

## 2015 Run-Off Elections: Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: Who will be eligible to vote in the April 7 Supplementary (Run-Off) Election?

A: Registered voters in the City of Chicago. Voters may check their registration status and find their polling places and sample ballots at “Your Voter Information” at [www.chicagoelections.com](http://www.chicagoelections.com)

Voters may use this same web site to find information on how to register in person through April 4.

**Please note: By state law, Election Day Registration will not be offered at this election. Sat., April 4 will be the last day to use in-person registration to register or update a record through the Grace Period program.**

### Q: What offices will be on the ballots on April 7?

A: All ballots in Chicago will list the two candidates for the office of Mayor. In wards where there also is a run-off for the office of Alderman, there also will be two candidates listed for that office. In wards where there is no run-off for Alderman, only the contest for Mayor will appear on the ballots. No other contests or referenda will be on the April 7 ballots.

There will be Aldermanic run-offs in the 2nd, 7th, 10th, 11th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 29th, 31st, 36th, 37th, 41st, 43rd, 45th and 46th Wards.

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

A: No. There will be no write-in spaces on the ballots. Voters may select only among the two candidates who received the most votes at the Feb. 24 election.

### Q: If I did not vote or wasn't registered to vote at the February 24 election, am I eligible to vote or register and vote at the April 7 run-off?

A: Yes. If you already were registered but did not vote at the February 24 election, you may vote in the run-off election on April 7. For those who need to register or who need to update their name or address, voter registration has re-opened. Online and mail-in registrations will be accepted through March 10. From March 11 through March 22, Grace Period registration will be available at the Election Board. Then, from March 23 through April 4, registration will be available at the Election Board and all of the other 50 Early Voting sites.

### Q: Will voters' choices at the Feb. 24 election automatically carry forward to the April 7 election?

A: No. You must cast a new ballot for the April 7 election to make your vote count at the run-off election.

### Q: If I voted at the Feb. 24 election for a candidate who lost, can I vote for a different candidate at the April 7 election?

A: Yes.

### Q: Will there be Early and Absentee Voting for the April 7 runoff?

A: Yes. There will be Early Voting from March 23 through April 4. Any voters may use absentee voting (vote by mail) without any reason or excuse. The deadline to have an absentee application at the Chicago Election Board was April 2, but there also will be in-person absentee voting at the Election Board from 9 am to noon on Sun., April 5 and from 9 am to 5 pm on Mon., April 6.

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### Q: How are the ballot order of the candidates and their "punch" numbers set for April 7?

A: The order in which candidates appear and their punch numbers on the ballots are based on when they filed or the lottery for ballot position if they filed simultaneously. For the April 7 election, the ballot order and punch numbers remain the same as they were at the Feb. 24 election.

### Q: When do I have to show ID to vote?

A: Government-issued photo ID is required of every voter during Early Voting. However, in all other cases, such as Election Day, you should **not** have to present ID unless there is a question about your registration, such as your signature not matching the signature that is on file, or if you do not appear to be the age that is on file, or if there is a question about the address on file. In those cases, ID can be requested. An acceptable form of ID includes any of the following: driver's license, state ID, college or school ID, utility bill, bank statement, pay stub or a letter from a government agency to confirm your name and address. Even if the voter does not have ID in that situation, the voter may cast a provisional ballot. A provisional voter also has the option to provide some form of ID to the Election Board up to seven days after Election Day by mail, fax, email or in person.

### Q: Do I have to declare a political party in order to vote in the Run-Off Election?

A: No.

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

A: If you have not cast your ballot yet and you notice a mistake in your selections on the touch screen, go back and touch that choice again and then make the selection you intended. If you make a mistake on a paper ballot, you must ask the judge for a new paper ballot.

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

A: **No.** On Election Day, a registered voter must vote only at the polling place assigned to that voter's precinct. If you are already registered to vote. Find your polling place at [www.chicagoelections.com](http://www.chicagoelections.com)

### Q: Will my April 7 precinct polling place be at the same location as my Feb. 24 polling place?

A: Wherever possible, the Board will keep the polling places at the same locations we used in February. However, there may be some polling place owners who cannot or will not allow us to use the site again for April 7. We will send letters to voters in any affected precincts and/or place a sign at the old polling place to direct voters to the new polling place. We also will publish a list of all 2,069 precinct polling places in the Mon., April 6 editions of the Sun-Times and the RedEye. If you are already registered to vote, find your precinct number and polling place at [www.chicagoelections.com](http://www.chicagoelections.com)

### 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 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.**

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

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**A:** No. Once a voter casts a ballot, the voter cannot cast another ballot. 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:

a) May perform a "citywide search" in the Electronic Poll Book to determine if the voter is in a different precinct. If so, the judges may print out the name and address of the polling place for that precinct; or,

b) May try to verify that the person's address is within the precinct by looking at the precinct map, precinct outline, poll list or by calling the registration hotline.

If the voter insists on voting at that location, even after being told that the voter is in the wrong precinct, the judges must inform the voter that if the voter casts a Provisional Ballot in the wrong precinct, some or all of their ballot selections may **not** be counted, depending on the reason for the provisional ballot.

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 absentee 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 in a public process to determine whether the corresponding ballot can be released into the count. A provisional voter will have 7 calendar days after Election Day to deliver any documents to prove registration or to supply identification to show that the voter should have been eligible to cast that ballot. After that time, any documents or evidence cannot be considered.

### **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 starts before 7:59 a.m. (within two hours of the open of polls) and the end time is 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.