



Question	Answer
COVID-19 Update	
What if I'm concerned about voting in person?	All voters can request a mail-in ballot. Mail-in ballots can be returned via USPS, to a drop box location, or hand delivered to the office of their election official.
General Questions	
When is the upcoming election?	The Illinois General Primary Election is on March 17, 2026. The Illinois General Election is on November 3, 2026.
How can I vote in Illinois?	• In person early voting - click here for locations • Vote-by-mail - click here for drop box locations and see Voting by Mail below • In person on election day - click here for locations
Can I Vote in the Democratic Primary?	The Primary is Partially Open Voters may choose which primary to vote in, but it is a public declaration which could be challenged by other voters ¹ .
Sample Ballot	Go to your county election's site: BOE Election Official Lookup
Is there Straight Ticket Voting	No
Registration	
Voter registration deadline?	<u>Primary Election</u> Paper Registration: February 17, 2026 (postmarked if mailed). Links to registration PDFs for English and Spanish (under Register to Vote) Online Registration: March 1, 2026 Online Voter Registration Portal

¹ [IL ST CH 10 § 5/7-43](#), [IL ST CH 10 § 5/7-44](#).



	Same-day (a.k.a Grace Period Registration): February 18, 2026 - Election Day <u>November General Election</u> Paper Registration: October 6, 2026 (postmarked if mailed). Links to registration PDFs for English and Spanish (under Register to Vote) Online Registration: October 18, 2026 Online Voter Registration Portal Same-day (a.k.a. Grace Period Registration): October 7, 2026 - Election Day
Does IL have same day registration? If so, what is the process	Yes. Same day registration is <u>available only in-person at designated sites and is done through the voter's county.</u> Same Day Registration Site Lookup During the grace period people can register and vote: 1) at the office of the election authority; 2) at a permanent polling place established by the election authority; 3) at any other early voting site beginning 15 days prior to the election; 4) at some polling places on Election Day; 5) at a location specifically designated for this purpose by the election authority. Voter should check with their local election authority to determine the locations and hours available in their area. Voters should make sure to take two forms of ID with them if they plan to same-day register. One of these IDs must list the voter's current address. Acceptable Documents (per Chicago Bd of Elections):



	• Passport or Military ID; • Driver's License or State ID card; • College/University/School/Work ID • Vehicle registration card; • Lease, mortgage, or deed to home; • Credit or debit card; • Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid card; • Insurance card; • Civic, union, or professional membership card; • LINK/Public Aid/Department of Human Services card; • Illinois FOID card; or • A piece of mail: ○ Bill, transcript, or report card from school; ○ Bank statement, pay stub, or pension statement; ○ Utility, medical, or insurance bill; or ○ Official mail from any government agency.
Where can I check my registration?	Voters can check their registration on I Will Vote or here
Registration Requirements	A voter must be: • a United States Citizen • Must be 18 years old to vote in a Consolidated or General Election or 17 years of age to vote in a Consolidated Primary or General Primary if the individual will be 18 by the time of the Consolidated or General Election; • a resident of the precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day • not currently incarcerated as a result of a conviction
If the voter has moved and not updated their registration can they vote?	Yes. If the voter needs to update their address before the close of regular voter registration, they can do so by updating their registration online or by reaching out to their county election administrator for assistance. If the voter needs to update their address after the close of regular voter registration, they can do so by using the same day registration system. Voters should make sure to take two forms of ID with them if they plan to same-day register. One of these IDs must list the voter's current address. Acceptable Documents: • Passport or Military ID; • Driver's License or State ID card;



	• College/University/School/Work ID • Vehicle registration card; • Lease, mortgage, or deed to home; • Credit or debit card; • Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid card; • Insurance card; • Civic, union, or professional membership card; • LINK/Public Aid/Department of Human Services card; • Illinois FOID card; or • A piece of mail: ○ Bill, transcript, or report card from school; ○ Bank statement, pay stub, or pension statement; ○ Utility, medical, or insurance bill; or ○ Official mail from any government agency.
If a voter's name or signature has changed but they didn't update their registration can they vote?	Yes. The voter can either re-register online, or use same day registration.
How do I register to vote/update my registration?	To register online go to: https://ova.elections.il.gov/ or Iwillvote.com To use this option, an applicant must provide: 1) their full Illinois driver's license or State identification card number; 2) the last 4 digits of their social security number; and 3) the date the Illinois driver's license or State identification card was issued. Registrants can also mail in their registration using these forms: Links to registration PDFs are here (English and Spanish) When registering using a mail-in form, it must be postmarked prior to the close of registration. If the registrant does not provide the



