

# COMMON VOTING MYTHS

## “I CAN AVOID JURY DUTY IF I DON’T REGISTER TO VOTE.”

**FALSE.** Jurors are called based on driver’s licenses, state IDs, passports and Social Security records—in addition to voting records. Not registering to vote just means you can’t vote.

## “IF I VOTE, IT WON’T MAKE A DIFFERENCE.”

**FALSE.** Several local, state and national elections have been decided by relatively few votes. The 2000 Presidential Election was decided by a margin of 537 votes in the state of Florida.

Voting makes a difference in other ways. Voters can sign petitions, and when citizens meet with public officials, it helps to be able to say, “We’re registered, and we vote.”

## “VOTING IS ILLEGAL FOR A CONVICTED FELON.”

**FALSE.** In Illinois, and a majority of other states in America, voting rights are restored in full once felons finish their prison sentences.

Learn more about your voting rights, registering, your polling places, early voting, voting by mail and Election Day voting at [chicagoelections.gov](http://chicagoelections.gov)

This brochure was prepared by the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners.



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## VOTING AT 17:

### REGISTERING STUDENTS TO VOTE

Voter registration has never been easier, and now students can register earlier than ever!

This brochure is designed to help educators inform and organize students to register to vote, whether at school, or at an Early Voting site or at their home precincts on Election Day.

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? TWO REASONS:

#### 1 Many 17-year-olds are eligible to vote in the March 2020 Primary.

U.S. citizens who will be 18 by Nov. 3, 2020 are eligible to register **and vote** in the Illinois Primary in March, even if they are still 17 on the date of the Primary. The idea behind the law is simple: Voters who will be eligible to vote in November must have a say in the Primary, too.

#### 2 We have the chance to get more young voters in the system for November.

Whether our high-school seniors go away to school in the fall or remain in Chicago, registering now means they will be ready to vote at home or Vote By Mail in November 2020.

**INSIDE:** options for helping your students to register to vote.

# THREE OPTIONS FOR REGISTERING STUDENTS TO VOTE



# 1

## HOLD A VOTER REGISTRATION EVENT AT SCHOOL BY FEBRUARY 12, 2020.\*

- Be sure to make morning announcements days in advance.
- Set up in a computer lab, cafeteria, library or gym.
- Have at least two computers and at least one printer.
- It's best to have a Counselor who will be able to access the last four digits of a student's Social Security number, if needed. (See below.)

### Students who have an Illinois driver's license or State ID may register online at:

<https://ova.elections.il.gov>

This online system is available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Hindi. Requires last four digits of Social Security.

### Students who don't have an Illinois driver's license or state ID can register by mail so long as they have the last four digits of their Social Security Number.

The downloadable mail-in form is at:

<http://www.chicagoelections.gov/en/register-to-vote-change-of-address.html>

Forms are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi and Polish.

\*Mail-in registration forms must be postmarked by Feb. 17, 2020. Register online thru March 1.

# 2

## REGISTER & VOTE IN PERSON AT ANY EARLY VOTING SITE: ALL SITES OPEN MARCH 2 THRU MARCH 16.

- Any voter who lives in Chicago may use any Early Voting site in the city.
- To register during Early Voting, the voter needs two forms of ID, at least one of which shows the current address. (Note: One of those IDs can be the school ID!)
- See list of Acceptable IDs below.

# 3

## REGISTER & VOTE IN PERSON AT YOUR PRECINCT POLLING PLACE ON MARCH 17, 2020.

- To register on Election Day, you must go to the correct precinct polling place assigned to your home precinct. Visit [chicagoelections.gov](http://chicagoelections.gov) to find your polling place under "Your Voting Information." New voters should enter an address *without* entering a last name.
- To register on Election Day, the voter needs two forms of ID, at least one of which shows the current address. (Note: One of those IDs can be the school ID!)
- See list of Acceptable IDs below.

### ACCEPTABLE IDS FOR IN-PERSON VOTER REGISTRATION

- School/Work ID
- Driver's License or State ID card
- Vehicle registration card
- LINK/Public Aid/Dept. of Human Services card
- Social Security or Medicaid card
- Insurance card
- Passport or Military ID
- Lease, mortgage or deed to home
- Credit or debit card
- Bill, Transcript or Report Card from School
- Bank Statement, Pay Stub or Pension Statement
- Utility, Medical or Insurance Bill
- Official mail from any government agency, including your school
- City Key

**PLEASE NOTE: AT LEAST ONE FORM OF ID NEEDS TO SHOW THE VOTER'S CURRENT ADDRESS.**