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Note: This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter's contact information should follow-up be necessary.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **STATUS:** [Am I registered to vote?](#)
2. **HOW:** [How do I register to vote? What if I don't have access to a computer and/or printer?](#)
3. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What ID is required to register to vote?](#)
4. **DEADLINES:** [When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?](#)
5. **SAME DAY:** [Does my state have Same Day/Election Day Registration? If so, what is the process?](#)
6. **PERMANENT MOVE:** [I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?](#)
7. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** [I have moved temporarily due to COVID-19 or some other reason. Where can I vote?](#)
8. **STUDENT:** [I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?](#)
9. **LIVING ABROAD:** [I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?](#)
10. **CRIMINAL CONVICTION:** [I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?](#)
11. **INCARCERATED:** [I am currently in jail. Can I vote?](#)
12. **HOMELESSNESS:** [I am currently experiencing homelessness. Can I vote?](#)
13. **NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE:** [I am at my polling place and am not on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?](#)
14. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** [My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What do I do?](#)

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

15. **AVAILABILITY:** [Is there early voting in my state \(whether called early voting or in person absentee voting\)? When is it?](#)
16. **ELIGIBILITY:** [Do I have to have a reason to vote early?](#)
17. **WHEN:** [When do the polls open/close during early voting?](#)
18. **WHERE:** [Where do I vote during early voting?](#)
19. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What identification is required for early voting? Can I vote without providing identification?](#)

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE and/or VOTE BY MAIL

20. **AUTOMATIC:** [Do I have to request an absentee mail ballot or will my state mail me one automatically?](#)
21. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** [What is the deadline for requesting an absentee mail ballot?](#)

22. **APPLICATION RETURN:** [Where and/or how can I return my absentee mail ballot application? Can someone return it for me?](#)
23. **APPLICATION - DIDN'T REQUEST IN TIME:** [What if I have not requested an absentee mail ballot by the deadline?](#)
24. **ELIGIBILITY:** [Do I have to have a specific reason for requesting to vote absentee whether in person or by mail ballot?](#)
25. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** [How can I check the status of my application and/or absentee mail ballot?](#)
26. **APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT REJECTED:** [I learned my absentee mail ballot application and/or mail ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?](#)
27. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** [How do I complete the absentee mail ballot? Are there any identification requirements?](#)
28. **LOST OR SPOILED:** [What if I lost my absentee mail ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?](#)
29. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** [What if I requested an absentee mail ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?](#)
30. **IN PERSON OPTON:** [What if I requested an absentee mail ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?](#)
31. **MAIL BALLOT DEADLINES:** [What is the deadline for the absentee mail ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?](#)
32. **MAIL BALLOT DROP OF LOCATIONS:** [What are the locations for dropping off an absentee mail ballot \(instead of mailing it\)?](#)
33. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF:** [Can someone else drop off my completed mail ballot for me?](#)
34. **IN PERSON ABSENTEE:** [Where do I vote in-person absentee?](#)

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

35. **HOURS:** [When do the polls open and close on Election Day? What if the polls are closing but I'm in line?](#)
36. **POLLING LOCATION:** [Where do I vote on Election Day?](#)
37. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What identification is required to vote? Can I vote without providing identification?](#)
38. **HOSPITALIZED:** [I am currently hospitalized. Can I vote?](#)

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

39. **POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN:** [The polling place is not open. What do I do?](#)
40. **LONG LINES:** [There are long lines at the polling place. What do I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?](#)
41. **EQUIPMENT FAILURE:** [What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?](#)
42. **NO PPE/COVID:** [What if my polling place is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions or has run out of supplies?](#)
43. **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:** [I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?](#)
44. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** [I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?](#)
45. **READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE:** [I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?](#)
46. **CURBSIDE VOTING:** [When can I request curbside voting?](#)
47. **INTIMIDATION & CAMPAIGNING:** [What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? Can people approach me?](#)
48. **CHALLENGE:** [Someone is formally challenging my vote. What do I do?](#)

49. **POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE:** [There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What do I do?](#)
50. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** [I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?](#)

QUESTIONS

51. [Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?](#)

REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. STATUS: Am I registered to vote?

A voter can determine whether they are registered to vote by checking the Illinois State Board of Elections' website (<https://ova.elections.il.gov/RegistrationLookup.aspx>).

For the February 23, 2021 suburban municipal elections, Field Volunteers will be in Suburban Cook County. Voter registration for Suburban Cook County residents can be found at <https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/service/your-voter-information>.

Most election jurisdictions also have their own voter registration lookup available online. Examples include:

- Chicago residents: <https://chicagoelections.com/en/your-voter-information.html> - *Note that there are no Chicago elections in 2021*
- Suburban Cook County residents: <https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/service/your-voter-information>
- Will County residents: <https://www.thewillcountyclerk.com/elections/voter-services/voter-lookup/>
- Lake County residents: <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/351/Voter-Power-for-Registered-Voters>
- DuPage County residents: <https://www.dupageco.org/VoterLookup/>
- Kane County residents: <https://www.kanecountyclerk.org/Elections/Pages/Voter-Search.aspx>
- Kendall County residents: <http://kendall.il.electionconsole.com/voter-lookup.php>

If a voter is not yet registered, they can still register before or even on Election Day. Refer to [Question 2](#) (how to register), [4 \(voter registration deadlines\)](#), and [5 \(same day registration\)](#) for more details.

2. HOW: How do I register to vote? What if I don't have access to a computer and/or printer?

A voter can register in person, through mail, or online.

- **In Person.** A voter may register in person at any time before, or even on Election Day (for more information on Same Day Registration, see [Question 5](#)). Voters can register at the County Clerk's Office, Board of Election Commissioner's Office, City and Villages Offices, Township Offices, schools, public libraries, military recruitment offices, and other locations designated by the election authority.¹ For information on identification required when in-person voting, see [Question 3](#).

- **By Mail.** A voter can register via mail by completing the Illinois Voter Registration Application (which can be downloaded at <https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/VotingRegistrationForms.aspx>) and mailing it to the State Board of Elections or appropriate county clerk or board of election commissioners (i.e., if the voter lives in Springfield, the form would be mailed to the Sangamon County Clerk).² See [Question 3](#) for details on identification that may be required with the mail-in application.
- **Online.** A voter can register online on the Illinois State Board of Elections' website (<https://ova.elections.il.gov/>) using an Illinois driver's license or state ID card and the last four digits of their social security number.³

For information on the different deadlines for each type of voter registration, see [Question 4](#).

3. IDENTIFICATION: What ID is required to register to vote?

The type of identification required to register to vote depends on how the voter is registering.

- **In Person.** Two forms of identification, with at least one showing the voter's current residence address (or, in the case of homeless voters, showing current mailing address), are needed when registering in-person.⁴ These forms of identification may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - driver's license,
 - social security card,
 - public aid identification card,
 - utility bill,
 - employee or student identification card,
 - lease or contract for a residence,
 - credit card, or
 - a civic, union or professional association membership card.⁵
- **By Mail.** A voter registering by mail must submit their driver's license number or state identification card number. If the voter does not have either of those, verification can be provided with:
 - the last 4 digits of the voter's social security number,
 - a copy of a current and valid photo identification, or
 - a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other federal, state or local government document that shows the voter's name and address.⁶
- **Online.** A voter registering online must provide (i) a full Illinois driver's license or state identification card number, (ii) the last 4 digits of his or her social security number, and (iii) the date the Illinois driver's license or state identification card was issued.⁷

4. DEADLINES: When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?

- **In Person.** A voter may register in person at any time before, or even on Election Day (for more information on Same Day Registration, see [Question 5](#)). A voter also may update their name or address while re-registering at any time before, or even on Election Day.