	necessary identification with their mail-in form, they must provide ID when they vote in-person the first time.² You can also register in person at the following locations: • County Clerk's Office • Board of Election Commissioner's Office • City and Village Offices • Township Offices • Schools • Public Libraries • Military Recruitment Offices • Locations specifically designated by your local election authority You can also register in-person in designated locations during the registration grace period. Consult this page for grace period registration locations and hours.
ID to Register	Registering In Person: Two forms of identification with at least one showing the voter's current residence address are needed. Acceptable Documents: • Passport or Military ID; • Driver's License or State ID card; • College/University/School/Work ID • Vehicle registration card; • Lease, mortgage, or deed to home; • Credit or debit card; • Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid card; • Insurance card; • Civic, union, or professional membership card; • LINK/Public Aid/Department of Human Services card; • Illinois FOID card; or • A piece of mail: ○ Bill, transcript, or report card from school; ○ Bank statement, pay stub, or pension statement;

² Illinois Voter Registration Form, <https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/VotingRegistrationForms.aspx> ; Illinois State Board of Elections, Registering To Vote , <https://www.elections.il.gov/Downloads/ElectionOperations/PDF/RegisteringToVote.pdf> .



	○ Utility, medical, or insurance bill; or ○ Official mail from any government agency. Registering To Vote or Updating Registration Info Online: Voters can register at ova.elections.il.gov. They'll need their full Illinois driver's license or State identification card number; the last 4 digits of their social security number; and the date on which the driver's license or State identification card was issued. Registering By Mail: Voter should provide Illinois driver's license number or State identification card number. If they do not have either of those, they can fill in the last 4 digits of their social security number. If they do not have that, they can provide verification by furnishing either (i) a copy of a current and valid photo identification, or (ii) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. A voter can also provide sufficient proof of identity with an identification card issued by a college or university, accompanied by either a copy of the applicant's contract or lease for a residence, or any postmarked mail delivered to the applicant at their current residence address.³
Early Voting	
Early voting period?	Primary election: February 5, 2026 (first day at the Board) through March 16, 2026 First day to vote at Polling Place location is March 2, 2026 Exact dates and hours vary by county and site. Check site specific info here: BOE Early Voting Location Lookup Tool

³ Illinois Voter Registration Form, <https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/VotingRegistrationForms.aspx>; Illinois State Board of Elections, Registering To Vote, <https://www.elections.il.gov/Downloads/ElectionOperations/PDF/RegisteringToVote.pdf> .



	November General Election: September 24, 2026 (at offices of Board) and through November 3, 2026 (First day at Polling Place location is October 19, 2026) Exact dates and hours vary by county and site. Check site specific info here: BOE Early Voting Location Lookup Tool
Where can I vote early?	BOE Early Voting Location Lookup Tool and iwillvote.com For Chicago, see here
Voting by Mail	
Can I vote by mail?	Yes, any voter (link to page with vote-by-mail FAQ) can vote by mail. Voters can choose either to vote by mail in the next election only or to get a mail ballot for every election moving forward ("Permanent Vote by Mail Roster").
How do I vote by mail?	Voters can request a vote by mail ballot from their election authority, in-person, by mail, or online. By default, the forms will opt voters into VBM for the next election only. Voters who want to become permanent mail voters should make sure to complete the appropriate form. Application forms vary, so consult the BOE Mail Ballot Application Finder
How do I complete my vote by mail ballot?	<i>Illinois does not post instructions online. Carefully review the instructions enclosed with your ballot. Be sure to provide your signature on the mail ballot certification.</i>
How do I vote if I am in a health care facility?	Any qualified voter that has been admitted to a health care facility (hospital, nursing home, or rehabilitation center) not more than 14 days before the election or, if released, is expected to be homebound on the day of the election and unable to travel to the polling place, shall be entitled to personal delivery of an emergency ballot. 1. Voter must obtain an Application for Physically Incapacitated Elector Ballot for Qualified Voter Admitted to Hospital, Nursing Home, or Rehabilitation Center. The application can



