Disclaimer: This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

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.

Reference: This guide includes citations to the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, General Election Handbook (“EJ-Handbook”) distributed to all election judges and election coordinators. Please refer to a PDF version on the handbook on the Board’s website for troubleshooting issues in the field. Click the following URL to access the handbook: https://chicagoelections.com/en/serving-as-a-judge-of-election.html.

- Note: The EJ-Handbook is Chicago-specific. See the following links for a sampling of other county handbooks:
  - DuPage County: https://www.dupageco.org/Election/Get_Involved/37071/
  - Will County: http://online.fliphtml5.com/xqyn/ahoo/

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1. Am I registered to vote?

A voter can determine whether he or she is registered to vote by checking the Illinois State Board of Elections’ website (ova.elections.il.gov/RegistrationLookup.aspx) or the Chicago Board of Elections’ website (https://chicagoelections.com/en/your-voter-information.html) for Chicago residents. If a voter is not yet registered, he or she can still register before or even on Election Day. Refer to Question #4 for more details.
2. **Where do I vote?**

All Illinois voters can check [ova.elections.il.gov/RegistrationLookup.aspx](http://ova.elections.il.gov/RegistrationLookup.aspx). Many jurisdictions have their own polling place lookup as well. For Chicago voters, check [http://www.chicagoelections.com/info](http://www.chicagoelections.com/info). If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to Question #6.

3. **When do the polls open and close?**

The polls must be open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. 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. A voter in line at the polling place by 7:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote. 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 hotline captain/command center.

4. **When is/was the voter registration deadline?**

A voter may register any time before or even on Election Day. If a voter is registering by mail, their application must be postmarked by the 28th day before an election, which will be March 5, 2019 for this municipal election.

After these deadlines, a voter may use “Grace Period Registration” to register to vote (see [http://www.elections.il.gov/downloads/electioninformation/pdf/graceperiodreg.pdf](http://www.elections.il.gov/downloads/electioninformation/pdf/graceperiodreg.pdf)). In general, a voter using this process must register in person at a location designated by the election authority and, during the same visit, vote at the site of registration. After this election, the voter can vote in her or his regular polling place. Look up the local elections office’s website ([https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionAuthorities/ElecAuthorityList.aspx](https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionAuthorities/ElecAuthorityList.aspx)) to obtain specific Grace Period Registration dates and locations.

On Election Day, a voter may still register to vote, as Election Day Registration (EDR) is available in every county in Illinois. In Cook County, Election Day registration (EDR) will be available at each polling place. A voter also may update their name or address on election day. For Chicago voters, if an election judge is unfamiliar with how to complete EDR or how to update a voter’s registration, you may refer them to pages 60-63 of the EJ-Handbook, titled “Registering Voters at the Registration Table.”

5. **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. 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 of the following 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)⁴:

- 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 her current residential address, including not more than one piece of mail addressed to the voter at her 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. The voter may then cast a regular ballot.⁵ For Chicago voters, you may direct an election judge to page 63 of the EJ-Handbook for a list of acceptable identification. **Note that the list on page 63 is not an exhaustive list.**

- 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 technically may vote by provisional ballot.⁶ However, 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.

6. I have moved and I didn’t update my voter registration, can I vote?

In most instances, the best option is for the individual to use grace period or Election Day registration (EDR). This will allow her to change her address to reflect her current residence and vote the correct ballot for where she currently lives. All Illinois voters may check their current voter registration status at ova.elections.il.gov/RegistrationLookup.aspx. Many jurisdictions have their own online voter-lookups. Chicago voters can check their current voter registration status and other information about registration at http://www.chicagoelections.com/info.