Beginning 15 days before an election and through Election Day, a voter may use “Grace Period Registration” to register to vote or update voter registration.⁸ In all counties with a population of 100,000 or more (and some others), a voter may use this process at Early Voting polling locations and vote at the same time. Grace Period Registration may be offered at other locations designated by the election authority as well (usually their office). Grace Period Registration locations and dates can be found at the State Board of Elections website (<https://www.elections.il.gov/VotingAndRegistrationSystems/EarlyVotingLocationsSearch.aspx>).

On Election Day, a voter may register to vote at any polling place – *unless* they live in a county with a population less than 100,000 that doesn’t use electronic poll books AND that has decided not to allow Grace Period Registration at every polling place, in which case they must register at the county election office or at other locations designated by the county.⁹ See [Question 5](#) below.

- **By Mail.** If a voter is registering by mail, their application must be postmarked at least 28 days before an election. That date has passed for the February 23, 2021 Primary Election; registration applications sent by mail had to be postmarked by January 26, 2021.¹⁰
- **Online.** If a voter is registering online, the registration deadline is October 18, 2020.¹¹

5. SAME DAY: Does my state have Same Day/Election Day Registration (i.e. can I register to vote the same day I vote)? If so, what is the process?

Yes, as mentioned in [Question 4](#) above, Election Day Registration (EDR) is provided for under Illinois law. In all counties, EDR is required to be available in at least one location within the county, and in counties with population over 100,000 (including Cook County) and/or counties with electronic poll books, EDR must be available in each polling place; specific details about locations are described in [Question 4](#). Counties that include EDR in each polling place include Brown, Bureau, Champaign, Cook (Chicago and suburban Cook County), DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, Macon, Madison, McHenry, McLean, Peoria, Rock Island, Sangamon, Stark, St. Clair, Tazewell, Will, and Winnebago Counties, as well as Cities such as Bloomington, Chicago, East St. Louis, and Rockford. Updated information about where to find EDR will be posted to <https://www.clccrul.org/election>. Voters using EDR need to present two forms of ID, including one with a current address.

6. PERMANENT MOVE: I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?

Refer to the table below. The answer to this question depends on whether the voter moved within the same county/election jurisdiction or moved to a new county.

	Moved within the same precinct	Moved to a different precinct but within the same election jurisdiction (usually a county, but some cities have their own election authorities)	Moved to a different election jurisdiction (usually a county, but some cities have their own election authorities)	Moved from a different state
Moved within 27 days of Election Day	The voter should go to their regular polling place (the new and old address should be assigned to the same polling place) and cast a full ballot after completing an affidavit regarding the voter's eligibility and former and current addresses. ¹²	The voter may use Grace Period or Election Day Registration to update their info and vote on the same day. See Question 4 for more details on location. Or if that isn't feasible, the voter can complete an address correction form at the polling place for their old address and cast a full ballot for that old address. ¹³	The voter may use Grace Period or Election Day Registration to update their info and vote on the same day. See Question 4 for more details on location. ¹⁴ Or if that isn't feasible, the voter can complete an address correction form at the polling place for their old address and cast a ballot for only federal offices that old address. ¹⁵	If a voter has resided in Illinois for less than 30 days , the voter is not eligible to vote in Illinois and should vote in the voter's previous state of residence. ¹⁶
Moved more than 27 days before Election Day	The voter may use Grace Period or Election Day Registration to update their info and vote on the same day. See Question 4 for more details on location. Or if that isn't feasible, the voter can complete an address correction form at the polling place for their old address and cast a ballot for only federal offices . ¹⁷	The voter may use Grace Period or Election Day Registration to update their info and vote on the same day. See Question 4 for more details on location. Or if that isn't feasible, the voter can complete an address correction form at the polling place for their old address and cast a ballot for only federal offices . ¹⁸	The voter may use Grace Period or Election Day Registration to update their info and vote on the same day. See Question 4 for more details on location.	The voter may use Grace Period or Election Day Registration to register and vote on the same day. See Question 4 for more details on location.

7. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily due to Covid-19 or some other reason. Where can I vote?

A voter should vote at their address of **residence**, meaning their permanent address.¹⁹ If the voter will be absent from that location due to COVID-19, the voter may request a mail ballot. See [Question 20](#) for more details. If the voter has permanently moved, see [Question 6](#) to determine where the voter should vote. Sometimes, a voter may be unsure whether their move is temporary or permanent. If a voter considers their current living location their permanent residence, they may use Election Day Registration to update their voter registration. See [Questions 4](#) and [5](#).

Because of COVID-19, many more voters are experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness. This does not limit a person's ability to vote. See [Question 12](#) for more information.

8. STUDENT: I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?

Yes. College students may vote at their school, provided that they have been an Illinois resident for at least 30 days. A student may consider themselves a resident of Illinois if the student is physically present in the state and intends to remain at their current residence or campus (this does not mean that the student intends to remain at the address forever).²⁰ *If a student considers two locations their residence, the student may choose which one to use as a voting residence.*

Students are held to the same eligibility requirements as any other voter in the jurisdiction. If a student is told that they are not able to vote at their school, volunteers should ascertain if they have fulfilled all of the registration requirements (i.e. citizenship, age, and durational residency requirements) and that they have properly registered for this election and tried Grace Period or Election Day Registration if necessary. If the student is eligible to vote at that location and is still not being permitted to vote or is wrongly asked to vote provisionally, alert your Captain so that they can contact the appropriate election official.

If a college student is taking classes remotely (i.e., the student is taking remote classes offered by an Illinois university), the student still may register to vote in Illinois if he or she is also an Illinois resident (as described above).

9. LIVING ABROAD: I am living abroad and/or am serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?

Absent uniformed service members (and their eligible dependents) and U.S. citizens living outside of the United States may request an absentee ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). The voter can get step-by-step assistance and forms at <https://www.fvap.gov/illinois>, on the Illinois State Board of Elections website (<https://move.elections.il.gov/?Name=W9QmzPL1ChE0Bhad9QYeOdnB6s7h2EPlyFdDRgb9RVl%3d&T=637386276856237889>), or, for Chicago voters, on the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners website (<https://chicagoelections.com/en/military-overseas-voters.html>).

Overseas civilian citizens who are not currently registered to vote must submit their signed ballot request by January 24, 2020 in order to vote a full ballot. Overseas civilian citizens who currently are registered to vote and absent uniformed service members and eligible family members must submit

their signed ballot request by February 13, 2021. Requests for ballots in federal elections can be submitted online through the Illinois Military and Overseas Empowerment website at <https://move.elections.il.gov/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f> or through <https://www.fvap.gov/illinois>.

The Chicago Board of Elections offers military/overseas voters emailed ballots, mailed ballots, or an online ballot option (available at <https://chicagoelections.com/en/military-overseas-voters.html>). Any eligible military/overseas voter with a valid Federal Post Card Application on file with the Chicago Board of Elections may log into the online ballot option, after which the voter must print and mail the ballot and supporting documents to the Chicago Election Board.²¹

10. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

Generally yes, unless you are currently incarcerated.

The only people in Illinois who CANNOT vote because of their criminal record are people who:²²

- Are in prison or jail serving a sentence after conviction for any crime;
- Are on furlough from prison or jail;
- Are in an Adult Transition Center; or
- Are on work-release (or periodic imprisonment) from prison or jail.

