

What are the Voter Registration requirements?

- Must be a US citizen;
- Must be at least 18 years of age by Election Day; 17 years of age to vote in a General Primary if individual will be 18 as of the following General Election;
- Must have been a resident of the precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day.

When may I register to vote?

Registration is open year round except: During the 27-day period just prior to an election and during the 2-day period after each election (1 day after in Chicago)

Where can I register to vote?

County Clerk's Office
Board of election commissioner's Office
City and Village Offices
Township Offices
Precinct committeemen
Schools
Public Libraries
Military Recruitment Offices

The following organizations may be entitled to register people to vote:
Some Labor Groups
Some Civic Groups
Some Corporations

When applying for service at the following:
Driver's License Facilities
Department of Healthcare & Family Services
Department of Employment Security

What is "Grace Period" Registration?

"Grace Period" Registration is an extension of the period of time for a voter to register to vote, or to update their registration information. This "Grace Period" Registration extends registration from the normal close of registration up through the 3rd day before the election. Once registered, this voter may cast a ballot during this "Grace Period" at the election authority's office or at a location specifically designated for this purpose by the election authority, or by mail, at the discretion of the election authority.

What forms of identification may be needed when I register to vote?

Two forms of identification with at least one showing your current residence address is needed when you register in-person. If you register by mail sufficient proof of identity is required by submission of your driver's license number or State identification card number. If you don't have either of those, verification by the last 4 digits of the your 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 government document that shows your name and address will be required. A person may also demonstrate sufficient proof of identity by submission of a photo identification 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 his or her current residence address.

Can I register to vote by mailing an application to my election office?

Yes. Under federal law, citizens may apply to register to vote by mailing in an application. The applications are available at some public and private facilities where you live. Also, applications can be downloaded from the Illinois State Board of Elections website at: www.elections.il.gov. When you apply for registration using the mail-in form, it must be postmarked prior to the close of registration.

When can I consider myself officially registered to vote?

As soon as you receive a voter ID card in the mail, you can consider yourself registered. If you do not receive an ID card within 3 weeks after you registered, contact your election authority.

Can I check my voter registration status by means of the Internet?

Yes. Visit www.elections.il.gov and go to the link called "Registration and Polling Place Information."

What if I change my name after being registered?

If you changed your name more than 27 days before the election and did not re-register, you cannot vote - unless you live in the same precinct. If you live in the same precinct, you may sign an affidavit at the polling place attesting that you are the same person, in which case you will be given the full ballot.

What if I move, can I still vote?

It depends on when you move. If you moved within 27 days of the election in the same precinct you can vote a full ballot by signing an affidavit.

If you moved more than 30 days before the election within the same election jurisdiction, but outside your precinct, and did not transfer your registration, you can vote on a ballot for federal offices only after completing an address correction form.

If you moved within 30 days before the election outside of your precinct, but you still live in the State, and did not transfer your registration, you can vote a full ballot in your old polling place after completing an affidavit.

If you moved more than 30 days before the election out of your county or municipality under a board of election commissioners and did not transfer your registration, you cannot vote.

Can I register at a public assistance office?

Yes, any person who requests public assistance will be given an opportunity to apply for registration.

What are Deputy Registrars?

"Deputy Registrars" and "registration officers" mean any person authorized to accept registrations of electors under the Illinois Election Code.

IMPORTANT

Knowingly giving, lending, or promising to give or lend any money or other valuable consideration to any other person to influence that person to vote or to register to vote or to influence that person to vote for or against any candidate or public question is a Class 4 felony. Any unusual activity or irregularity associated with any voting procedure should be reported immediately to proper authorities.

One goal of the State Board of Elections is to help bring about greater understanding and participation in the electoral process.

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

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REGISTERING TO VOTE IN ILLINOIS



Your vote does count, but before you can vote you MUST be registered. This brochure answers some basic questions about registering to vote and voting.