

## **WHEN CAN PEOPLE VOTE?**

The 2010 general election will be held on November 2, but any registered voter can request an absentee ballot in person at the office of their election authority beginning September 23.

However, not every election office in every county has the ballots printed and ready for distribution precisely on the date stated by law – 40 days before the election.

Locations designated as permanent Early Voting Centers across the state will be open from Monday, October 11 (Columbus Day) through Thursday, October 28. They also will be open on the weekends of October 16-17 and October 23-24.

Early Voting locations designated as temporary will be open October 12-28.

## **WHERE CAN PEOPLE VOTE?**

Election authorities in each county will announce the location for early voting.

In the less populous counties, the County Clerk's office often is the early voting location.

Also, a new law creates a pilot project that requires early voting locations be established at nine "public" universities. Each university location shall conduct Grace Period Registration and early voting in a high traffic location on the main campus. The registration is available to any qualified resident of the state.

There will be approximately 200 Early Voting locations throughout Chicago, suburban Cook County and populous counties in the metropolitan-Chicago area.

## **WHAT IS NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING?**

Until this year, the law required a registered voter to state a reason for wanting to vote absentee, but a new state law makes it easier to vote absentee.

Public Act 96-0533, permits a person to request and vote an absentee ballot without specifying a reason for being absent from the polling place on Election Day. It's known as no-excuse absentee voting.

Registered voters who desire an absentee ballot should contact their election authority for an application or more information.

By law, in-person absentee voting is permitted until the day before the election.

## **WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING TO VOTE?**

The traditional deadline for registering to vote is October 5.

However, Grace Period Registration is an extension of the deadline for registration. State law allows for the registration of voters and for a change of address at the office of an election authority, but it requires that a person participating in Grace Period Registration to vote at that same office or by mail at the discretion of the election authority.

People who register during the Grace Period are not eligible to vote at an Early Voting location or at a polling place on Election Day. Grace Period Registration runs from October 6 to October 26.

## **HOW CAN I CHECK TO SEE IF I AM REGISTERED?**

Illinois residents can check to see if they are registered by going online at [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov) and clicking "Voters" and then clicking "Am I Registered to Vote in Illinois." This new service is made available through the Illinois Voter Registration Service database, a requirement of the Help America Vote Act.

## **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO REGISTER TO VOTE?**

A person:

- Must be a citizen of the United States;
- Must be at least 18 years of age by Election Day;
- Must have been a resident of the precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day.

When registering to vote, two forms of identification are required – one must show the current address of the applicant.

## **WHAT OFFICES ARE UP FOR ELECTION?**

Candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller, Treasurer, U.S. Senate, Representatives in Congress, State Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly, certain county offices and judges will be elected. Also, specified judges will stand for retention.

## **THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

A primary goal of the State Board of Elections is to help bring about greater understanding and participation in the electoral process.

The State Board of Elections is an independent state agency charged with the responsibility of having general supervision over the administration of election laws of the State.

The State Board works closely with election authorities in all regions of the State.

Elections are administered locally by the State's 110 election authorities. These are the county clerks in 101 counties, one county election commission and eight municipal election commissions.

As part of their many responsibilities, election authorities conduct local voter registration programs, train election judges, find polling places, prepare ballots, oversee Election Day activities and supervise the vote count at the local level.

For more information on early voting or other election laws and procedures, contact your election authority or visit the Board's website: [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov)

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# **EARLY VOTING**

## **EVEN EASIER**



**This pamphlet provides general information regarding new State laws that affect all eligible voters in Illinois.**