See Question #4 for more details on using grace period or Election Day registration. If grace period or Election Day registration options are not possible for the voter due to timing or location, the person might still be able to vote, depending on when the voter moved and where the voter moved. Page 51 of the Chicago EJ-Manual (“A Voter Moved More Than 30 Days Ago Within the City of Chicago”) shows a picture of the affidavit form that a voter who recently moved must fill out, along with instructions for the form. Refer to the table below:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moved within 30 days of Election Day</th>
<th>Moved to a different precinct but within the same election jurisdiction</th>
<th>Moved to a different election jurisdiction†</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moved within the same precinct</strong></td>
<td>The voter may use grace period or Election Day registration to update their info and vote on the same day, at the polling place for their current address (in Chicago, Cook County, and certain other places) or another designated location. See Question #4 for more details on location.</td>
<td>The voter may use grace period or Election Day registration to update their info and vote on the same day at the polling place for their current address (in Chicago, Cook County, and certain other places) or another designated location. See Question #4 for more details on location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moved to a different election jurisdiction†</strong></td>
<td><strong>If moved within 27 days of the election:</strong> The voter should go to their polling place (both addresses should vote at the same place) and cast a full ballot after completing an affidavit regarding the voter’s eligibility and former and current addresses.⁷</td>
<td>The voter may use grace period or Election Day registration to update their info and vote on the same day at the polling place for their current address (in Chicago, Cook County, and certain other places) or another designated location. See Question #4 for more details on location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moved more than 30 days before Election Day</strong></td>
<td>The voter may use grace period or Election Day registration to update their info and vote on the same day at the polling place for their current address (in Chicago, Cook County, and certain other places) or another designated location. See</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Or</strong> 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.⁸</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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* In most cases, an election jurisdiction is a county. In some counties, however, certain cities (e.g. Chicago) have their own independent election authorities.

† In most cases, an election jurisdiction is a county. In some counties, however, certain cities (e.g. Chicago) have their own independent election authorities.
7. 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. If the problem cannot be fixed in a timely manner, a voter should ask for an emergency paper ballot to cast her or his vote. This is different from a provisional ballot. Voters are legally entitled to an emergency paper ballot. In practical terms, some voters in this situation vote at the precinct for their old address and then update their registration after the election. Note: Federal Office Ballots are NOT available in Municipal Elections. In practical terms, some voters in this situation vote at the precinct for their old address and then update their registration after the election. Note: Federal Office Ballots are NOT available in Municipal Elections.

For Chicago Polling Places: Important Equipment and Where to Find Troubleshooting Assistance

- **E-Poll Book**: The E-Poll Book is a touchscreen tablet, which requires an internet connection. Election judges use the E-Poll Book to check-in voters and issue ballots. Election judges must power-on and run an update on their precinct’s E-Poll Book by 5:15 am. If your polling place is experiencing difficulty with the E-Poll Book, you may refer election judges to pages 25-27 of the EJ-Handbook for instructions on setting up the machine, and page 103 for a Troubleshooting Guide.
• **Ballot Scanner:** The Ballot Scanner is the machine on top of the black ballot box. Voters must submit paper ballots through the Ballot Scanner to have their vote counted.
  o **What if a ballot is rejected by the Ballot Scanner?** Sometimes a voter deposits a ballot in the Ballot Scanner and the Ballot Scanner spits the ballot back without recording the vote. If this happens, there will be a message on the paper tape, indicating the problem with the ballot. If the Ballot Scanner continues rejecting ballots, you may refer the election judges to page 75 of the EJ-Handbook for a description of each type of Ballot Scanner error and what to do to address each problem.
  o **What if the ballot scanner completely stops working?** This is a problem that must be reported. Judges must immediately troubleshoot the problem, and inform the election coordinator on-site or contact Election Central (312-269-7870). Election Judges can look at pages 104-106 of the EJ-Handbook for a troubleshooting guide.
    ▪ While the issue is being resolved, voters should drop their ballots in a secured ballot box through a slit on the side of the Election Supply Carry (the big blue box on wheels that delivered all of the voting equipment). Pages 76 and 112 of the EJ-Handbook provide further instructions and a diagram.

• **Touchscreen Unit:** The Touchscreen Unit provides an accessible way for voters with disabilities to vote. It also may be used by any voter who prefers voting electronically. If all of the touchscreen units are broken at a polling place, this is a problem that must be reported. Without touchscreen units, voters with disabilities may be unable to vote. Pages 106-110 of the EJ-Handbook provide troubleshooting for problems with the touchscreen.

8. **I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at my precinct. 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](http://ova.elections.il.gov/RegistrationLookup.aspx) or, for Chicago voters, the Chicago Board of Elections’ website [https://chicagoelections.com/en/your-voter-information.html](https://chicagoelections.com/en/your-voter-information.html) to see if the voter is listed as registered. If the voter is listed as registered, the website also will state the voter’s assigned polling location.

If a voter is not found on the rolls of the polling place where the voter is attempting to vote, the election judge must call the Office of the Board of Elections in that jurisdiction, which has access to the statewide database, to make sure the voter is registered and is in the correct precinct. If the voter is found, she should be able to vote a regular ballot.

