

# REGISTERING TO VOTE IN ILLINOIS

## 10 ILCS 5/1A-16, 5/4, 5/5, 5/6



### **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.

### **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 are 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 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.

### **When may I register to vote?**

Regular 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).

Grace period registration is an extension of the regular registration deadline from the 27<sup>th</sup> day prior to an election through Election Day. Grace period registration is only available "in-person" at sites authorized by each election authority.

### **Where can I register to vote?**

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 the election authority  
Plus registration is available online and through deputy registrars.

### **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. Also, applications can be downloaded from the Illinois State Board of Elections website at: [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov). When you apply for registration using the mail-in form, it must be postmarked prior to the close of registration. If you do not provide the necessary identification with your mail-in form, you must vote in-person the first time.

**Can I register to vote or update my registration online in Illinois?**

Yes. Online voter registration was created by Public Act 98-115. An individual may register to vote or update his or her existing voter registration by accessing the home page of the Illinois State Board of Elections' website at [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov).

To use this option, an applicant must provide:

- (1) the full Illinois driver's license or State identification card number;
- (2) the last 4 digits of your social security number; and
- (3) the date the Illinois driver's license or State identification card was issued.

**If I move, can I still vote?**

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 may grace-period update your registration through Election Day and then grace-period vote; alternatively you may vote 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 may grace-period update your registration to your new address through Election Day and grace-period vote, or 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 can only vote by re-registering from your new address.

If any change in your name or address has occurred, please remember to contact your election authority to update your registration. However, even if you forget to update your information, note that "Grace Period Registration and Voting" is now available through Election Day in Illinois.

**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.

**May I verify that my registration is correct?**

Yes. Illinois residents can check with their election authority or go online at [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov) and go to the link called "Registration and Polling Place Information."