However, others who have been convicted of a crime CAN vote, including people convicted of felony crimes who are *not* currently serving a sentence, people on probation or parole, people who have been arrested or charged with a crime but have not been convicted, and people who are in jail before their trial.²³

After a person has served their sentence and is released from incarceration, they are again eligible to vote. Illinois Department of Corrections and Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice are required to provide a nonpartisan peer-led civics program to soon-to-be-released citizens in their custody.²⁴ Upon release, a voter must be provided with information about their voting rights and a voter registration application.²⁵ If a voter was registered to vote before they went to prison or jail, their name will have been removed from the rolls, and the voter will need to register again. Refer to [Question 1](#) for more details on checking a voter's registration. See [Question 6](#) for more details on updating voter registration.

11. INCARCERATED: I am currently in jail. Can I vote?

Voters who are in jail in Illinois pre-trial (pending acquittal or conviction of a crime) may vote.²⁶ Please note that even though voting is legally allowed, it may be difficult for voters held pre-trial outside Cook County to access this right. Voters who are incarcerated post-conviction are ineligible to vote or register to vote.

In Cook County Jail, the Chicago Board of Elections and the Cook County Clerk's office must establish a temporary branch polling place.²⁷ Pollwatchers are allowed to observe proceedings at the established temporary branch polling place.²⁸

Election jurisdictions responsible for counties with a population under 3,000,000 (i.e., every election jurisdiction except Chicago Board of Elections and the Cook County Clerk's office) must collaborate with the primary county jail to facilitate voting by mail for voters who are detained pre-trial.²⁹

Anyone in custody in a county jail who is eligible to vote must be given a voter registration application.³⁰ County jails must provide voter registration applications to anyone being discharged from the jail who is eligible to vote.³¹

12. HOMELESSNESS: I am currently experiencing homelessness. Can I vote?

Yes. Under the Illinois Bill of Rights for the Homeless Act, any homeless person residing in the State of Illinois has "the right to vote, register to vote, and receive documentation necessary to prove identity for voting without discrimination due to [their] housing status."³²

If a homeless voter is registering to vote on Election Day, the voter must provide two forms of identification, with one including the address that the voter is using as a residence for the purpose of voting. To prove residency, a homeless voter may show "a piece of mail addressed to that individual and received at that address" or produce "a statement from a person authorizing use of the mailing address."³³ Examples of identification that can be used to prove the voter's residency address include:

- A piece of mail addressed to the voter and mailed to the address on the registration card;
- A statement, letter, or affidavit from a person like a case manager, homeowner, or religious leader that states the voter is allowed to use the mailing address (see a template letter [here](#)); or
- An ID card issued by a homeless shelter showing the name and mailing address of the voter.

13. NOT ON ROLLS AT POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place and am not on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?

If a voter is not appearing on the voting rolls, check the Illinois State Board of Elections' website (<http://ova.elections.il.gov/RegistrationLookup.aspx>) to see if the voter is registered. If the voter is listed as registered, the website also will state the voter's assigned polling location.

You may additionally check the website of the voter's specific election jurisdiction. See [Question 1](#) for websites of some other Illinois jurisdictions. These websites also will tell the voter their correct polling place.

If a voter is not found on the rolls of the polling place where the voter is attempting to vote, encourage the election judge to take steps to identify the cause of the problem, and hopefully rectify the situation. This could include calling the voter's respective election authority, looking at the online Illinois voter registration lookup noted above, or looking at online lookup tools specific to that voter's jurisdiction. The election judge may also have a helpline that they may call.

If the voter is not found registered as a voter in Illinois but is at the correct precinct for the voter's address, determine whether the precinct offers Election Day Registration. See a list of all Election Day Registration locations in Illinois in our list of resources at www.clccrul.org/election (list of locations last updated November 2020). If the precinct offers Election Day Registration and the voter has the required documentation (two IDs, including one with a current address), then the voter can use Election Day Registration and vote a regular ballot.

If that precinct does not offer Election Day Registration, identify where in the county it is being offered (check our posted resources at clccrul.org/election or contact the specific election jurisdiction; contact information for all jurisdictions is available at

<https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/ElectionAuthorities.aspx>.) The voter will need to arrive at the location offering Election Day Registration before polls close. See [Question 4](#) and [Question 5](#) for more information on EDR.

If the voter is in the correct precinct but cannot use Election Day Registration because of lack of ID, the voter can vote by provisional ballot. This is a *last resort* because provisional ballots will be counted only if the election jurisdiction can later verify that the voter was properly registered,³⁴ and they most likely will not be counted on Election Day. In most elections, if the voter uses a provisional ballot, the voter will have 7 days to bring adequate ID to their local election board.³⁵ Learn more about provisional ballot procedures in [Question 50](#).

Note that on Election Day voters MUST vote in their assigned polling place or only the federal and statewide offices will be counted from their provisional ballot (assuming that the voter is otherwise eligible to vote).³⁶

As a point of reference, in the November 3, 2020 election only, each jurisdiction was required to establish one polling place on Election Day where any voter could vote, regardless of their assigned precinct.³⁷ Resources at clccrul.org/election include the list of universal polling locations in each jurisdiction for November 3, 2020.

14. THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED: My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. Could it have been removed? What do I do?

A voter's name can be removed from the list of registered voters if the voter has failed to respond to an official election mailing AND has not voted in the past four years, or if the voter is currently serving a sentence for a criminal conviction.³⁸ If the voter has not voted in four years, the election authority must provide them with notice before taking any action; if the voter then does not respond within 30 days, their name may be removed.³⁹

Occasionally, a voter's name is mistakenly removed from the rolls even though that voter may never have received proper notification of removal. If the voter would like to have their name put back on the rolls, they can send that request via letter to the election jurisdiction (such as the county clerk or Board of Elections) within two years of cancellation with documentation that they are a qualified voter; after that two-year period, they must re-register.⁴⁰

If a voter's name has been removed from the rolls, suggest that the voter use Grace Period or Election Day Registration (see [Question 4 and Question 5](#)) or offer to call the jurisdiction with the voter in an attempt to resolve the situation if time allows. Otherwise, provide the jurisdiction's phone number to the voter.

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

15. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)? When is it?

Yes. Registered voters may go in person to their board of elections office (or an alternative location announced by the election jurisdiction) to vote. The period for early voting begins 40 days prior to Election Day and ends the day before Election Day.⁴¹ Many election jurisdictions provide several early voting locations; check the website of the specific jurisdiction for details. Note that election jurisdictions in Illinois may be by county or city.

16. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a reason to vote early?

All voters in Illinois are eligible to vote before Election Day at any site established as an early voting site by the election authority. No special circumstances or reasons are necessary to vote early.

17. WHEN: When do the polls open/close during early voting?

You can look up the times of early voting polling places on the State Board of Elections website at <https://www.elections.il.gov/VotingAndRegistrationSystems/EarlyVotingLocationsSearch.aspx>. To find early voting locations and their hours, choose the election (e.g. "2021 Consolidated Primary"), the election jurisdiction (City or County listed), and click submit. Note that all Cities are listed below Counties in this lookup tool.

18. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?

You can look up the locations of early voting polling places on the State Board of Elections website at <https://ova.elections.il.gov/earlyvotinglocations.aspx>.

Due to COVID-19, polling place locations may change unexpectedly. Call the specific election jurisdiction or check their website to see the most updated information on polling locations.

19. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? Can I vote without providing identification?