If the voter is not found, but is at the correct precinct, and the precinct offers Election Day registration (EDR), and the voter has the required documentation (two IDs including one with current address), then the voter can use Election Day registration and vote a regular ballot. If that precinct does not offer EDR, go to [https://www.clccrul.org/election-protection-2019](https://www.clccrul.org/election-protection-2019) or the website of the voter’s jurisdiction [https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionAuthorities/ElecAuthorityList.aspx](https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionAuthorities/ElecAuthorityList.aspx) to find out where
EDR is being offered in that county; ask the voter if they can make it there before polls close. See Question #4 for more details on locations for EDR.

If the voter is not on the rolls, is in the correct precinct, and cannot use EDR 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, and they often will not be counted on Election Day.

9. My name isn’t popping up on the list of registered voters – could it have been removed?

A voter’s name can be removed from the list of registered voters if the voter has not voted in the past four years (after receiving notice) or if the voter is currently serving a sentence for a criminal conviction. If the voter has not voted in four years, the election authority must provide them with notice before taking any action; if she failed to respond within 30 days, her name was likely removed. Situations also arise where a voter’s name is mistakenly removed from the rolls or a voter encounters other problems, even though that voter never received proper notification of removal, because election authorities confused the voter with another person with similar identifying information. If the voter would like to have her name put back on the rolls, she 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 she is a qualified voter; after that two-year period, she must re-register. 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) 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.

10. I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

Many individuals with a past criminal conviction are interested in voting, but many do not know that they have the right to vote or how to exercise that right. The only people in Illinois who CANNOT vote because of their criminal record are people who:

- 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.

After a person has served their sentence and is released from incarceration, they are again eligible to vote and you should check whether they are registered. Refer to Question #1 for more details on checking a voter’s registration. If a voter was registered to vote before they went to prison or jail, their name might have been removed from the rolls, and the voter might need to register again. Additionally, if the person’s name or address has changed since the last time they
voted, their registration might need to be updated. See Question #6 for more details on updating voter registration.

11. 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. 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 Question #4) 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, she did not provide identification when registering by mail, she does not have sufficient ID with her at the polling place, and she is unable to go back to retrieve ID and return to the polling place;
- There is a 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-in (absentee) ballot but did not return the mail-in (absentee) ballot to the election authority and was not able to vote through the procedures mentioned in Question #17.

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 official ballot may do so after signing an affidavit stating that the individual is an eligible voter in the jurisdiction. A voter can check here to see if her provisional ballot was counted in Illinois at [https://www.elections.il.gov/VotingInformation/ProvBallotSearch.aspx](https://www.elections.il.gov/VotingInformation/ProvBallotSearch.aspx); Chicago voters may additionally check [https://chicagoelections.com/en/provisional-information.html](https://chicagoelections.com/en/provisional-information.html).

12. I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school?

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 (this does not mean that the student intends to remain at the address forever). **If a student considers two locations their residence, the student may choose which one to use as a voting residence.** Students must be held to the same eligibility requirements as any other voter in the jurisdiction. If a student is told that he or she is 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 registration or Election Day registration (EDR) if necessary. Otherwise, call 866-OUR-VOTE or
alert the command center or call center captain so that they can contact the appropriate election official.

13. 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, but in reality many polling places are not sufficiently accessible. A voter who has a disability and is assigned to an inaccessible polling place is entitled to be provided a ballot up to 50 feet from the entrance to the inaccessible polling place (often called “curbside voting”). Some jurisdictions may provide curbside voting without an advance request. The voter should attempt to obtain access even if they have failed to request curbside voting in advance. 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. For Chicago voters, pages 76-77 of the EJ-Handbook provide more detailed information for election judges regarding how to address accessibility issues at a polling place (“Assisting Elderly and Voters with Disabilities”).

In Chicago, each polling place includes a touchscreen ballot machine, which has a variety of capabilities for voters with disabilities. Voters with visual impairments may use an audio ballot. Voters also may choose an audio-video ballot, which allows the voter to hear the audio ballot but requires the voter to press the touchscreen to make voting choices. Voters also may use a “sip-and-puff ballot.” For this type of ballot, a voter brings their own sip-and-puff technology and signals voting choices by inhaling or exhaling on the device. If the election judges are unsure how to properly work the touchscreen machine, you may direct them to pages 71-72 of the EJ-Handbook (“Activating the Touchscreen Unit for an Audio, Audio-Visual, or Sip-and-Puff Ballot”).

