

Illinois

Registration Deadline

Forms must be received 28 days before an election.¹ An applicant may also register in person up to the 14th day before an election, if she plans to vote in person at specifically designated locations or by mail, at the discretion of the county clerk or Board of Election Commissioners (collectively, “local registrar”).²

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Database Implementation Status

Currently, each local registrar maintains a local electronic registry of voters in her jurisdiction. Illinois is in the process of entering into a sole-source contract with Catalyst Consulting Group to build its statewide voter registration database, but this system may not be ready until 2008.³ Illinois intends to build a bottom-up system:⁴ a centralized state database will contain information from each local registry copied and uploaded every 24 hours.⁵

Entering Voter Registration Information

Who inputs voter registration information? Local registrars generally review and enter information from voter registration forms in their jurisdictions into each local system.⁶

What happens to voter registration forms submitted at state registration agencies? Forms received by a voter registration agency are sent to the appropriate local registrar for review and entry.⁷

How are most forms submitted? Illinois reported that in 2004, 37% of forms were submitted by mail, 22% were submitted in person to election officials, 36% were submitted at the DMV, and 5% were submitted at another voter registration agency.⁸

Voter Registration Form

The relevant portions of the voter registration form are included at the end of this section.

Processing of Forms Without Identifying Numbers

How will the state treat an application with an affirmative indication that the applicant has no valid identifying number? The applicant will be assigned a unique voter registration number. Illinois has no stated statewide policy, however, for assessing the further validity of the application; each local registrar is responsible for determining how the application will be treated.

How will the state treat an application without an identifying number and without an affirmative indication that the applicant has no such number? Illinois has no stated statewide policy; each local registrar is responsible for determining how the application will be treated.

How will the state treat an application listing an identifying number that is either incomplete or illegible? Illinois has no stated statewide policy; each local registrar is responsible for determining how the application will be treated.⁹

Matching Against Motor Vehicle and Social Security Records

Description of matching process: Illinois has not yet determined the process by which a match for information on voter registration forms will be sought, but generally intends to use a “substantial match” standard.

What are the consequences if the state cannot find a match? If the applicant is otherwise eligible, she will be considered registered, but will have to show identification at the polls.

Notice and Opportunity to Resolve Errors

Description of notice and correction process: Illinois leaves the notice and correction process to the discretion of the local registrar; each registrar may develop procedures to notify an applicant that an error occurred in processing her voter registration application. Most registrars will notify an applicant by mail, with a brief explanation of the problem.

Identification Requirements at the Polls

Who must provide identification at the polls? Any first-time voter registering by mail who did not submit identification with the application, and any voter whose identifying number has not been verified, must show identification at the polls. Illinois also requires that any applicant seeking to register in person provide two forms of identification, one of which must include address, at the time of registration.¹⁰

Forms of ID:

1st-time voters	current and valid photo ID
registering by mail	current utility bill w/ name, address
without verified	bank statement w/ name, address
identifying number:	government check w/ name, address
	paycheck w/ name, address
	other gov't document w/ name, address

What forms of identification are accepted? Current and valid photo ID, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter’s name and address.

What are the consequences of failing to show identification? The voter may cast a provisional ballot.¹¹ The ballot will be counted if the local registrar can verify within 14 days that the voter was registered and eligible to vote in that precinct. The local registrar

is directed to use information provided by the voter, an election judge, the statewide voter registration database, any local databases, and the records of the Secretary of State to see if the voter was registered, with conflicts resolved in favor of the voter.¹²

Statutes and Regulations

10 ILL. COMP. STAT. Act 5, arts. 4, 5, and 6 generally concern registration. 10 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/1A-25 directs the State Board of Elections to develop and administer a statewide voter registration database. ILL. ADMIN. CODE tit. 26, part 216 comprise the applicable regulations.

End Notes

¹ 10 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/4-6, 5/5-5, 5/6-29.

² *Id.* 5/4-50, 5/5-50, 5/6-100.

³ John McCormick, *Illinois to Miss Deadline for Voter Rolls Law*, CHI. TRIB., Dec. 30, 2005, at 6.

⁴ 10 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/1A-25(3).

⁵ *Id.* 5/1A-25(4), amended by Act of Aug. 22, 2005, Pub. Act No. 94-0645.

⁶ *Id.* 5/1A-25(2).

⁷ *Id.*; ILL. ADMIN. CODE tit. 26, § 216.70(a).

⁸ Election Assistance Commission, *The Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office 2003-2004*, June 30, 2005, tbl. 2, available at http://www.eac.gov/NVR_Spreadsheets/NVRA_table_2.html. Due to rounding, the percentages listed may exceed 100%.