In general, voters in Illinois do NOT have to provide identification at the polling place in order to vote a regular ballot.⁴² Instead, voters must fill out a form, which includes their signature. An Election Judge will verify that the voter's signature matches the signature used by the voter for initial registration. There are exceptions to this:

- Voters using Election Day Registration (EDR) or a first-time voter who registered by mail but did not submit sufficient proof of identity with the registration application must present **two** IDs the first time they vote, and at least one of them must contain the voter's current address (or, in the case of homeless voters, a mailing address used by the voter). Some examples of acceptable IDs include:⁴³
 - Illinois driver's license or state ID card;
 - Employee or student ID;
 - Credit card;
 - Social Security card;

- Birth certificate;
 - Utility bill in the voter’s name;
 - Mail postmarked to the voter;
 - Valid U.S. passport;
 - Public assistance ID card (such as Illinois Link card); or
 - Lease or rental contract.
- If a voter’s qualifications are challenged, the voter may be required to produce two forms of identification showing their current residential address. One of the forms of ID may be a piece of mail addressed to the voter at their current residence address and postmarked not earlier than 30 days before the date of the election. Alternatively, voters may have a witness who is registered to vote in that precinct attest to the voter’s qualifications and take an oath. In either case, the voter may then cast a regular ballot.⁴⁴ **If it seems like a particular voter or group of voters might have been targeted or challenged unfairly, this issue should be reported to 866-OUR-VOTE, call center captains, field captains, or the command center, so that the relevant election authorities can be alerted.**
 - Some jurisdictions may require that the voter present two forms of identification if they are on the inactive voter list.

If a voter is unable to show identification when required—if the voter registered by mail without providing identification, was successfully challenged, is on the inactive list, or is using EDR—the voter may vote by provisional ballot.⁴⁵ *However, if it is at all possible, a voter should be encouraged to leave the polling place and retrieve an ID rather than cast a provisional ballot, because provisional ballots are not always counted promptly – and, for the provisional ballot to later be counted, the voter will later have to go to their local election office and produce the required ID.*

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE AND/OR VOTE BY MAIL

20. AUTOMATIC: Do I have to request an absentee/mail ballot or will my state mail me one automatically? How do I request one?

In the February 23 and April 6, 2021 elections, voters might not receive an application for a mail ballot automatically, even if they have voted by mail before. As a point of reference, due to special legal requirements in place for the November 3, 2020 election only, many voters automatically received an application for a mail ballot.⁴⁶

If an application for a mail ballot is not received, voters may obtain a mail ballot application from their election authority, in-person, or online, and use it to request a mail ballot. Voters can obtain a mail ballot application on the State Board of Elections website (<https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/VotingByMail.aspx>). Chicago voters may request a mail ballot at the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners’ website:

<https://chicagoelections.com/en/vote-by-mail.html> (note that there are no elections in Chicago in 2021).⁴⁷

If the voter is a uniformed overseas military service member of a U.S. citizen living abroad, see [Question 9](#) for additional details, as more options to request a ballot may be available.

21. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?

Applications for a mail ballot submitted *by mail or online* must be received by the jurisdiction's election authority by 5:00 PM on the fifth day prior to Election Day.⁴⁸ For the February 23, 2021 Consolidated Primary Election, all applications by mail or online for a mail ballot must be received by February 18, 2021 by 5:00 PM.

A mail ballot may be requested *in-person* at the office of the election authority up to the day before the election.⁴⁹ For the February 23, 2021 Consolidated Primary Election, that means by close of business on February 22, 2021. If an application for a mail ballot is submitted by mail outside the U.S., the application must be made not less than 30 days prior to the election to receive the full ballot, or less than 30 days prior to the election to receive the federal ballot only.⁵⁰

22. APPLICATION RETURN: Where and/or how can I return my absentee mail ballot application? Can someone return it for me?

A completed application for a mail ballot can be mailed, e-mailed, or delivered in person to the local election authority.⁵¹ Anyone may turn in the completed application for a mail ballot.⁵²

23. APPLICATION - DIDN'T REQUEST IN TIME: What if I have not requested an absentee mail ballot by the deadline?

Voters who miss the deadline to request a mail ballot can vote in-person.

24. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a specific reason for requesting to vote by absentee mail ballot?

Any qualified voter in Illinois who is properly registered to vote may request a mail ballot. No special circumstances or excuses are necessary.⁵³

25. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my application and/or absentee mail ballot?

Voters should contact their local election authority to check the status of their mail application or ballot. Some jurisdictions have a mail ballot lookup option on their websites.

26. APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee mail ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

Application Rejected

If an *application* was rejected, see [Question 20](#) to re-submit a vote by mail application if within the deadline. The voter may also need to call their local election authority to learn why the ballot was

rejected. The voter may need to register to vote or update their voter registration. If the election authority states that there was an error in the voter's application, the voter may ask for assistance in filling out a new vote by mail application, if within the deadline. See [Question 20](#) for where to find an application to vote by mail.

Voting in Person after Requesting Mail Ballot

A voter may still vote in-person even after requesting a mail ballot if: 1) the voter turns in the mail ballot for cancellation; 2) a portion of the vote by mail ballot was destroyed; 3) the voter executes an affidavit before the election judges specifying that the voter never received a vote by mail ballot; or 4) the voter executes an affidavit before the election judges specifying that the voter completed and returned a vote by mail ballot but was informed that the election authority did not receive that vote by mail ballot.⁵⁴

If a voter is concerned because they have mailed their ballot but it has not yet been received by the election authority, ask the voter when they put the ballot in the mail. If it has been *less* than 10 days (and it is not yet Election Day), encourage the voter to wait and continue checking the status of their ballot. If it has been 10 days or *more*, and the voter affirmatively knows that the ballot has not been received (either by checking online or by calling their election authority), then advise the voter to vote in person by executing an affidavit as described above. Additionally, if it is Election Day and the voter knows that their ballot has not been received (either by checking an online tool or by calling the election authority), some voters may be more comfortable going in-person to vote. Remember, in Illinois a mail ballot will count so long as it is *postmarked* by the date of the election (February 23, 2021) and received by the election authority within 14 days. A voter who has sent a mail ballot does not need to vote in-person on February 23 unless they have reason to believe that their ballot will not be postmarked by February 23 or will not arrive within the allowed window.

27. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee mail ballot? Are there any identification requirements?

Mail ballots must contain signed and dated affidavits on the application and the ballot envelope where indicated, attesting to the accuracy of information provided on the application.⁵⁵ Voters must use blue or black ink and must seal the envelope enclosing the ballot.

28. LOST OR SPOILED: What if I lost my absentee mail ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?

If the voter spoiled or damaged their mail ballot or received an incorrect ballot, a voter can vote in person at the polling place, if they bring the mail ballot that came in the mail.⁵⁶ If a voter lost their mail they should contact the local election authority but should similarly be able to vote in person.

If the voter never received their mail ballot, or if the voter completed and returned a mail ballot but was informed that the election authority did not receive that mail ballot, the voter may execute an affidavit in front of the election judges stating the circumstances and then may vote in-person.⁵⁷

29. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested an absentee mail ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?

Voters should first check their election jurisdiction's website to determine the status of their mail ballot. Depending on how close it is to Election Day, the voter may wish to wait longer for the ballot to arrive in the mail. Additionally, the voter may learn of some problem with their mail ballot application.

If the voter never receives the mail ballot, the voter may vote in-person if the voter signs an affidavit stating that the voter never received a mail ballot.⁵⁸ Voters should be given a regular ballot and not a provisional ballot in this circumstance.

30. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested an absentee mail ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

If the voter wants to vote in person at the polling place, they can vote a regular ballot if they bring the mail ballot that came in the mail.⁵⁹ Additionally, if the voter never received their mail ballot, or if the voter completed and returned a vote by mail ballot but was informed that the election authority did not receive that mail ballot, the voter may execute an affidavit in front of the election judges stating the circumstances and then may vote in-person.⁶⁰

If a voter is concerned because they have mailed their ballot but it has not yet been received by the election authority, ask the voter when they put the ballot in the mail. If it has been *less* than 10 days (and it is not yet Election Day), encourage the voter to wait and continue checking the status of their ballot. If it has been 10 days or *more*, and the voter affirmatively knows that the ballot has not been received (either by checking online or by calling their election authority), then advise the voter to vote in person by executing an affidavit as described above. Additionally, if it is Election Day and the voter knows that their ballot has not been received (either by checking an online tool or by calling the election authority), some voters may be more comfortable going in-person to vote. Remember, in Illinois a mail ballot will count so long as it is *postmarked* by February 23, 2021 and received by the election authority within 14 days. A voter who has sent a mail ballot does not need to vote in-person on February 23 unless they have reason to believe that their ballot will not be postmarked by February 23 or will not arrive within the allowed window.

31. MAIL BALLOT DEADLINES: What is the deadline for the absentee mail ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?

Mailed ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received within 14 days of the election.⁶¹ Ballots that arrive after Election Day without a postmark but within the 14 day period shall be assumed to have been mailed on the date certified by the voter on the ballot.⁶² Voters may also deliver mail ballots in-person to their election authority through the close of business on Election Day.⁶³ In the November 3, 2020, election, many election authorities established ballot dropboxes, but this will likely not be in place during 2021 elections.

32. MAIL BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: What are the locations for dropping off a completed absentee mail ballot (instead of mailing it)?

In the November 3, 2020, election, many election authorities established ballot dropboxes, but this will likely not be in place during 2021 elections. Voters may check if their jurisdiction uses dropboxes at <https://www.elections.il.gov/VotingAndRegistrationSystems/VoteByMailBallotDropBoxLocations.aspx?MID=0DjRa0Y9V6U%3d&T=637382910321046095>. Voters may still want to contact their local election

authority to learn if their jurisdiction uses dropboxes, where those dropboxes are located, and if there are specified hours when those dropboxes can be accessed.

Voters, or a person authorized by a voter, may always drop off their completed mail ballot at their local election authority.⁶⁴

33. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: Can someone drop off my completed absentee mail ballot for me?

Yes. A voter may authorize any person to return their mail ballot to the election authority, as long as the voter has signed the affidavit on the ballot envelope affirming that authorization was given to deliver the ballot.⁶⁵

34. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee?

In Illinois, in-person absentee voting means Early Voting. See [Questions 15](#) through [19](#) for details about Early Voting.

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

35. HOURS: When do the polls open and close on Election Day? What if the polls are closing but I'm in line?

The General Election is November 3, 2020.

The polls must be open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.⁶⁶ If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place is not open at 6:00 a.m., advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center.

All otherwise-qualified voters who are in line at the polling place at 7:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote a regular ballot. If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place prohibits those who were in line before 7:00 pm from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your Captain.

***Note to field and hotline volunteers:** If you learn that a polling place prohibits those who were in line by the time the polls closed from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your Captain immediately.

36. POLLING LOCATION: Where do I vote on Election Day?

All Illinois voters can check ova.elections.il.gov/RegistrationLookup.aspx. Many jurisdictions have their own polling place lookup as well, which may be more up-to-date.

As a point of reference, in the November 3, 2020 election only, each jurisdiction was required to establish one polling place on Election Day where any voter could vote, regardless of their assigned precinct.⁶⁷ Resources at clccrul.org/election include the list of past universal polling locations in each jurisdiction for November 3, 2020.

We anticipate many last-minute polling place changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Online polling place lookup tools are a good starting point, but are not always updated in real time. The Cook County Clerk's office polling place lookup tool <https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/service/polling-places> may be accurate than the state-wide tool. For other jurisdictions, the state-wide tool may be more accurate than the local jurisdiction's tool; you can check on the Illinois State Board of Election's website, <https://ova.elections.il.gov/PollingPlaceLookup.aspx>, and enter the voter's address. Local jurisdiction websites also may list last-minute polling place changes without updating their search tools. Additionally, you can call the relevant election authority (contact list here: <https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/ElectionAuthorities.aspx?MID=cQHxtxVEmuo%3d&T=637122660226888012>) to learn the latest updates on polling place closures. Do not call an election authority before first asking a Captain for assistance.

If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to [Questions 6](#) and [7](#).

***Note to hotline volunteer:** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, many polling places have been moved or consolidated. Voters should be advised to check their election jurisdiction's website before going to vote, to see the latest changes in polling place locations.

37. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote on Election Day? Can I vote without providing identification?

In general, voters in Illinois do NOT have to provide identification at the polling place in order to vote a regular ballot. Instead, voters must fill out a form, including their signature. An Election Judge will verify that the voter's signature matches the signature used by the voter for initial registration.⁶⁸ There are exceptions to this:

- Voters using Election Day Registration (EDR) or a first-time voter who registered by mail but did not submit sufficient proof of identity with the registration application must present **two** IDs the first time they vote, and at least one of them must contain the person's current address (or, in the case of homeless voters, a mailing address used by the voter). Some examples of acceptable IDs include:⁶⁹
 - Illinois driver's license or state ID card;
 - Employee or student ID;
 - Credit card;
 - Social Security card;
 - Birth certificate;
 - Utility bill in the voter's name;
 - Mail postmarked to the voter;
 - Valid U.S. passport;
 - Public assistance ID card (such as Illinois Link card); or
 - Lease or rental contract.

- Identification cannot be expired. Note that for the November 2020 election, the Secretary of State’s office has extended the deadline to renew expired licenses to February 2021.
- If a voter’s qualifications are challenged, the voter may be required to produce two forms of identification showing their current residential address, including not more than one piece of mail addressed to the voter at their current residence address and postmarked not earlier than 30 days before the date of the election. Alternatively, voters may have a witness who is registered to vote in that precinct attest to the voter’s qualifications and take an oath. In either case, the voter may then cast a regular ballot.⁷⁰
- Some jurisdictions may require that the voter present two forms of identification if they are on the inactive voter list.

If a voter is unable to show identification when required—if the voter registered by mail without providing identification, was successfully challenged, is on the inactive list, or is using EDR—the voter may vote by provisional ballot.⁷¹ *However, if it is at all possible, a voter should be encouraged to go back and get an ID before entering the polls rather than cast a provisional ballot, because provisional ballots are not always counted promptly – and for the provisional ballot to count, the voter will have to later present ID at their local election office.*

38. HOSPITALIZED: I am currently hospitalized. Can I vote?

If a voter calls saying they have recently been hospitalized, or are quarantined and homebound due to COVID-19, please inform your Captain. These procedures are especially important in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the 2020 elections, the Illinois State Board of Elections helped support and advocate to local election jurisdictions regarding procedures for voters who were homebound outside of hospitals. Similarly, voters should advocate for applying this process more broadly in the 2021 elections as well. Please note that even with the broader interpretation, this process is difficult for most voters to navigate, and may not be possible to complete.

Any voter who has been admitted to a hospital within 14 days of the election, and remains in the hospital on Election Day or has been released but is homebound, may have a vote-by-mail ballot delivered to them by a relative or a registered voter from the same precinct.⁷² The application requires a certificate from a health care professional and an affidavit from the person delivering the ballot. The person delivering the ballot must also return the ballot to the election jurisdiction by 7 PM on Election Day. Voters should contact their local election authority for more information. The application for Chicago voters can be found at <https://app.chicagoelections.com/Documents/general/Form-502-Hospitalized-Voter-E.pdf>.

