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# Registering

## To **VOTE**

## In **ILLINOIS**



Your vote does count . . .  
but before you can vote  
you **must** be registered.

This brochure answers some basic ques-  
tions about registering to vote and voting  
in Illinois . . . .

## **Who is eligible to register to vote?**

Any person who is:

- ✓ A. U.S. Citizen
- ✓ 18 years of age at the time of the election
- ✓ A resident of the state for 30 days immediately prior to election day

## **When may I register to vote?**

Registration is open year round at the office of the election authority *except*:

- ✓ During the 28 days preceding an election
- ✓ During the 2 days after such election

## **Where do I go to register?**

- ✓ Office of County Clerk or Board of Election Commissioners, as applicable
- ✓ Precinct committeemen
- ✓ Office of Municipal or Township Clerk
- ✓ Any deputy registrar duly appointed by the county clerk or board of election commissioners

## **What forms of identification are needed when I register to vote?**

- ✓ Two forms of identification with one showing your current address

## **Will I ever have to re-register?**

No, not unless you:

- ✓ Change your address
- ✓ Change your name
- ✓ Fail to vote over a four year period

## **When are elections held?**

### **EVEN NUMBERED YEARS**

- ✓ General Primary – Third Tuesday in March
- ✓ General – First Tuesday after the first Monday in November

### **ODD NUMBERED YEARS**

- ✓ Consolidated Primary – Last Tuesday in February
- ✓ Consolidated – First Tuesday in April
- ✓ Nonpartisan – First Tuesday after the first Monday in November

## **When are the polls open on election day?**

- ✓ The polls open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. on election day.

## **Where do I go to vote?**

- ✓ You vote at your precinct polling place. After registering you will receive a notification that will show the address of the precinct polling place you are assigned. Addresses of precinct polling places are identified by number and will be published in your local newspaper prior to each election. You will be permitted to cast a ballot only from **your** polling place.

## **What if I am unable to vote in person on election day?**

You will be permitted to vote by absentee ballot if you:

- ✓ Expect to be absent from the county on election day
- ✓ Are physically incapacitated
- ✓ Are a voter observing a religious holiday
- ✓ Are a voter serving as an election judge in a precinct other than your own
- ✓ Are an election official whose duties will prohibit you from voting in person
- ✓ Are enlisted with the military or merchant marine
- ✓ Are a state or federal employee living elsewhere due to state or federal employment
- ✓ Are serving as a sequestered juror on a State or Federal jury only.

## **When can I apply for an absentee ballot?**

The county clerk or board of election commissioners will accept an application:

- ✓ Not more than 40 days nor less than 5 days prior to an election when voting by mail;
- ✓ Not more than 40 days nor less than 1 day prior to an election if voting in the office of the County Clerk or Board of Election Commissioners;
- ✓ Citizens temporarily out of the country may apply for an absentee ballot not less than 10 days prior to an election. You should contact your election authority for specific details if you plan to be out of the country.

## **How do I obtain an absentee ballot?**

- ✓ Obtain an application for an absentee ballot from the county clerk or board of election commissioner's office. Fill out the application completely, sign it and return the application either in person or by mail. If an application is returned by mail, you will receive your ballot through the mail. If returned in person, you will receive your ballot at that time and vote in person.

### **IMPORTANT**

Knowingly giving, lending, or promising to give or lend any money or other valuable consideration to any other person to influence another person to vote for or against any candidate or public question is a **Class 4 felony**.

**Any unusual activity or irregularity associated with any voting procedure should be reported immediately to proper authorities.**

## **What are the procedures for voting in the polling place on election day?**

Upon entering the polling place you will find 5 election judges at four different stations each having specific duties. Voters will pass through each station while voting.

### **Station One:**

You will be asked to sign a ballot application and will be offered a demonstration on a model voting device. In a primary election, the judge will ask you to state your party affiliation so that you can vote the ballot of that particular party.

### **Station Two:**

Two judges of opposite political parties will check the information on your application to that listed on your registration in the binder.

### **Station Three:**

If the judges at station two agree that you are qualified to vote, the judge at station three will spindle your application, initial and hand you the proper ballot, and direct you to a voting booth. You will then vote in the privacy of the voting booth.

### **Station Four:**

The judge at station four will accept your covered voted ballot and place it into the ballot box.

## THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

A primary goal of the State Board of Elections is to help bring about greater understanding and participation in the electoral process. *Authorities on Illinois elections are available as speakers for civic organizations, school groups and the general public.*

For more information on election laws and procedures, write or call the State Board of Elections.



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Springfield, Illinois 62704  
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## **What are the procedures for voting by absentee ballot?**

- ✓ Vote the ballot *in secret*, then insert the voted ballot into the affidavit envelope provided. Complete and sign the certification on back. Lastly, either personally return the ballot to the election authority or mail it using the outer envelope provided. Be sure to allow a sufficient amount of time for the ballot to be delivered to the proper polling place on election day.

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