⁹ ILL. ADMIN. CODE tit. 26, § 216.70(f), states that local registrars must reject an application with information that is not “sufficient on its face to cause the applicant to be listed among the voters of the jurisdiction,” but each local registrar has the discretion to determine when information submitted is sufficient for the applicant to be placed on the rolls.

¹⁰ 10 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/4-10, 5/5-9, 5/6-37.

¹¹ *Id.* 5/18A-5(a)(4), amended by Act of Aug. 22, 2005, Pub. Act No. 94-0645.

¹² *Id.* 5/18A-15(b)-(c), amended by Act of Aug. 22, 2005, Pub. Act No. 94-0645.

ILLINOIS VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Suggested, July 2004

FOR ILLINOIS RESIDENTS ONLY

TO COMPLETE THIS FORM:

SBE R-19

TO VOTE YOU MUST:

- Be a United States citizen
- Be at least 18 years old
- Live in your election precinct at least 30 days
- Not be convicted and in jail
- Not claim the right to vote anywhere else

- Box 1-If you do not have a middle name, leave blank.
- Box 3-If mailing address is same as Box 2, write "same".
- Box 4-If you have never registered before, leave blank. If you do not remember your former address, provide as much information as possible.
- Box 5-If you have not changed your name, leave blank.
- Box 9-If you have an Illinois Driver's License, check the Box and fill in the number. If you do not have a Driver's License, check the appropriate box and fill in either the last four digits of your Social Security Number, or your Secretary of State ID Number.
- 10-Read, date and personally sign your name or make your mark in the box.

TO VOTE IN THE NEXT ELECTION:

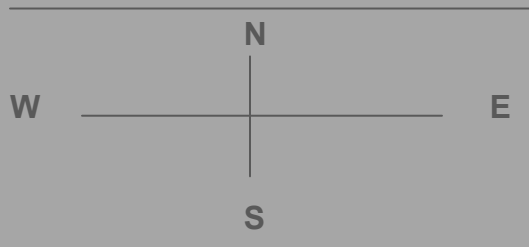
- Mail or deliver this application to your County Clerk or Board of Election Commissioners no later than 28 days before the next election. (check www.elections.state.il.us for listings)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- If this form is submitted by mail and you have never registered to vote in the jurisdiction you are now registering in, then you must send with this application 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 your name and address. If you do not provide the information required above, then you will be required to provide election officials with this information the first time you vote at a polling place or by in-person absentee ballot.
- If you register by mail, you must also vote in person the first time, either at the polling place or in-person absentee.
- If you change your name you must re-register.
- If you register at a public service agency, any information regarding the agency that assisted you will remain confidential as will any decision not to register.
- If you do not receive a Notice within 2 weeks of mailing or delivering this application, call your County Clerk or Board of Election Commissioners.

IF YOU HAVE NO STREET ADDRESS,

below describe your home: list the name of subdivision; cross streets; roads; landmarks; mileage and/or neighbors' names.



If you have questions about completing this form, please call the State Board of Elections at (217)782-4141 or (312)814-6440 (or webmaster@elections.state.il.us).

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY IN BLACK OR BLUE INK

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? (check one) yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day? (check one) yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> If you checked "no" in response to either of these questions, then do not complete this form.				Office Use	
You can use this form to: (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> apply to register to vote in Illinois <input type="checkbox"/> change your address <input type="checkbox"/> change your name					
1. Last Name	First Name	Middle Name or Initial	Suffix (Circle One) Jr. Sr. II III IV		
2. Address where you live (House No., Street Name, Apt. No.)		City/Village/Town	Zip Code	County	Township
3. Mailing address (P.O. Box)		City/Village/Town, State		Zip Code	
4. Former Registration Address: (include City and State and Zip Code)			Former County	5. Former Name: (if changed)	
6. Date of Birth: MM/DD/YY	8. Home telephone number including area code (optional)		9. ID number – check the applicable box and provide the appropriate number <input type="checkbox"/> IL Driver's License or, if none, Sec. of State ID or <input type="checkbox"/> Last 4 digits of Social Security Number <input type="checkbox"/> I have none of the above-listed identification numbers.		
7. Sex (circle one) M F	() -				

10. Voter Affidavit – Read all statements and sign within the box to the right.

This is my signature or mark in the space below.

I swear or affirm that

- I am a citizen of the United States;
- I will be at least 18 years old on or before the next election;
- I will have lived in the State of Illinois and in my election precinct at least 30 days as of the date of the next election;
- The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information, then I may be fined, imprisoned, or if I am not a U.S. citizen, deported from or refused entry into the United States.

Today's Date: _____/_____/_____

11. If you cannot sign your name, ask the person who helped you fill in this form to print their name, address and telephone number.

Name of person assisting.

Full Address

Telephone No.