See the Illinois State Board of Election’s brochure about voting while hospitalized, available on this webpage, <https://www.elections.il.gov/electionoperations/votingbymail.aspx>, for further information.

Nursing Homes and Long-Term Care Facilities

For most Illinois nursing homes and long-term care facilities, in-person voting will not be available, which is different from previous years. This change is meant to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities may vote in person at another polling place or by mail for those who apply to vote by mail by February 18th. So long as you've applied for your vote by mail ballot by the deadline, the administrator of your facility must give you a ballot and return envelope once the local election authority has delivered these to your administrator. You may then return your sealed vote by mail ballot to your local election authority by mail.

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

39. POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN: The polling place is not open. What do I do?

We anticipate many last-minute polling place changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Online polling place lookup tools are a good starting point, but are not always updated in real time. In 2021 elections, the Cook County Clerk's office polling place lookup tool (<https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/service/polling-places>) may be more accurate than the state-wide tool. Chicago does not have any elections in 2021, but its lookup tool is available at <https://chicagoelections.gov/en/your-voter-information.html>. In other jurisdictions, the state-wide tool may be more accurate than the local jurisdiction's tool; you can check on the Illinois State Board of Election's website, <https://ova.elections.il.gov/PollingPlaceLookup.aspx>, and enter the voter's address. Local jurisdiction websites also may list last-minute polling place changes without updating their search tools. Additionally, you can call the relevant election authority (contact list here: <https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/ElectionAuthorities.aspx?MID=cQHxtxVEmuo%3d&T=637122660226888012>) to learn the latest updates on polling place closures. Do not call an election authority before first asking a Captain for assistance.

As a point of reference, in the November 3, 2020 election only, each jurisdiction was required to establish one polling place on Election Day where any voter could vote, regardless of their assigned precinct.⁷³ Resources at clccrul.org/election include the list of universal polling locations in each jurisdiction for November 3, 2020.

***Note to field volunteer:** If you learn of a polling place not opening on time or one that is closed, notify your Captain immediately. If you learn of a changed polling place location, notify your Captain or call the hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of a polling place not opening on time or one that is closed, notify your Captain immediately.

40. LONG LINES: There are long lines at the polling place. What do I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?

Long lines could be an issue on Election Day. If the lines seem exceptionally long, ask if the voter can tell if there is a problem at the polling place (for example: a polling place running out of ballots), or if the

line is long simply because there are a large number of voters. Find out how long the voter is able to wait at the polling place. Next steps will depend on the cause of the long line and on the voter's ability to wait. Ask a Captain if you should report the long lines to the voter's local election authority (see [Question 51](#) for contact information).

Voters with a disability or other voters who may have difficulty standing for long periods of time should ask a poll worker for accommodations. As a point of reference, in the November 3, 2020 election only, each jurisdiction was required to establish one polling place on Election Day where any voter could vote, regardless of their assigned precinct.⁷⁴ Resources at clccrul.org/election include the list of universal polling locations in each jurisdiction for November 3, 2020.

See [Question 35](#) for what to do if a voter is in line when polls are closing.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of long lines, notify your Captain immediately.

41. EQUIPMENT FAILURE: What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

Voters should immediately notify the election judges (poll workers) if the voting equipment breaks down. Encourage election judges to call in the problem to the local election authority. If the problem cannot be fixed in a timely manner, and the breakdown is keeping the voter from casting a ballot, the voter should ask for an emergency paper ballot. This is different from a provisional ballot. Voters are legally entitled to an emergency paper ballot. Voters should NOT cast a provisional ballot, because provisional ballots are not always counted promptly.

Take note of the type of equipment failure and the impact on voters, and ask a Captain if you should report the equipment failure to the voter's local election authority (see [Question 51](#) for contact information).

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, and you learn that it is keeping voters from voting, notify your hotline captain immediately.

42. NO PPE/COVID: What if my polling place is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions or has run out of supplies?

Polling locations in Illinois are required to create and follow a COVID-19 plan in accordance with guidelines published by the Illinois Department of Health.⁷⁵ See those guidelines here: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/2020election>. Election judges, election personnel, and pollwatchers are required to wear masks in polling places. Voters are not required to wear masks, but are highly encouraged to do so. An election authority cannot refuse to give a ballot to a person who isn't wearing a mask. Election authorities might have extra masks available.

If there is no PPE at a polling location, find out whether the election judges have called in the problem. If a polling location is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions, ask a Captain if you should call the local election authority. (Contact information for local jurisdictions is available here: <https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/ElectionAuthorities.aspx?MID=cQHxtxVEmuo%3d&T=637122660226888012>).

Election authorities may (but do not have to) expand curbside voting to apply to all voters. Voters should request this option, if available, if they want to avoid going inside the polling place. See [Question 44](#) and [Question 46](#) for more information on curbside voting.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn that a polling place is not following COVID-19 precautions, notify your Captain immediately.

43. EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE: I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

Before using the voting machine, a voter can request that an election judge/poll worker provide instructions on how to use the machine.⁷⁶ An instruction model for each mechanically-operated machine can also be provided for demonstration, showing a portion of the face of the voting machine.⁷⁷ After giving instructions to the voter, the poll worker must leave the booth so that the voter can vote confidentially.⁷⁸ See [Question 45](#) for information about assistance in the voting booth.

44. PHYSICAL DISABILITY: I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

Illinois law requires that each polling place be accessible to disabled voters unless the polling place is granted an exemption by the State Board of Elections,⁷⁹ but in practice many polling places may not be sufficiently accessible. A voter who has a disability and is assigned to a polling place that is inaccessible to them is entitled to be provided a ballot up to 50 feet from the entrance to the polling place (often called "curbside voting").⁸⁰ Ideally, voters should contact their election authority in advance to request assistance. Even if a voter has not made an advance request, the voter or hotline volunteer should advocate that the election judges provide curbside voting to the voter.

If a voter needs curbside voting assistance on Election Day, two judges of different political parties may meet the voter within 50 feet of the polling place entrance. The two judges must bring an Application for Ballot (in Chicago, "Form 14"), a ballot, a ballot marker, and a curbside privacy sleeve.⁸¹

If a voter is unable to stand in a long line because of a disability, tell the voter to ask the election judge for an accommodation, such as a chair.

45. READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE: I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Yes! Any voter who needs assistance voting is entitled to have any person of their choice – other than the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union – mark the voter's choices or assist the voter in marking their choices on the ballot, as long as the voter makes the choices on the ballot and the person helping marks only the choices made by the voter.⁸² The person assisting can be a friend or family member, for example, and the assister is not required to be a registered voter. The voter will, and the assister may, be required to sign an affidavit form provided by the election judge/poll worker.⁸³

There may be situations where the voter wants an election judge/poll worker or a pollwatcher to serve as an assister. This is allowed, but there have been instances where partisan pollwatchers have inappropriately pressured voters while "assisting" them. Notify your Captain if you have concerns.

In many jurisdictions, the federal Voting Rights Act requires polling places to provide written translations and oral interpretation (i.e. bilingual election judges/poll workers) in other languages.⁸⁴ In Illinois, the federal Voting Rights Act requires Chicago, Cook County, Lake County, and Kane County to provide written translations and oral interpretation (bilingual election judges/poll workers) in Spanish. In parts of Cook County and the City of Chicago, written and oral assistance is required in Chinese. In parts of Cook County and the City of Chicago, written assistance is required in Hindi and oral assistance is required in Hindi, Gujarati, and Urdu. See our spreadsheet listing all precincts with bilingual assistance on our resources page at clccrul.org/election (last updated in 2020) or ask a captain for help.

