



## Frequently Asked Questions: 2018 Primary

### **Q: Who will be eligible to vote in the March 20 Primary Election?**

A: All eligible voters in Chicago, including those who need to use Election Day registration to register, file a change of address, or file a name change. To register you must:

- be a U.S. citizen, and
- be born on or before Nov. 6, 2000, and
- live in your precinct at least 30 days before the election, and
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere; and
- not be in prison/jail serving time for a conviction. Ex-convicts who have completed their sentences and who meet all other requirements listed above are eligible to register and vote in Illinois.

[Visit chicagoelections.com/info to check your registration status or find your polling place.](http://chicagoelections.com/info)

If you are NOT registered or if you have moved since you last registered, do not include your last name.

### **Q: What offices will be on the ballots on March 20?**

A: A combination of federal, state, county and judicial offices will be on the ballot.

[Visit chicagoelections.com/info to get a sample ballot.](http://chicagoelections.com/info) Voters may bring sample ballots or notes into the voting booth.

### **Q: Will there be write-in candidates?**

A: Yes. To vote for a write-in candidate on the touch screen, select "Write-In" and a keyboard will appear for you to enter the write-in candidate's name. On a paper ballot, you may write-in a candidate if there is a write-in space for that office, and then connect the head and tail of the arrow next to the write-in space. Do not write-in candidates whose names already appear on the ballot.

### **Q: Will there be Vote By Mail and Early Voting ahead of the March 20 Primary?**

A: Yes. There will be In-Person Early Voting & Registration from Feb. 8 through March 19 at sites to be announced by mid-January 2018.

Also, any voter may Vote By Mail by applying online or with a mail-in form that is received by 5 pm on March 15. The Board recommends requesting to Vote By Mail by early March to make sure that you have enough time to receive your ballot and return it on or before Election Day. To find more information on Early Voting or Vote By Mail, visit [www.chicagoelections.com](http://www.chicagoelections.com).

### **Q: When must I show ID to vote?**

A: You do not need ID if you are already registered to vote AND your signature matches the one on file AND there are no questions about your registration. However, there are times when you do need identification, such as registering to vote or updating the name or address on your registration in person when you go to vote. To learn more, visit [www.chicagoelections.com](http://www.chicagoelections.com) and click on "Voting" and then click on "When You Need ID to Vote."

### **Q: Do I have to declare a political party in order to vote in the March 20 Primary?**

A: Yes. Under the law in Illinois, voters in a Primary Election only vote on one ballot that lists the candidates for one party. Voters are free to stick with or switch parties from election to election, and selections in the Primary do not affect how a person may vote in the November General Election. Please note, if you select a 'non-partisan' ballot, that ballot will contain no candidates, no offices and only local referenda questions based on where you live.

**Q: If I make a mistake while voting, can I correct it?**

A: Yes, if you have not cast your ballot yet and you notice a mistake in your selection on the touch screen, go back and touch that choice again and then make the selection that you meant to make. If you make a mistake on a paper ballot, you must ask the judge to spoil that ballot and get a new paper ballot.

**Q: Similar to Early Voting, can a voter go on Election Day to any polling place?**

A: **No.** On Election Day, a voter must vote only at the polling place assigned to that voter's precinct. [Visit chicagoelections.com/info to find your precinct polling place. If you are not currently registered in that name or at that address, enter only your new address, and not your last name.](http://chicagoelections.com/info)

**Q: Will my precinct polling place be the same as it was in past elections?**

A: Whenever possible, the Board tries to keep polling places at the same locations. However, there are some polling place owners who could not let us use that site again. [Visit chicagoelections.com/info to find your precinct polling place.](http://chicagoelections.com/info)

Please note: IF YOU MOVED into another precinct, you have to go to the precinct and polling place for your *new* address. At the polling place for your new address, you may update your registration address with [two forms of ID](#), at least one of which shows your new address. Find your new polling place [by entering only your new address at www.chicagoelections.com/info](#).

**Q: There are campaign signs on a public property. Will the Election Board remove them?**

A: The Election Board has jurisdiction only over signage at polling places that are used on Election Day or during Early Voting, and even then, only in the polling place itself and the "campaign-free zone" that extends 100 feet from the entrance to the polling place. Campaign signs are permitted on polling-place properties so long as they are outside the "campaign-free zone." During Early Voting, you may call 312-263-1394 with questions about signage at Early Voting sites. On Election Day, you may call Election Central at 312-269-7870 with questions about campaign signs at polling places.

**You must call 311 with any other questions about campaign signs on other public properties such as bridges, parks, intersections, etc.**

**Q: If I vote in Early Voting and change my mind, can I vote again on Election Day to cancel out my first ballot?**

A: No. A cast ballot is final, and attempting to vote more than once in the same election is a felony.

**Q: What is a Provisional Ballot? When are Provisional Ballots counted?**

A: If the judges cannot locate a voter registration record for a person in that precinct, the judges may:

- Perform a "citywide search" in the Electronic Poll Book to determine if the voter is in a different precinct. If so, the judges will tell you your correct precinct polling place and address; or,
- Try to verify that the address is in the precinct by looking at the precinct map, precinct outline, poll list or by calling the registration hotline.

Casting a Provisional Ballot in the wrong precinct may result in all or some of the selections on that ballot NOT being counted. That is why voters should go to the correct polling place when directed.

Reasons for voting a Provisional Ballot include:

- a) No registration record found in the precinct;
- b) Voter is challenged and the judges uphold the challenge;
- c) Voter is required to provide ID but does not have proper ID;
- d) Voter is listed as having cast a ballot in early or mail voting, but voter believes that record is in error;
- e) Voter is casting a ballot during a court-ordered extension of hours at a polling place.

Provisional ballots are separated from others cast on Election Day.

After Election Day, Board employees evaluate provisional ballot applications to determine whether the ballot can be released into the count. Also, each provisional voter has 7 calendar days after Election Day to submit documents to the Election Board that will show that voter's eligibility to vote in that precinct (photo ID, utility bills, bank statements, etc.)

**Q: Do employers have to give employees time off from work to vote?**

A: Yes, employees are entitled to two hours off work, if:

- a) The employee gives the employer notice, prior to election day (the Election Code does not specify what type of notice is required);
- b) The employer may specify the hours during which the employee may be absent;
- c) The employer must permit a 2-hour absence during hours if the employee's working time begins before 7:59 a.m. (within two hours of the open of polls) **and** the working time ends after 5:01 p.m. (within two hours of the close of polls).

No employer shall refuse an employee the privilege of time off from work nor subject the employee to a penalty, including a reduction in compensation due to such an absence from work.

**Q: If I am suddenly hospitalized shortly before the election, how can I vote?**

A: A registered voter who is hospitalized not more than 14 days before an election may request a Vote By Mail ballot.

(1) An application must be completed by the voter, the voter's attending physician and the voter's representative (a relative or another registered voter from the same precinct). The application is provided at [www.chicagoelections.com](http://www.chicagoelections.com) under "Voting" and then clicking on "Accessibility/Voters With Disabilities."

(2) The completed application may be submitted in person at 69 W Washington, 8th Floor or by email to [votebymail@chicagoelections.net](mailto:votebymail@chicagoelections.net)

(3) The voter's representative will be responsible for picking up the ballot at 69 W. Washington, 8th Floor, delivering the ballot to the voter, and also returning the voted ballot to 69 W. Washington, 8th Floor.

(4) If the voter's application form was submitted by email, the ORIGINAL signed and notarized application form must be submitted with the returned ballot by 7 p.m. on Election Day. By law, a Vote By Mail ballot cannot be submitted by email or fax.

# # #