

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.

Questions Involving Access to the Ballot:

1. It is after 6:00 AM and the polling place is not open.

Where available, contact the Legal Command Center in the voter's area immediately so that a mobile field attorney can go to the precinct. An attorney will contact the City or County election officials to report the problem.

If the polling place is open at 6:00 a.m. but the voting machines have not arrived, call headquarters immediately. Voters should be permitted to vote by back-up paper ballots or by provisional ballots.

Where there is no Legal Command Center, call the City's Board of Election Commissioners (if in the City of Aurora, Bloomington, Chicago, Danville, East St. Louis, Galesburg, Peoria or Rockford) or the County Clerk. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem.

2. It is 7:00 PM and my precinct is closed or closing and they will not let me vote.

Contact the Legal Command Center so that a mobile field attorney can be assigned to go to the precinct immediately. An attorney will contact the City or County election officials to report the problem.

Where there is no Legal Command Center, call the City's Board of Election Commissioners (if in the City of Aurora, Bloomington, Chicago, Danville, East St. Louis, Galesburg, Peoria or Rockford) or the County Clerk. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem.

3. There are equipment problems at my precinct and I cannot vote. What should I do?

Encourage the voter to ask to vote by a back-up paper ballot or by provisional ballot. Call the Legal Command Center immediately so that an attorney can go to the precinct to check on the problem. An attorney will also contact the City or County election officials to report the problem.

Where there is no Legal Command Center, call the City's Board of Election Commissioners (if in the City of Aurora, Bloomington, Chicago, Danville, East St. Louis, Galesburg, Peoria or

Rockford) or the County Clerk. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem.

Identification and Provisional Ballots:

1. I do not have any identification with me. Can I vote?

Yes. Even if the voter is a first-time voter who registered by mail and did not present acceptable identification at that time, the voter may vote by provisional ballot. If possible, a voter should be encouraged to go and get an ID before entering the polls and NOT cast a provisional ballot.

2. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at my precinct. Can I vote?

Confirm that the voter is qualified to vote (i.e., meets the citizenship, age, non-criminal status and durational residency requirements found in Section 4 of the Manual) and that the voter registered in time to vote in this election. Next, using the online poll locator tool, make sure the voter is at the correct polling place.

If the voter has registered on time, is eligible and is in the correct polling place, direct the voter to ask the poll worker to call the City's Board of Election Commissioners (if in the City of Aurora, Bloomington, Chicago, Danville, East St. Louis, Galesburg, Peoria or Rockford) or the County Clerk and confirm the voter's registration. If the voter still is not on the rolls, let them know that the voter can vote by provisional ballot. This is a LAST resort as provisional ballots will only be counted if the City's Board of Election Commissioners (if in the City of Aurora, Bloomington, Chicago, Danville, East St. Louis, Galesburg, Peoria or Rockford) or the County Clerk can later verify the voter's registration status before the validation and counting of provisional ballots is completed.

3. Poll workers are turning voters away if they don't have photo ID.

Call the Legal Command Center immediately to report the problem. An attorney will be dispatched to the polling place. Encourage the voter to go back inside the polling place and demand the right to vote by a REGULAR ballot (unless the voter is a first time voter who registered to vote by mail and has not previously provided a copy of their ID, in which case the voter can vote by provisional ballot).

Where there is no Legal Command Center, call the City's Board of Election Commissioners (if in the City of Aurora, Bloomington, Chicago, Danville, East St. Louis, Galesburg, Peoria or Rockford) or the County Clerk. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem.

4. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Provisional ballots are a LAST resort.

The election judge at the polling place must provide the person submitting a provisional ballot written instructions for casting a provisional ballot and written information indicating how such voter may ascertain whether the provisional vote was counted, and if it was not counted, the reason that the vote was not counted. The person shall sign an affidavit indicating that such

person meets the requirements described in Section 14(B)(2) of the Manual. The election judge must accept any information provided by the person who casts a provisional ballot that the person believes supports such person's claim to be a duly registered and qualified voter. The provisional voter may within two calendar days after the election submit additional information to the City's Board of Election Commissioners (if in the City of Aurora, Bloomington, Chicago, Danville, East St. Louis, Galesburg, Peoria or Rockford) or the County Clerk.

The City's Board of Election Commissioners (if in the City of Aurora, Bloomington, Chicago, Danville, East St. Louis, Galesburg, Peoria or Rockford) or the County Clerk shall complete the validation and counting of provisional ballots within 14 calendar days of the election.

Where to Vote:

1. Where do I vote (for voter's who have not moved)?

You can look up polling locations at www.vote411.org. However, if the vote411 website does not provide you the polling location for a particular county, look to the specific county/election commission websites or contact the appropriate county clerk/election commissioner.