In 2019, Cook County passed the VOTE ordinance, which expands the list of languages covered in suburban Cook County elections. Starting in the March 2020 primary, electronic, audio and mail-in ballots were translated into Korean and Tagalog. Starting in the November 2020 election, electronic, audio, and mail-in ballots and voting materials must additionally be translated into Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, Arabic, Gujarati, and Urdu.

In many jurisdictions, even if no assistance is available in person, election judges/poll workers can call their central election office to help a voter obtain language assistance over the phone. Hotline volunteers may also refer voters to language-specific hotlines: 888-VE-Y-VOTA (Spanish), 888-API-VOTE (Asian/Pacific Islander languages), or 844-YALLA-US (Arabic).

46. CURBSIDE VOTING: When can I request curbside voting?

Any voter with a disability who, because of structural features of the building in which the polling place is located, is unable to enter the polling place, may request curbside voting. The request should be made to the local election authority not later than the close of business on the day before the election.⁸⁵ Even without an advance request, voters and hotline volunteers should advocate that election workers provide curbside voting to the voter.

If a voter needs curbside voting assistance on Election Day, two judges of different political parties may meet the voter within 50 feet of the polling place entrance. The two judges must bring an Application for Ballot (in Chicago, "Form 14"); a ballot; a ballot marker, and a curbside privacy sleeve.⁸⁶

For the 2021 election, election authorities may (but do not have to) expand curb-side voting to apply to all voters.

47. INTIMIDATION & CAMPAIGNING: What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? Can people approach me?

Electioneering and "soliciting of votes" are banned within 100 feet of all polling places.⁸⁷ Candidates, campaigns, and partisan pollwatchers may try to pressure voters inside the polling place, but such actions are not permitted and should be reported to election judges/poll workers. Furthermore, "no person shall interrupt, hinder or oppose any voter while approaching within those areas for the purpose of voting."⁸⁸ The 100-foot radius should be marked with cones, a United States flag, or other markers.⁸⁹ The area within the markers is designated a "campaign free zone."⁹⁰ Churches or private schools may designate their entire property as "campaign free."⁹¹ The area on polling place property that is outside

of the “campaign free zone” is a public forum for the duration of time that the polling place is open, and electioneering (including placement of signs) is allowed.⁹²

Pollwatchers (who might be there on behalf of a candidate) may not “station themselves in such close proximity to the judges of election so as to interfere with the orderly conduct of the election and shall not, in any event, be permitted to handle election materials.”⁹³

While concerns about intimidation may be less than in 2020, in some locations, there is still concern about improper activity by pollwatchers or others interfering or intimidating voters at polling places. See some general guidelines from 2020 at <https://www.clccrul.org/s/Election-Protection-Guidance-on-Voter-Intimidation.pdf>. Examples of intimidation may include following voters around, making allegations of voter fraud, political clothing, statements like “go back to where you came from,” and violence.

Note that voters may also feel intimidated to vote because of COVID-19 concerns, particularly if there are large numbers of people at a polling place. Field volunteers should be aware that your presence as a pollwatcher is permitted, but respect voter’s comfort levels and maintain social distance at all times. There may be times when it is more important to remove yourself from a polling place than to assert your right to be there.

***Note to field and hotline volunteers:** Notify your Captain about any reports of voter intimidation.

48. CHALLENGES: Someone is formally challenging my vote. What do I do?

If a voter’s qualifications are officially challenged, the voter may be required to produce two forms of identification showing their current residential address, which may include not more than one piece of mail addressed to the voter at their current residence address and postmarked not earlier than 30 days before the date of the election. See [Question 6](#). Alternatively, voters may have a witness who is registered to vote in that precinct attest to the voter’s qualifications and take an oath. The voter may then cast a regular ballot.⁹⁴ As a last resort, a voter may cast a provisional ballot. See [Question 50](#) for more information about provisional ballots.

If it seems like a particular voter or group of voters may have been targeted or challenged unfairly or repeatedly, report this issue to your Captain, so that the relevant election authorities can be alerted.

49. POLICE PRESENCE, MILITARY PRESENCE, PRIVATE ACTORS/MILITIA: There are police, members of the military, or private actors/militia at the polling place. Is this okay? What do I do?

Polling places are in a variety of buildings, some of which may employ private security guards, may have state or local law enforcement, or may be in a police station. While the presence of law enforcement in these situations may be required by the building, voters should be able to vote without feeling intimidated. Notify a Captain if a voter is feeling intimidated by police/security presence to navigate next steps.

Federal law prohibits military from being deployed to polling locations.⁹⁵ Notify a Captain immediately to navigate next steps in this situation. See [Question 47](#) regarding voter intimidation at polling places.

Guns may be permitted in the polling place, but intimidation is illegal, including intimidation accompanied by a gun. Again, notify your Captain if a voter is intimidated by the presence of a gun in the polling place.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of members of the military at the polling place, or of voter concerns regarding guns in the polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

50. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Voters should use provisional ballots only as a last resort. Provisional ballots will be counted only if the election authority can later verify that the voter was properly registered.⁹⁶ Provisional ballots often will not be counted on Election Day. Inquire why the voter was offered a provisional ballot and encourage the voter to take steps to be able to cast a regular ballot. If the voter is not correctly registered, the voter should be offered the opportunity to do Grace Period or Election Day Registration (see [Questions 4](#) and [5](#)) before being offered a provisional ballot.

The voter should be offered a provisional ballot only when:

- The voter's voting status has been successfully challenged;
- It is the voter's first time voting in that precinct, they did not provide identification when registering by mail, they do not have sufficient ID with them at the polling place, and they are unable to go back to retrieve ID and return to the polling place;
- There is an active dispute about whether the poll should be open at that time, for example if parties are in the process of obtaining a court order extending the time for closing the polls;
- The voter's name appears on the list of voters who voted during the early voting period, even though the voter claims not to have voted during the early voting period; or
- The voter received a mail ballot but did not return the mail ballot to the election authority and was not able to vote through the procedures mentioned in [Questions 26, 28, or 29](#).

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. *A provisional ballot should be a last resort.* An individual found eligible to cast a provisional ballot must sign an affidavit stating that the individual is an eligible voter in the jurisdiction.

A voter who cast a provisional ballot can later check to see if their provisional ballot was counted by visiting <https://www.elections.il.gov/VotingAndRegistrationSystems/ProvisionalBallotSearch.aspx>. Chicago voters may additionally check <https://chicagoelections.com/en/provisional-information.html>.

In most elections, if the voter uses a provisional ballot, the voter will have 7 days to provide any necessary documentation to their local election board.⁹⁷

QUESTIONS

51. Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

Voters should call the 866-OUR-VOTE hotline or contact their local election authority with questions. Contact information for Illinois election jurisdictions can be found at: <https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/ElectionAuthorities.aspx?MID=cQHxtxVEmuo%3d&T=637122660226888012>).

Voters can also use these bilingual hotlines: 888-VE-Y-VOTA (Spanish), 888-API-VOTE (Asian/Pacific Islander languages), or 844-YALLA-US (Arabic).

1; See <https://www.elections.il.gov/Downloads/ElectionOperations/PDF/RegisteringToVote.pdf>.

2 10 ILCS 5/1A-16(b).

3 10 ILCS 5/1A-16.5.

4 10 ILCS 5/4-10; 10 ILCS 5/5-9.

