

# Take the Worry Out of Voting...Get Prepared Now

However you decide to vote,

In Person

By Mail

Early

On Election Day

## Act Soon

### Register to Vote in Illinois!

Anyone who is qualified and *registered* to vote in the state of Illinois can vote with mail-in ballots. You don't need to provide an excuse or explanation. If you're not sure whether or not you're currently registered to vote, you can use the State Board of Elections' [Voter Registration Lookup](#). If you still need to register, you can start with the [Illinois Online Voter Registration Application](#); just make sure you do so by **October 18, 2020!**

# Apply to Vote by Mail!

Though it's important to note that you *should not* send any vote-by-mail application to the Illinois State Board of Elections, [their website](#) is where you can start the process of applying for a mail-in ballot in Illinois. If you live in the City of Chicago, the Illinois State Board online form will redirect you to the [Chicago Board of Election Commissioners](#) website; if you live in another jurisdiction (which you can select from a drop-down menu), you will be redirected to whatever application instructions are specific to that area. Per the Illinois Postmaster General, all requests for mail-in ballots in Illinois SHOULD be made two weeks before the election (October 19, 2020). For special instructions and provisions for those in the military or currently overseas, visit the Illinois State Board of Elections' [Voting by Mail page](#).

## You've Got Your Mail-In Ballot! Now What?

It's time to select your candidates! If you've requested a vote-by-mail ballot in the state of Illinois, voting by mail begins 40 days prior to the election — the day you receive your Illinois ballot will depend on when you applied for it. When you *do* receive it, make sure to follow instructions on your ballot about how to clearly mark your choices. In addition to voting for who will occupy the White House, you may need to make decisions about representatives, senators, and judges, so consider doing some research if you're still not sure who is running for those seats.

## Release Your Illinois Ballot into the Wild!

Just kidding — don't do that. But do do this:

...Double, triple, quadruple check everything on the ballot, making sure that whom you have voted, or chosen not to vote for are EXACTLY what you want...

You can mail your Illinois ballot using the U.S. Postal Service or another courier service, but it has to be returned and postmarked before the end of **November 3, 2020** (think of your deadline as the stroke of midnight).

Alternatively, you may be able to submit your vote [via drop boxes set up by local election authorities](#), but you should check with those authorities ahead of time for details. Be confident that your mail in ballot comes with a tracking number or code that allows you to track your own ballot from the time you drop it off until it is registered as having voted.

## Is mail-in voting more susceptible to fraud?

Nationally, efforts to expand mail-in voting because of the coronavirus pandemic have become a focus of [partisan debate](#). Numerous investigations have found no evidence that voting by mail results in increased voter fraud.

## Some useful Information for Voters

Researching issues, candidates, and voting requirements in your area.

<https://ballotpedia.org/Illinois>

**For DeKalb County: all the latest information on upcoming election visit: <http://dekalb.il.clerkservice.com/>**

**Voters can check if they are registered, find their polling place and to view their specimen ballot here:  
<http://dekalb.il.electionconsole.com/voter-lookup.php>**

[Cook County Mail Ballot Drop Box Locations o.pdf](#)

[Lake County Voting](#)

[Illinois Registration Lookup](#)

[Changing Your Voting Address](#)

Online Voter Registration Application Form  
<https://ova.elections.il.gov/Step0.aspx>

[Registro de Votantes | USA.gov](#)

APLICACIÓN PARA REGISTRO DE VOTANTES DE ILLINOIS

[https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/sber19\\_spanish.pdf](https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/sber19_spanish.pdf)