	be obtained from the election authority (county clerk or board of election commissioners, depending on where the voter is registered to vote). 2. Voter must complete their application and their physician must complete and sign the Certificate of Attending Physician section of the application. 3. After the form is completed and signed by the voter and their physician, a registered voter from the voter's precinct or any legal relative can then hand deliver the application to the election authority's office. 4. After signing an affidavit, the precinct voter or legal relative may personally hand deliver the ballot to the voter at the healthcare facility they have been admitted to. 5. Once the voter receives the ballot, they will vote the ballot in secret and complete the certification on the ballot return envelope. 6. After depositing their voted ballot in the return envelope, the voter will securely seal the envelope and give the envelope to the precinct voter or to the legal relative. The ballot must be delivered back to the election authority before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.⁴ Secured Drop-Box Locations: Check here for drop-box locations.
How can I "cure" any issues with my ballot?	If a signature is rejected, voters must be notified before the close of the provisional counting period and have until 14 days after the election to appear before election officials and present evidence in support of their ballot.⁵
What if I requested a Vote-by-Mail ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?	If you have already received your mail ballot, take it with you to an early voting site or your polling place on Election Day and surrender it to an election judge. Your mail ballot will be voided, and you will receive a regular ballot. If you have not yet received your mail ballot, you will be asked to sign an affidavit certifying you have not received your ballot. You will then be issued a regular ballot.

⁴ 10 ILCS 5/19-13

⁵ 10 ILCS 5/19-8(g)(5)



	If you received your mail ballot but lost it, you may sign an affidavit certifying you have not yet voted in this election. You will then be issued a provisional ballot. If your mail ballot arrives after you have voted but on or before Election Day, you must discard the mail ballot. Do not attempt to vote your mail ballot after you have voted in person. Doing so is a Class 3 felony. (And because voting systems will not allow more than one vote per voter, your mail ballot will be rejected.)
What is the deadline to request my vote by mail ballot?	<u>Primary Election</u> Requesting Online/by mail: February 5, 2026 Paper applications must be received by mail no later than March 12. In person applications for vote by mail will be accepted until March 16th.
What is the deadline to return my vote by mail ballot?	<u>Primary Election</u> Returned by mail: Ballot must be postmarked by March 17, 2026 (e-day) and received by March 31, 2026. Returned in-person: March 17, 2026 by close of polls. <u>General Election</u> Returned by mail: Ballot must be postmarked by November 3, 2026 and received by election officials by November 17, 2026 Returned in-person: November 3, 2026 by close of polls.
How will the recent changes to the USPS postmark system impact my vote by mail ballot?	As of December 24, 2025, a United States Postal Service postmark will no longer indicate the date a mailpiece was received but the date which it was <i>processed</i>. Therefore, if you mail in your vote by mail ballot anytime after March 10, 2026, please make sure to go into a USPS post office to request a manual (local) postmark for the day the mailpiece is received. Postmarks are free of charge.
How do I check the status of my vote-by-mail ballot?	Illinois doesn't have a statewide tracking system. Contact your county elections office here



Military/Overseas voting	Illinois citizens serving in the U.S. armed forces may register using one of the following methods (see link to military guidelines PDF): 1. Illinois Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE)- enables you to set up a MOVE account to register to vote and request vote-by-mail ballots for upcoming federal elections. This was designed to ease the burden of these voters. (This is not applicable for municipal elections) 2. Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)- provides the Federal Postcard Application to members of the U.S. armed forces to cast a vote by mail ballot and register to vote. This may be submitted by mail, fax, or email. 3. Special State Write-In Ballot- LAST RESORT OPTION – if time is running out, you can complete a Special State Write-In ballot and mail it in to local election officials.
Election Day Questions	
When are polls open?	6 a.m. to 7 p.m. CST
Where can I vote on election day?	BOE Voting Center & Grace Period Location Lookup BOE Assigned Polling Place Lookup iwillvote.com
ID to Vote	No ID is needed to vote in person, where the voter is already registered and voting in the correct precinct. Where the voter registered by mail and did not furnish ID with the application form, to vote in person the voter must present either (i) a copy of a current and valid photo identification, or (ii) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. Two forms of ID are needed when the voter is registering in person or updating their address or name on Election Day, one of which must list the voter's current address. Acceptable Forms of ID



