VOTING WITH A CRIMINAL RECORD

Illinois Registration Guide

If you were incarcerated, have a criminal record, or are in pre-trial detention, you still have the right to vote!

Your right to vote is **automatically restored** once you leave the custody of the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). If you are in pre-trial detention, you have the right to vote!

**Am I eligible to vote?**

In order to to vote in Illinois you must be:

- a U.S. citizen *do not register to vote or attempt to vote if you are undocumented
- 18 years old on general election day *A 17 year old can vote in a primary if they turn 18 by general election
- an Illinois resident for at least 30 days

**Who cannot vote?**

Individuals who **have been convicted and are in custody**.

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**I am 18+ years old, a U.S. citizen and an Illinois resident, but I am in correctional custody. Can I vote?**

**Prison/state custody**

- In Facility
  - Adult Transition Center
    - Work Release/Furlough
      - **No, you are not able to vote in this election cycle.**
  - Released from custody
    - Parole/ Mandatory Supervised Release
      - **Yes, you are probably able to vote, and should re-register!**

**Jail/county detention**

- Convicted of a crime, awaiting sentencing
  - Released on bond, own recognizance, electronic monitoring
    - **No, you are not able to vote in this election cycle.**
  - Post sentencing hearing, still in county custody
    - **No, you are not able to vote in this election cycle.**
  - Detained/pre-trial (not convicted)
    - **Yes, you are probably able to vote, and should re-register!**

*If you are in jail but haven't been convicted:* if you are detained in the county you live in, under state law that county jail must give you an opportunity to apply to register to vote and to vote by mail.

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For more information from the Illinois State Board of Elections
Visit www.elections.il.gov or call (217) 782-4141 or (312) 814-6440
How can I register to vote?

**Online** at https://ova.elections.il.gov/
You will need:
* Illinois driver’s license or State ID number
* Date the license or ID was issued
* Last four digits of your social security number
* Your birth date

**Mail** an application to your County Clerk or the Board of Election Commissioners
You will need:
* Illinois Voter Registration Application form
* Illinois driver’s license or State ID number
* If you don’t have ID numbers, send in a copy of valid photo ID OR copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or other government document that shows name and address

**In-person** at county clerk’s office, the DMV, schools, libraries, etc.
You will need:
* Illinois Voter Registration Application form
* 2 documents proving identification, with 1 showing current address
* Driver’s license or State ID OR
* Last 4 digits of SSN and photo ID OR
* A copy of a document proving your residential address

*NOTE: An IDOC ID counts as a government-issued ID.

*For more information, go to [https://www.dmv.org/il-illinois/voter-registration.php](https://www.dmv.org/il-illinois/voter-registration.php) OR call the State Board of Elections: (217) 782-4141 or (312) 814-6440

When and where can I vote?

**By mail**
You can apply for a vote-by-mail ballot as early as 90 days before Election Day until 5 days before Election Day. May be best for those limited by sex offender laws.

**Early in person**
You can vote in person early 40 days before Election Day until the day before Election Day. Best for 1st time voters.

**Election Day**
You can vote from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you are in line by 7 p.m., you have the right to vote and can’t be turned away.

Voting tips

*If you are in jail but haven’t been convicted:* if you are detained in the county you live in, under state law that county jail must give you an opportunity to apply to register to vote and to vote by mail.

*You don’t usually need an I.D. to vote, but **showing an I.D.** can be the easiest way to clear up any questions about your eligibility to vote.

*You do not need a home or stable address to vote.* You must simply be able to receive mail at the mailing address listed.

*Be aware of deadlines.* Regular registration closes 27 days before an election, although some sites offer in-person grace period registration.

Important contact information

**Illinois State Board of Elections**
www.elections.il.gov
(217) 782-4141 or (312) 814-6440
100 W. Randolph, Suite 14-100, Chicago, IL 60601

**Election Hotline (in case of unfair treatment)**
www.aclu.org/know-your-rights-illinois-voter-information
1-877-523-2792 or 1-866-687-8683

**Vote.org (to find local election office)**
1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)
https://www.vote.org/state/illinois/

**John Howard Association of Illinois**
www.thejha.org