14. I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Yes! Any voter who needs assistance voting is entitled to have the person of his or her 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 his or her choices on the ballot. The person assisting can be a friend or family member, for example, and the assister is not required to be a registered voter. The assister might be required to fill out an affidavit form provided by the election judge/poll worker. There might be situations where the voter wants an election judge/poll worker or a pollwatcher to serve as an assister, especially if a voter has limited English proficiency. This might be a workable solution, as long as the voter makes the choices and the assister merely marks the choices made by the voter. There have been instances where partisan pollwatchers have inappropriately pressured voters while “assisting” them; call the Command Center or the Hotline (866-OUR-VOTE) if you have concerns.

In many jurisdictions, the federal Voting Rights Act requires polling places to provide written translations and oral interpretation (bilingual election judges/poll workers) in other languages. See https://www.clccrufl.org/election-protection-2019 (under “Resources for Voters and
Volunteers”) for information on requirements for written and oral language assistance in specific voting precincts. 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. If you need more details about language requirements and resources in a specific voting precinct, check with 866-OUR-VOTE, 888-VE-Y-VOTA (Spanish), 888-API-VOTE (Asian/Pacific Islander languages), 844-YALLA-US (Arabic), or the call center captain, field captain, or command center. For Chicago voters, pages 52-52 of the EJ-Handbook (“Assisting Speakers of Languages Other than English”) describe the process for someone with limited English proficiency to have another person translate for them in the polling place.

15. I don’t know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

Please see Question #7 for information regarding specific voting equipment in Chicago polling places.

Before using the voting machine, a voter can request that an election judge/poll worker provide instructions on how to use the machine. An instruction model for each mechanically-operated machine can also be provided, showing a portion of the face of the voting machine. After giving instructions to the voter, the poll worker must leave the booth so that the voter can vote confidentially. See Question #14 for information about assistance in the booth.

16. Can I vote absentee or vote in person before election day?

There are three types of voting options before Election Day in Illinois:

1) **Early Voting** (also called one-stop absentee voting or in-person absentee voting): Registered voters may go in person to their county board of elections office (or an alternative location announced by the election jurisdiction) to vote. The period for early voting varies by local election jurisdiction and may extend to April 1, 2019. You can look up the locations and times of early voting polling places on the State Board of Elections website at [http://www.elections.il.gov/votinginformation/earlyvotinglocations.aspx](http://www.elections.il.gov/votinginformation/earlyvotinglocations.aspx). To find early voting locations, choose “Consolidated 2019 Election,” the election jurisdiction (City or County listed), and click submit. In Chicago, voters may go in-person to the Loop Super Site (175 W Washington St.) to vote starting March 15 until April 1. Additionally, from March 18 to April 1 voters may vote at a central polling place in their ward. Look up Chicago early voting sites at [https://chicagoelections.com/en/early-voting.html](https://chicagoelections.com/en/early-voting.html).

2) **Voting by mail** (formerly called “absentee” voting): Any registered Illinois voter can request a mail-in ballot. No special circumstances or excuses are necessary. Voters can obtain a mail-in ballot application on the State Board of Elections website ([http://www.elections.il.gov/VotingInformation/VotingByMail.aspx](http://www.elections.il.gov/VotingInformation/VotingByMail.aspx)) or, for Chicago voters, the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners’ website ([https://chicagoelections.com/en/vote-by-mail.html](https://chicagoelections.com/en/vote-by-mail.html)). For April 2, 2019 elections, the application for a mail-in ballot must be received by the jurisdiction’s election authority by 5:00 PM on March 28. A completed application for a mail-in ballot can be mailed, e-mailed, faxed, or delivered in person to the local election authority. The actual mail-in ballot must be mailed. Mailed ballots must either be received by the election authority or
To ensure that a ballot will be counted, advise the voter to have the local post office apply a postmark date on the return envelope.

3) Military-Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting: 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 State Board of Elections website (http://www.elections.il.gov/VotingInformation/VotingByMail.aspx), or, for Chicago voters, on the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners website (https://chicagoelections.com/en/military-overseas-voters.html). March 25 is the last day for a member of the armed services to submit an application for absentee voting, and the last day for an election jurisdiction to send the ballot.

17. What if I requested an absentee/mail-in ballot, but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

If the voter wants to vote in person at the polling place, she can vote a regular ballot if she brings the mail-in (absentee) ballot that came in the mail or signs an affidavit stating that (A) the voter never received a mail-in (absentee) ballot or (B) the voter completed and returned a mail-in (absentee) ballot and was informed that the election authority did not receive that ballot. Voters should attempt to use a regular ballot and only vote a provisional ballot as a last resort. For Chicago voters, pages 50-51 of the EJ-Handbook provides instructions and shows a picture of the affidavit form that a voter must fill out when a voter previously requested a vote by mail ballot.

