

# TIPS FOR VOTERS FOR ELECTION 2020

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*Note that most of this information is derived from information on the Election Authorities' web sites and should be correct as of **Sept. 18**. However, changes could occur, so please double-check the applicable Election Authority web site.*

## **REGISTERING TO VOTE**

### **1. How can I register to vote?**

You can go to [www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections) if you live in Suburban Cook County or to [www.chicagoelections.gov](http://www.chicagoelections.gov) if you live in Chicago to get more information and

- register online (**thru Oct. 18**) if you have an Illinois driver's license or Illinois state i.d., or
- obtain a registration application to download and mail in (**thru Oct. 6**), or

You can register in person

- at the Election Authorities' offices or with a deputy registrar (**thru Oct. 6**)
- at the Chicago Super Site at 191 N. Clark (**Oct. 1 thru Nov.3**)
- at applicable Grace Period Registration sites (**Oct. 7 – Nov. 2** for Suburban Cook County voters) or
- at Early Voting sites
  - for Chicago Voters: **Oct. 1 – Nov.3** at the Super Site at 191 N. Clark, and **Oct. 14 – Nov. 3** at all other Early Voting sites
  - for Suburban Cook County Voters: **Oct. 19 – Nov. 2**but you must vote then and there after registering
- at your polling place on Election Day (**Nov.3**)

### **2. Who can register to vote?**

Any U.S. citizen who is going to be 18 or older by Election Day on Nov. 3.

### **3. If I have moved since the last time I registered or voted, do I have to reregister?**

In effect, you will need to reregister, utilizing the same options as those listed above for registering.

#### 4. What do I need to have in order to register in person?

You'll need 2 pieces of identification, neither of which needs to be a photo i.d., but one of which needs to show your name and current address.

Examples include a driver's license or state I.D., a utility bill, a bank statement, a Social Security or Medicare or Medicaid card, a passport or military I.D., credit or debit card, a lease, mortgage, or deed to home.

You can go to [www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections) if you live in Suburban Cook County or to [www.chicagoelections.gov](http://www.chicagoelections.gov) if you live in Chicago to get more information.

#### 5. If I register at a Grace Period or Early Voting site, can I vote at a later time?

No. You will need to be prepared to vote there and then.

#### 6. Where are the Grace Period and Early Voting sites?

You can go to [www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections) if you live in Suburban Cook County or to [www.chicagoelections.gov](http://www.chicagoelections.gov) if you live in Chicago to find out where and what the hours are.

#### 7. What is the difference between Grace Period Registration and Early Voting?

Grace Period Registration allows people who are not registered at their current home address to register at designated sites. Those taking advantage of Grace Period Registration will need to vote there and then after registering.

Early Voting allows people who are already registered to vote prior to Election Day at designated sites. However, Grace Period Registration is also available at Early Voting sites.

### VOTING IN GENERAL

#### 8. What are the different ways to vote?

There are 3 ways to vote:

- After applying for and receiving a Vote by Mail ballot, you can complete it and mail or drop it off at secure drop-off boxes up through **Nov. 3**
- Vote in person
  - at Grace Period Registration sites: **Oct. 7 thru Nov. 2** for Suburban Cook County Voters
  - at Early Voting sites: **Oct. 1 to Nov.3 at the Super Site and Oct. 14 – Nov.3** for Chicago Voters, and
  - at Early Voting sites: **Oct. 19 – Nov. 2** (and starting on **Oct. 7** at 69 W. Washington pedway and the County Courthouses) for Suburban Cook County Voters
- Vote in person on Election Day, **Nov. 3**

### **9. What offices will be on the ballot and who are the candidates?**

You can go to [www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections) if you live in Suburban Cook County or to [www.chicagoelections.gov](http://www.chicagoelections.gov) if you live in Chicago to see your particular Sample Ballot.

This will include the offices and candidates for election, judges seeking retention, and one state-wide referendum on Fair-Tax Amendment to the Illinois Constitution on whether to allow varying income-tax rates based on income levels. There could be other local referenda, depending on where you live.

### **10. Where can I get information on the candidates and judges up for retention?**

- To watch videos of candidates for County-wide offices and for U.S. Senate and the U.S. Congress, go to **the WTTW Video Voters' Guide**.
- Check out the non-partisan voter guide published by the League of Women Voters of Illinois at [www.illinoisvoterguide.org](http://www.illinoisvoterguide.org) for all candidates other than judges.
- For candidates for judges and judges seeking retention, check out the compilation of the different Bar Association ratings at [www.voterforjudges.org](http://www.voterforjudges.org).

The information should be there by the end of September or early October.

### **11. Will curbside voting be available if you cannot enter the place to vote?**

Yes, on Election Day (but not during Early Voting). Check [www.chicagoelections.gov](http://www.chicagoelections.gov) if you live in Chicago, or [www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections) if you live in Suburban Cook County for more information on Accessibility and Assistance for Voting.

## **HELP DEMOCRACY WORK: BECOME AN ELECTION JUDGE**

### **12. How can I help make this a successful election?**

You can become an Election Judge to help make democracy work! Election judges are paid.

