calls. Here are a few things to know before the testing.

The phone number you use for voting must be the one that you registered for convention with. Only NFB of California members in good standing, who are registered for convention, may vote. This means that if you're a member of a chapter or division, and are registered for convention, and are in good standing, you should be eligible. The voting system checks the number that you text or call from against a list of eligible numbers. If you plan to participate in the testing with a different number, you should email Brian Buhrow at [buhrow@nfbcal.org](mailto:buhrow@nfbcal.org) to let him know.

One thing that you might find helpful is adding the voting number to your contacts. We suggest using "NFBCal" as the first name, and "Voting" as the last name. The voting number is (650) 213-1338.

Make sure you're in a location with a good wi-fi and cellular connection. This system relies on text messaging and phone calls, so there is no online form.

How to vote:

Each candidate or choice will be given a number. If you're asked to choose between cake and pie for example, cake would be the number 1 and pie would be the number 2. It's important to remember that the system accepts only digits. You cannot spell the words one or two in letters, so you will not be able to use dictation. You have to write the numbers in digits. On an iPhone, you will need to find the "numbers" icon on the bottom left corner of the keyboard. The digits will be on the top row of the keyboard, with 1 on the left and 0 on the right.

Because the system accepts only digits, it will also reject any words. In the above example, if you write the word "cake", it will not be accepted. You have to write 1 or 2. If there are more than two choices or candidates, you will have to write 3, 4, etc.

If you are calling into the system, call the same phone number. (650) 213-1338. You will be asked to enter a number on the phone number pad. If you're using a landline , this should be relatively easy. The system will not work with a rotary phone. Remember that the number you call or text from  has to be registered with the system.

Regardless of the type of phone you are using, you will receive confirmation messages. If you text your vote to the phone number, you will receive a reply within 1 minute telling you that your vote has been accepted. If you call, you will hear a message. If your vote is not accepted, you will also hear or receive a message. You can only vote once, so if you try to vote multiple times, you will be told that only your first vote counted.

Remember to add (650) 213-1338 to your contacts as "NFBCal Voting". Thanks, and happy voting!