18. Does my state have Same Day Registration/Election Day Registration? If so, what is the process?

Yes, as mentioned in Question #4 above, Election Day registration (EDR) is allowed by Illinois law. In all counties, EDR is required to be available in at least one location within the county, and in high-population counties (including Cook County) and counties with electronic poll books, EDR is available in each polling place; specific details about locations are described in Question #4 above and at https://www.clccrul.org/election-protection-2019. Voters using EDR need to present two forms of ID, including one with a current address.

19. Am I automatically registered to vote?

Automatic Voter Registration (AVR), Public Act 100-0464, was passed into law in 2017, but implementation has been delayed. For the April 2, 2019 election, voters should check their registration and, if needed, register to vote or update their registration.

20. What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?

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.
Electioneering and “soliciting of votes” are banned within 100 feet of all polling places. Furthermore, “no person shall interrupt, hinder or oppose any voter while approaching within those areas for the purpose of voting.” The 100-foot radius should be marked with cones, a United States flag, or other markers. The area within the markers is designated a “campaign free zone.” Churches or private schools may designate their entire property as “campaign free.” 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. For Chicago voters, if you think that your polling location is not complying with electioneering requirements, pages 6-7 of the EJ-Handbook describe the required demarcations for the “no campaign” zone and describe some behavior that constitutes electioneering (under “Maintain the Campaign-Free Zone”).

Pollwatchers (who may 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.” For Chicago voters, if an election judge is questioning your presence as a pollwatcher, you may direct the election judge to pages 12-13 of the EJ-Handbook for a description of pollwatchers and what you are allowed to do.

Improper electioneering should be reported to 866-OUR-VOTE, call center captains, field captains, or the command center when needed, so that relevant election authorities can be alerted.

21. Someone is formally challenging my right to vote. What do I do?

If a voter’s qualifications are challenged in a legitimate manner, the voter may be required to produce two forms of identification showing her current residential address, which may include not more than one piece of mail addressed to the voter at her current residence address and postmarked not earlier than 30 days before the date of the election. See Question #5. 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. As a last resort, a voter may cast a provisional ballot. See Question #11 for more information about provisional ballots. 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.

22. I am currently experiencing homelessness. May I vote?

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 his or her housing status.” If a homeless voter is registering to vote on election day, the voter still 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
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, or
- An ID card issued by a homeless shelter showing the name and mailing address of the voter.

In Chicago, if an election judge is confused about registering someone who is experiencing homelessness, you may direct them to pages 52 or 63 of the EJ-Handbook, to read about “Registering a Voter Who is Experiencing Homelessness.”

23. I am currently in the hospital. May I vote?

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. The application for Chicago voters can be found at https://app.chicagoelections.com/Documents/general/Form-502-Hospitalized-Voter-E.pdf. 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.

1 10 ILCS 5/18-2.
3 10 ILCS 5/4-50; 10 ILCS 5/5-50.
4 In the past, some jurisdictions have asserted that both I.D.s 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 his or her 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 I.D. must include an address (you can pull up their interpretation here). 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, Will County, and Lake County. DuPage County states that a potential voter needs two forms of identification “one of which” must have a current address.
5 10 ILCS 5/17-10.
6 10 ILCS 5/18A-5.
9 Id.
10 *Id.*
11 *Id.*
12 *Id.*
13 10 ILCS 5/24-11.
15 See 10 ILCS 5/5-24; Ill. Admin. Code tit. 26, § 216.50
16 See 10 ILCS 5/5-24.
17 *Id.*
18 10 ILCS 5/3-5.
19 *Id.*
23 10 ILCS 5/11-4.2(a).
24 10 ILCS 5/17-13(b).
26 *Id.; see also McCreery v. Burnsmier*, 293 Ill. 43, 51, 127 N.E. 171, 175 (1920)
27 10 ILCS 5/24-10.
28 *Id.*
29 *Id.*
30 10 ILCS 5/19A-15(a).
31 10 ILCS 5/19A-15(a).
32 10 ILCS 5/19-1.
33 10 ILCS 5/20-8.
34 10 ILCS 5/18-5.
36 10 ILCS 5/17-29
37 *Id.*
38 *Id.*
39 *Id.*
40 *Id.*
41 *Id.*
42 10 ILCS 5/7-34; 10 ILCS 5/17-23
43 10 ILCS 5/17-10.
45 10 ILCS 5/5-9; 10 ILCS 5/5-9; 10 ILCS 5/6-37.