(Illinois Local County Clerks/ Election Commissioners Link
www.elections.state.il.us/ElectionAuthorities/ElecAuthorityList.aspx)

2. I have moved within the same PRECINCT and have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?

If the voter has moved within the same precinct 27 days or less before the election, the voter should go to the appropriate polling place for that precinct and can vote a full ballot by completing an affidavit regarding the voter's eligibility and former and current address. In the case of jurisdictions covered by Article 6 of the Code, the affidavit must be supported by the affidavit of a qualified voter who is a householder in the same precinct. (FYI – There is a question as to whether this same rule applies if the voter is registered in a County having a population of 500,000 or more, but those Counties may apply the same rule.)

3. I have moved to a different precinct within the same COUNTY and I have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?

If the voter has moved within 30 days before the election to a different precinct, but still within Illinois, and has not transferred the voter's registration, then the voter can vote a full ballot at the voter's previous polling place after showing proof of residence and completing an affidavit regarding the voter's eligibility and former and current address.

If the voter has moved more than 30 days before the election to a different precinct within the same County (or within the same City if the voter lives in the City of Aurora, Bloomington, Chicago, Danville, East St. Louis, Galesburg, Peoria or Rockford), then the voter can cast a ballot for federal offices at the voter's previous polling place only after completing an address correction form.

4. I have moved from one county to another and have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?

If the voter has moved within 30 days before the election to a different precinct, but still within Illinois, and has not transferred the voter's registration, then the voter can vote a full ballot at the voter's previous polling place after showing proof of residence and completing an affidavit regarding the voter's eligibility and former and current address.

If the voter has moved more than 30 days before the election to a different County (or out of the City of Aurora, Bloomington, Chicago, Danville, East St. Louis, Galesburg, Peoria or Rockford), and did not transfer the voter's registration, then the voter CANNOT VOTE. The voter needs to transfer the voter's registration or re-register at the new address prior to the election.

Assistance at the polls:

1. I am physically disabled and need assistance; will my polling place be accessible?

Illinois law requires that each polling place be accessible to physically disabled voters unless granted an exemption by the State Board of Elections, but many may not be accessible. A physically disabled voter assigned to an inaccessible polling place is entitled, upon one-day advance request, to be provided a ballot up to 50 feet from the entrance to the inaccessible polling place. If a voter reports that a polling place is not accessible to the physically disabled, alert a commander so an attorney can get in touch with the responsible election official to report the problem immediately.

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

A voter requiring assistance at the polls for any of the reasons stated above can take a person of their choice (other than the voter's employer, an agent of that employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union) into the voting booth. The person requesting assistance must declare under oath the reason for requiring such assistance, and the person providing assistance must provide an oath swearing not to influence the voter's choice and to cast the ballot as directed by the voter. Election Protection volunteers can serve as assistants to disabled or language minority voters if asked to do so by the voter. If a poll worker refuses to allow a disabled or language minority voter to bring a person of their choice into the voting alert a commander.

In Illinois, voters in Cook County are entitled to Chinese and Spanish language materials, while voters in Kane County are entitled to Spanish language materials.

Miscellaneous Issues:

1. I have been approached by candidates or others at the polls.

No form of campaigning, electioneering, soliciting votes or political discussions may take place within 100 feet of any polling place, or, at the option of any church or private school that is a polling place, on the property of that church or private school. Voters can be solicited so long as it is done in compliance with this rule. If someone is violating the 100-foot (or church or private school property) requirement, alert a commander to report the problem, let them know the extent of the problem and work with them to assess if calling an election official is necessary.

2. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

As long as the voter has NOT already submitted the absentee ballot, and is otherwise qualified, they should be allowed to vote in person by REGULAR ballot upon providing either the absentee ballot for cancellation or an affidavit stating that (A) the voter never received an absentee ballot or (B) the voter completed and returned an absentee ballot and was informed that the election authority did not receive that absentee ballot.

3. There are people at the polls trying to intimidate voters.

If the voter agrees, put them on hold while you call the Legal Command Center so they can send an attorney to the location immediately. Then, gather as much information from the voter as possible. After hanging up with the caller, call back the Legal Command Center and fill the attorneys there in on the details. Also, alert the call center manager.

4. I have a felony conviction. Can I vote?

Yes. Illinois law permits convicted felons to vote so long as they are not currently serving a sentence of confinement in any penal institution or jail for conviction of any crime in Illinois, another state, or any federal court. This includes those who are on probation, on parole, or who have completed a sentence of confinement in the past.

5. I am a college student, can I vote where I go to school?

College students may register and vote where they go to school provided that they consider that location their voting residence. A voting residence is the residence the student claims as their home; the residence which qualifies them to vote on a particular ballot. Students must be held to the SAME eligibility requirements as any other voter in the jurisdiction. If a student has been turned away at the polls, ascertain if they have fulfilled all of the registration requirements (i.e., citizenship, age, non-criminal status and durational residency requirements) and that they have registered on time for this election. If so, alert a commander to dispatch an attorney to the location and contact the appropriate election official. Where there is no Legal Command Center, call the City's Board of Election Commissioners (if in the City of Aurora, Bloomington, Chicago, Danville, East St. Louis, Galesburg, Peoria or Rockford) or the County Clerk. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem.