



Voting Basics

Do you know how to register to vote and where to vote? Let's explore some of the ins and outs of voting.

If a citizen has a felony conviction, can they vote?

In Illinois, individuals incarcerated for a felony conviction are ineligible to vote while they are in prison. Voting rights are automatically restored upon release from prison, and people on parole or probation are eligible to re-register and vote.

Source: <https://goo.gl/XB1sW8>

When do I need to re-register to vote?

Your registration is permanent unless you move or change your name.

- Address changes – If you move within suburban Cook County, you must transfer your registration by re-registering. You may write your new address on the back of your voter identification card and mail it to the County Clerk's downtown Chicago office. You must re-register with the new local election authority or county clerk if you move to an address outside suburban Cook County.
- Name changes – If you are legally changing your name at the Secretary of State's office (www.cyberdriveillinois.com), you can ask them to process a new or updated voter registration. If you are changing your name but are not moving—and forget to update your registration—you will be required to fill out an affidavit on Election Day in order to cast your ballot. You will not be able to vote by mail.
- People who have a felony conviction should re-register to vote after release from prison.

Source: <https://goo.gl/QKpqvu>

Is a voter required to register by/with a political party in order to vote?

In Illinois, for a primary election, voters must register with a political party in order to vote. For a general election, no political party registration is required.





What accommodations are available at polling places for voters with accessibility needs?

- Mail ballot – If you are permanently physically incapacitated and unable to make it to your polling place, you qualify to automatically receive an application for a mail ballot before every election for the next five years.
- Touch-screen machines – Every polling place in suburban Cook County has at least one touch-screen voting machine. Voters who are blind or visually impaired or who have limited dexterity are encouraged to use the touch-screen machines. Each touch screen is equipped with an audio track that voters can activate to have the ballot read to them in English, Spanish, Chinese or Hindi. Voters can use a keypad to navigate through the ballot and make selections.
- Seated voting booth – Voters who prefer use an optical scan ballot may vote at the seated voting booth. The seated voting booth has a low tabletop and legs that extend outward to accommodate voters who use wheelchairs. Seniors or other voters who prefer to sit down while voting can also use this booth.
- Voting assistance – If you have difficulty marking an optical scan ballot or making selections on the touch screen, you may request assistance from a friend, relative, or two election judges (one from each party) in your precinct. Under state law, both the voter and the individual(s) providing assistance must sign a legal affidavit at the polling place.
- Curbside voting – You may request to have election materials brought to you in your parked vehicle on Election Day. Election judges (one from each party) will provide you with a ballot at a specified location just outside the building that houses the polling place. Please notify the Clerk's office at least a week before Election Day to request curbside voting.
- Magnifiers – Handheld magnifiers for voters with visual impairments are available at each precinct. Ask an election judge to use one at the polling place.

Source: <https://goo.gl/MPTDjC>





Is straight party voting available in a general election in Illinois?

Straight party voting was abolished in Illinois in 1997.

Is an ID required to vote in Illinois?

Generally, Illinois state law does not require voters to present identification at the polls on Election Day. New voters who did not provide proof of identity at the time of registration may be required to present identification at the polls. Early voters must present photo identification at the polls.

What is my voting residence? Can I vote in an election taking place in a district in which I own property even if I am not a resident?

Your voting residence is the true, fixed address that you consider your permanent home and where you have a physical presence. Your state of legal residence is used for state income tax purposes and determines eligibility to vote for federal and state elections, as well as qualifications for in-state tuition rates. You must be a resident of a district to vote in elections in that district.

Source: <https://goo.gl/yurDHm>

Is electioneering allowed within the polling location?

No. While a polling place is open for the conduct of voting, a person may not electioneer for or against any candidate, measure, or political party in or within 100 feet of an outside door through which a voter may enter the building or structure in which the polling place is located.