### **13. Who can be an Election Judge?**

Any citizen who is 16 or older (for this Election), who has applied, and been accepted. Election Day is a holiday, so high school students and staff will not be in school and can be Election Judges. Training will be provided online.

### **14. How do I apply to be an Election Judge on November 3 and what are the hours?**

Go to [www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections) if you live in Suburban Cook County or to [www.chicagoelections.gov](http://www.chicagoelections.gov) if you live in Chicago.

Election judges are to report to their assigned precincts by 5 am to set the polling place up. The judges are encouraged to start setting up the polling place the evening before if possible. The judges are to stay until after voting is over at 7 pm and then until all the

work is completed. Two of the judges are also asked to deliver some of the election materials to the assigned location.

## **VOTING BY MAIL**

### **15. How can I get an application to Vote by Mail?**

You can go to [www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections) if you live in Suburban Cook County or to [www.chicagoelections.gov](http://www.chicagoelections.gov) if you live in Chicago to

- Apply directly online, or
- Download an application to mail in
- Many voters have already received a paper application in the mail

Deadline for applying is **Oct. 29**, but to ensure you receive your ballot in time to complete and mail or drop it off, don't wait that long.

### **16. When will the Vote by Mail ballot be mailed to me?**

On September 24 if you have applied by then. Otherwise, the Election Authority will mail it to you within two business days after receiving your application.

### **17. What are the advantages to applying online for a Vote by Mail ballot?**

- No one else has to enter the information for you, so less chance of an error
- The Election Authority will have your email address and can notify you
  - When your application has been processed and approved
  - When your ballot is mailed
  - When the envelope with your ballot has been received
  - When your ballot has been processed and approved for counting or if there is an issue that needs to be resolved before counting

### **18. Why should I apply for a Vote by Mail ballot?**

If something were to occur so that you couldn't or don't want to vote in person, you will be able to complete your Vote by Mail ballot and mail or drop it off by **Nov. 3**.

### **19. What if I have applied for a Vote by Mail ballot and decide I would prefer to vote in person (either Early Voting or on Election Day)?**

You can still vote in person.

- If you have received your Vote by Mail ballot, bring it with you when you go to vote. Turn it into the election judge who will mark it "void" and keep it. You will get a new ballot to mark and turn it in then.
- If you don't have the Vote by Mail ballot, or you haven't received it yet, you will still be able to vote, but you will have to complete a provisional ballot. The Election Authority will confirm that it has not received a Vote by Mail ballot for you and then will process and count your provisional ballot. This ensures no one can vote twice.

**20. How much postage will be needed to mail the Vote by Mail ballot?**

The return envelope that comes with the Vote by Mail ballot is postage pre-paid. Remember, if you mail, the postmark must be no later than **Nov. 3.**

**21. Where can I drop off my completed Vote by Mail ballot instead of mailing?**

In addition to putting it in a mail box, you can drop it into a secure Drop Off Box located at each of the Early Voting sites, as well as at the Election Authority's offices on or before **Nov. 3.**

You can go to [www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections) if you live in Suburban Cook County or to [www.chicagoelections.gov](http://www.chicagoelections.gov) if you live in Chicago to see where those Drop Off Box locations are.

**22. Can I drop off my Vote by Mail ballot at my election polling place on Nov. 3?**

No. If you bring your Vote by Mail ballot to the election polling place, you can turn your ballot into the judges and then take a new ballot and vote there, but you cannot drop off your ballot.

**23. Can someone else drop off the return envelope with my completed Vote by Mail ballot for me?**

Yes. But you will need to complete the outside of the envelope, which requires you to sign and date and fill in the blank with the name of the person dropping it off for you.

**24. How will the Election Authorities know that no one else completed my Vote by Mail ballot?**

There is a tracking number on the return ballot envelope, and the person requesting the ballot (the Voter) must sign and date the outside of the envelope for signature verification so that the ballot may be processed. There will be a panel of 3 Election Judges trained on signature recognition who will review the signature on the return envelope and determine that it matches the signature on file before the ballot will be removed for counting. At least one of the Judges must find that there is a match. If the 3 Judges determine the signature is not a match, the Election Authority will attempt to contact the voter to determine if indeed that is the voter's ballot.

**25. What should I do if I have applied for a Vote by Mail ballot and I need to have it directed to a different address than what I initially said?**

If you are registered in Suburban Cook County, you should send an email to the Cook County Clerk's office at [mail.voting@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:mail.voting@cookcountyil.gov) and include

- Your Full Name
- Your Birthdate
- The WRONG Mailing Address for the Ballot
- The RIGHT Mailing Address for the Ballot

If you are registered in Chicago, you should call the Vote by Mail department of the Chicago Board of Elections at 312-269-7767.

**26. My signature has changed since I originally registered to vote. How can I update it?**

If you live in Suburban Cook Cook County, go to [www.cookcountyclerk.com/agency/register-vote](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/agency/register-vote) and print out the paper voter registration form, complete it, sign it, and mail it to the Cook County Clerk's office.

If you live in Chicago, there is a registration form to use for a signature change. Go to [www.chicagoelections.gov](http://www.chicagoelections.gov) and look under "Registering to Vote" for the "Signature Change" form. Complete it, sign it, and mail or email it to the Chicago Board of Elections.

Note that you will need to do this **by October 6.**