	- Passport or Military ID - Driver's License or State ID card - College/University/School/Work ID - Vehicle registration card - Lease, mortgage or deed to home - Credit or debit card - Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid card - Insurance card - Civic, union or professional membership card - LINK/Public Aid/Department of Human Services card - Illinois FOID card Examples of mail addressed to voter that can be used as ID: - Bill, Transcript or Report Card from School - Bank Statement, Pay Stub or Pension Statement - Utility, Medical or Insurance Bill - Official mail from any government agency A voter who needs ID, but who cannot present ID, may cast a provisional ballot. Each provisional voter should be provided written instructions on how to submit additional proof of registration to the election authority, and how, after the election, to determine if their ballot was counted.
I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at my precinct. Can I vote where I am?	Yes. If you are in fact at the correct precinct, you'll just need to re-register/update your registration at the polling location.
Assistance Voting with or without a disability	You may bring written or printed materials into the voting booth to assist you. Each voter is entitled to receive instruction on the use of the voting equipment. More information is here (see PDF on voter assistance) .
Provisional Ballots	



What should I do if a poll worker tells me to use a provisional ballot?	A voter must cast a provisional ballot if: • The voter's name does not appear on the official list of eligible voters for the precinct in which the person seeks to vote and the person has refused to register; • The voter's voting status has been challenged and a majority of the judges uphold the challenge; • The voter did not provide identification when registering by mail and still cannot provide ID on Election Day; • A court order extends the time for closing the polls, and the voter votes during this extended time period; • The voter's name appears on the list of voters who voted during the early voting period, but the voter claims not to have voted during the early voting period; • The voter admits receiving a vote by mail ballot, but failed to return it to the election authority (or election judges); or • The voter attempted to register to vote on Election Day, but failed to provide the necessary documentation.⁶ Voters can check on the status of their provisional ballot here https://www.elections.il.gov/VotingAndRegistrationSystems/ProvisionalBallotSearch.aspx
Curing a Provisional Ballot	• After voting provisionally, the voter is told how to submit additional proof of registration to the election authority, and how, after the election, to determine if their ballot was counted. • Each provisional voter should be provided written instructions on how to follow up after Election Day. • The provisional voter may submit additional information to the election authority. (If a voter needed to present ID but did not have it at the time they could present it after voting on a provisional ballot.) • The additional information must be received by the election authority no later than the close of business on the Tuesday following the election.

⁶ 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 5/18A-218.10; Illinois State Board of Elections, Voting on Election Day (follow Provisional Voting link), <https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/ElectionDayVoting.aspx?MID=Szw0eRrv1dQ%3d&T=637236038684964081>.



	The election authority has 14 days after the election to determine voter eligibility, and thus if the ballot should be counted.⁷
Voter Machine Questions	
Machine/Equipment problems	If there are any issues with the voting machines, including issues with the scanner, please notify the Election Judge.
Voter Challenge/Electioneering	
What am I supposed to do if someone challenges my right to vote?	A voter's right to vote may be challenged by election judges, other registered voters in the voting site, or pollwatchers with valid credentials. If a challenge is sustained by a majority of election judges, you will be asked to cast a provisional ballot. Each provisional voter should be provided written instructions on how to submit additional materials, if necessary, to the election authority, and how, after the election, to determine if their ballot was counted.⁸
Electioneering/ People campaigning or hanging around polling location/Can they approach me?	Electioneering is prohibited within 100 feet of polling places. Prohibited activities include wearing campaign buttons, badges, t-shirts, or hats asking voters to vote a particular way.⁹
Are firearms allowed at a polling place on Election Day?	Illinois has no specific statutory gun possession prohibitions in or at polling places. However, Illinois generally prohibits the possession of a firearm in or on the real property of a public park, courthouse, any conveyance owned, leased, or contracted by a public transportation agency, or

⁷ Illinois State Board of Elections, Provisional Voting Pamphlet (<https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/ElectionDayVoting.aspx?MID=Szw0eRrv1dQ%3d&T=637236038684964081> (follow provision ballot link)) .

⁸ 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 5/18A-5; Illinois State Board of Elections, Voting on Election Day (follow Provisional Voting link), <https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/ElectionDayVoting.aspx?MID=Szw0eRrv1dQ%3d&T=637236038684964081> .

⁹ 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 5/7-41



	on any public way within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising any school, courthouse or public transportation facility. ¹⁰
Voting with a Disability	
Accessible Voting for Persons with Disabilities	All polling places are required to accomodate voters with disabilities under both federal law (ADA) and state law (10 ILCS 5/11-4.2). However, if a voter is concerned about accommodation of their individual disability at a specific polling place, they should reach out to their local election administrator to confirm that a site suits their needs. Disabled persons who want to request curbside voting should call their local election office in advance to request. Generally the election authorities provide curbside voting if requested in advance. Some county websites (find using link) have information about curbside voting. For Chicago, see information here Voters should also be aware of the availability of no-excuse mail voting, which may be a more convenient option for them to vote, depending on their specific needs.
Can I receive assistance at the booth while voting?	Only those voters who need assistance may be given assistance. Illinois law provides that the following persons may receive assistance (follow link to PDF on voting assistance): • Persons with disabilities or visually impaired voters; • Those voters who cannot read or write the English language. All voters needing assistance must be registered to vote. Voters may get assistance from a person of their choosing, except that the person assisting may not be an officer or agent of the voter's employer or union. If the voter who needs assistance does not specify a particular person to assist them in voting, then the voter can be assisted by two election judges, one from each political party. An officer or agent of the voter's employer or union may not assist a voter who requests assistance. Assistance can only be given upon the voter's request and only after the voter completes the appropriate affidavit. In every instance of assistance, both the voter receiving the assistance and the person(s) giving the assistance must sign the affidavit. Also, the

¹⁰ 430 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 66/65; see Giffords Law Center, <https://lawcenter.giffords.org/gun-laws/state-law/50-state-summaries/location-restrictions-state-by-state/>.



	voter's Application for Ballot must be marked by an election judge to show that the voter requested assistance.
What if I am admitted to the hospital before election day?	Any qualified voter that has been admitted to a healthcare facility (hospital, nursing home, or rehabilitation center) not more than 14 days before the election or, if released, is expected to be homebound on the day of the election and unable to travel to the polling place, shall be entitled to personal delivery of a ballot. ¹¹
Language Issues	
Can I get assistance voting if I cannot read English?	Yes. A person of the voter's choosing, except for an officer or agent of the voter's employer or union, may assist the voter. If the voter who needs assistance does not specify a particular person to assist them in voting, then the voter can be assisted by two election judges, one from each political party. An officer or agent of the voter's employer or union may not assist a voter who requests assistance.
Trans Voting Issues	
Do I need to re-register if I have changed my name?	If you changed your name, you should re-register with your election authority, and may do so up to and on election day itself using grace period registration.
Student/Youth Voting	
Student voting	Students have a choice about where to register to vote. Students attending college may register at their campus address or choose to remain registered or register at their permanent or home address.
Can I pre-register to vote?	No. You must be 18 years old to vote in a Consolidated or General Election or 17 years of age to vote in a Consolidated Primary or General Primary if the individual will be 18 by the time of the Consolidated or General Election.
Felony disenfranchisement	

¹¹ 10 ILCS 5/19-13



If I have been convicted of a crime can I vote?	You have the right to vote as long as you are not currently incarcerated because of a conviction for a felony. If you are on parole, probation, or have completed your sentence, you have the right to vote. You will need to re-register to vote once you have been released. Refer to instructions for voter registration.
Miscellaneous	
Can my children go with me when I vote?	Minor children are permitted to accompany their parents or guardians into the voting booth. ¹²
Ballot Selfies	Not allowed. Photography is not allowed at the polling place. ¹³
State and Local Democratic Party Contacts	Illinois Democratic party website phone: (855) 458-6837 email: voterpro@ildems.com Illinois local Democratic party websites

¹² 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 5/17-8.

¹³ 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 5/29-9 (banning observation of another person's vote).