5 10 ILCS 5/4-10; 10 ILCS 5/5-9; see

<https://www.elections.il.gov/Downloads/ElectionOperations/PDF/RegisteringToVote.pdf>.

6 10 ILCS 5/1A-16.

7 10 ILCS 5/1A-16.5.

8 10 ILCS 5/4-50; 10 ILCS 5/5-50; see

<https://www.elections.il.gov/DocDisplay.aspx?Doc=Downloads/ElectionOperations/PDF/GracePeriodReg.pdf>

(download plain English version).

9 10 ILCS 5/4-50; see also

<https://www.elections.il.gov/DocDisplay.aspx?Doc=Downloads/ElectionOperations/PDF/GracePeriodReg.pdf>

(download plain English version).

10 10 ILCS 5/1A-16(b).

11 10 ILCS 5/1A-16.5(l).

12 See 10 ILCS 5/4-16 (detailing procedure generally); 10 ILCS 5/17-10 (affidavit details); Ill. Admin. Code tit. 26, § 216.90.

13 Ill. Admin. Code tit. 26, § 216.90.

14 Ill. Admin. Code tit. 26, § 216.90.

15 Ill. Admin. Code tit. 26, § 216.90.

16 10 ILCS 5/3-1.

17 Ill. Admin. Code tit. 26, § 216.90.

18 Ill. Admin. Code tit. 26, § 216.90.

19 10 ILCS 5/3-1; 10 ILCS 5/3-2.

20 For more information regarding student voter residency requirements, See *People ex rel.*

Madigan v. Baumgartner, 355 Ill. App. 3d 842, 849–50 (4th Dist. 2005); *Maksym v. Bd. Of Election Comm'rs of Chicago*, 242 Ill.2d 303, 319 (2011); *Dillavou v. Cty Officers Electoral Bd. Of Sangamon Cty*, 260 Ill. App. 3d 127, 133 (4th Dist. 1994).

21 Chicago Board of Elections, *Military/Overseas Voters*, <https://chicagoelections.gov/en/military-overseas-voters.html>.

22 10 ILCS 5/3-5.

23 10 ILCS 5/3-5.

24 730 ILCS 200/10.

25 730 ILCS 5/3-14-1(a-3).

26 10 ILCS 5/3-5.

27 10 ILCS 5/19A-20(e).

28 10 ILCS 5/19A-20(e).

29 10 ILCS 5/19-2.3.

30 55 ILCS 5/3-15003.3.

31 55 ILCS 5/3-15003.3.
32 775 ILCS 45/10(a)(5).
33 10 ILCS 5/4-10; 10 ILCS 5/5-9; 10 ILCS 5/6-37.
34 10 ILCS 5/18A-5.
35 10 ILCS 5/18A-5(a)(7); 10 ILCS 5/18A-15.
36 10 ILCS 5/18A-15(b)(1).
37 10 ILCS 5/2B-35(c).
38 See 10 ILCS 5/5-24; Ill. Admin. Code tit. 26, § 216.50.
39 See 10 ILCS 5/5-24.
40 10 ILCS 5/5-24.
41 10 ILCS 5/19A-15(a).
42 See, e.g., <https://chicagoelections.gov/en/when-you-need-id-to-vote.html>.
43 In the past, some jurisdictions have asserted that both IDs must include the applicant’s address. The Illinois Election Code, however, states that “the applicant [must] furnish two forms of identification, and except in the case of a homeless individual, one of which must include [their] residence address” 10 ILCS 5/4-10; 10 ILCS 5/5-9; 10 ILCS 5/6-37. The Illinois State Board of Elections also explicitly states that one ID must include an address. Illinois State Board of Elections, *Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://www.elections.il.gov/Main/FAQ.aspx#VoterRegistration>. Other authorities stating that “at least” one I.D. must have a resident’s current address include the [Chicago Board of Election Commissioners](#), the [Cook County Clerk’s Office](#), and [Lake County](#).
44 10 ILCS 5/17-10.
45 10 ILCS 5/18A-5.
46 10 ILCS 5/2B-15(b).
47 10 ILCS 5/19; see <https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/VotingByMail.aspx?MID=ELGeUv9wLSI%3d&T=637368422208467105>
48 10 ILCS 5/19-4.
49 10 ILCS 5/19-4.
50 See Illinois State Board of Elections, *Who May Vote a ‘Vote By Mail Application’ PDF*, available at <https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/VotingByMail.aspx?MID=ELGeUv9wLSI%3d&T=637368422208467105>
51 10 ILCS 5/19-2.
52 10 ILCS 5/19-3.
53 10 ILCS 5/19-1.
54 10 ILCS 5/18-5.
55 10 ILCS 5/19-6.
56 10 ILCS 5/18-5.
57 10 ILCS 5/18-5.
58 10 ILCS 5/18-5.
59 10 ILCS 5/18-5.
60 10 ILCS 5/18-5.
61 10 ILCS 5/19-8; 10 ILCS 5/18A-15.
62 10 ILCS 5/19-8(c).
63 10 ILCS 5/19-6.
64 10 ILCS 5/19-6.
65 10 ILCS 5/19-6.
66 10 ILCS 5/17-1.
67 10 ILCS 5/2B-35(c).
68 See, e.g., <https://chicagoelections.gov/en/when-you-need-id-to-vote.html>.

69 In the past, some jurisdictions have asserted that both IDs must include the applicant’s address. The Illinois Election Code, however, states that “the applicant [must] furnish two forms of identification, and except in the case of a homeless individual, one of which must include [their] residence address” 10 ILCS 5/4-10; 10 ILCS 5/5-9; 10 ILCS 5/6-37. The Illinois State Board of Elections also explicitly states that one ID must include an address. Illinois State Board of Elections, *Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://www.elections.il.gov/Main/FAQ.aspx#VoterRegistration>. Other authorities stating that “at least” one I.D. must have a resident’s current address include the [Chicago Board of Election Commissioners](#), the [Cook County Clerk’s Office](#), and [Lake County](#).

70 10 ILCS 5/17-10.

71 10 ILCS 5/18A-5.

72 10 ILCS 5/19-13.

73 10 ILCS 5/2B-35(c).

74 10 ILCS 5/2B-35(c).

75 10 ILCS 5/2B-35(a); see <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/2020election>.

76 10 ILCS 5/24-10.

77 10 ILCS 5/24-10.

78 10 ILCS 5/24-10.

79 10 ILCS 5/11-4.2(a).

80 10 ILCS 5/17-13(b).

81 10 ILCS 5/17-13(b). Note that the statute states this must be provided, “weather permitting” – it is not clear what the criteria is for determining whether current weather is not permitting.

82 10 ILCS 5/17-14.

83 10 ILCS 5/17-14.; see also *McCreery v. Burnsmier*, 293 Ill. 43, 51 (1920)

84 Fed. Reg. Vol. 81 No. 233 Dec. 5, 2016, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2016-12-05/pdf/2016-28969.pdf>.

85 10 ILCS 5/7-47.1.

86 *Id.* Note that the statute states this must be provided, “weather permitting” – it is not clear what the criteria is for determining whether current weather is not permitting.

87 10 ILCS 5/17-29

88 *Id.*

89 *Id.*

90 *Id.*

91 *Id.*

92 *Id.*

93 10 ILCS 5/7-34; 10 ILCS 5/17-23

94 10 ILCS 5/17-10.

95 18 U.S.C. § 592.

96 10 ILCS 5/18A-5.

97 10 ILCS 5/18A-5(a)(7); 10 ILCS 5/18A-15.