

Registering to Vote in Illinois

Illinois State Board of Elections

10 ILCS 5/1A-16, 3-6, 5/4, 5/5, 5/6



Voter Registration Requirements:

- U.S. citizen
- 18 years old or will be 18 by the date of the upcoming general or consolidated election*
- A resident of the precinct for at least 30 days prior to Election Day.

*A person who is otherwise qualified to vote may preregister to vote on or after that person's 16th birthday, with the registration application held in abeyance by the State Board of Elections until that individual attains the required age to vote, at which time the State Board of Elections shall transmit the registration application to the applicable election authority.

When to Register:

- Regular registration is open all year except the 27 day period prior to Election Day.
- Online registration is open until 16 days before Election Day.
- Grace period registration and voting begins the 27th day prior to Election Day and is available in person at designated sites.

Where to Register:

- County Clerk's Office
- Board of Election Commissioner's Office
- City and Village Offices
- Township Offices
- Military Recruitment Offices
- Online at <https://ova.elections.il.gov/>

Take Two Forms of Identification

At least one form of ID showing your current address is needed. These may include but are not limited to:

- drivers license
- bank statement
- residence contract/lease
- utility bill
- State identification card number

Can I Register to Vote by Mailing an Application to My Election Authority's Office?

Citizens may apply to register to vote by mailing in an application. The applications are available at some public and private facilities. Applications can be downloaded from the Illinois State Board of Election's website at: <https://ova.elections.il.gov>. When you apply for registration using the mail-in form, it must be postmarked prior to the close of registration. A person must vote for the first time in person and not a vote by mail ballot if the person registered to vote by mail, unless the person first provides the appropriate election authority with sufficient proof of identity and the election authority verifies the person's proof of identity.