

Vote Tabulation Information
Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago

Jurisdiction: City of Chicago, Illinois – 2,069 Precincts

Mailing address and contact information for chief election official:

Executive Director
Chicago Election Board
69 W. Washington St., Suite 800
Chicago IL 60602

Agency Phone: 312-269-7900 (TTY 312-269-0027 for hearing impaired)

For queries on Election Day: Election Central – 312-269-7870

Sites where unofficial election results are made available to news media, campaigns and the general public:

www.chicagoelections.gov TV monitors: 69 W. Washington St., 6th Floor

Is there cell phone reception at this office? Yes

Does the agency have a pre-election website: Yes www.chicagoelections.gov

Does the agency have an Election Night website with live unofficial results?

Yes www.chicagoelections.gov

When will unofficial results at the precinct level become available at this web site?

Historically, the web site has made precinct-level unofficial results available starting sometime after midnight the Wednesday morning after Election Day.

When are the polling places open?

All polls are to be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central Time on Election Day.

Are there ever exceptions to the time when polling places close?

In the event any polling places are delayed in opening **and** the delays caused voters to be turned away from said polling places **and** those voters indicated to Board investigators that they could not return by 7 p.m., the Board may seek a Circuit Court order to extend the closing hours only at the affected polling places. If the Board seeks and obtains such a court order, state law requires that any ballots cast after 7 p.m. must be cast on provisional ballots.

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How, when and where votes are tabulated

- Are votes tabulated in the polling place?

Yes. Judges of Election print and display tapes of the unofficial results from the precinct for credentialed media and poll watchers in the precinct at the close of polls. These tapes provide only the unofficial results of **ballots that were cast that day in that polling place**. These tapes do not include vote counts from ballots from voters who cast Provisional, Vote By Mail, Grace Period or Early Voting ballots. The tapes also will not reflect the results of the Adjudication process in the weeks that follow Election Day to check ballot marks on over-voted or under-voted ballots to see if the voter's intent can be determined so that valid selections may be added to the counts.
- How are unofficial results sent to a satellite tabulation center or a centralized tabulation center?

Unofficial results are transmitted electronically to the central counting station. The records and memory devices also are transported to the satellite site that is designated for that section of the City. In the event that the transmission of unofficial results from the precinct could not be completed, the transmission is attempted again from the satellite site. In all cases, the materials from the satellite sites are transported to the central counting station downtown. If transmission of results also cannot be completed at the satellite site, transmission then can be attempted yet again at the central tabulation office at 69 W. Washington St.
- At the election agency and on the agency's web site, how will the unofficial results be reported and released?

Results will be reported in cumulative fashion for each precinct. This means that the unofficial results reported for each precinct will contain a merged total of all Early Voting and Grace Period Voting and all available Vote By Mail counts for that precinct – as well as Election Day voting in that precinct. By law, Vote By Mail ballots may continue to arrive and are eligible to be added to the counts for up to 14 days after Election Day. Provisional ballots also will not be part of the initial count, as provisional voters may submit documents to support their right to vote up to 7 days after Election Day. Determinations on the validity of provisional ballots can be made only after those 7 days have passed. The election agency has up to 14 days after Election Day to make determinations on provisional ballots and add the votes from eligible ballots.
- When will vote reports begin and how often will they be updated Election Night?

The agency has typically begun issuing unofficial results by 7:30 p.m. Historically, updates have appeared every 15-25 minutes that follow with 80-90% of precincts reported by 10 p.m. on Election Night.

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- **When does the agency reach 100% of precincts in its unofficial counts?**

The Board tends to have unofficial counts for 100% of its precincts *the Wednesday afternoon after the election*. The Board normally has 97-98% of precincts with unofficial counts late on Election Night. The 2-3% not counted represent the few precincts that may have flawed memory sticks or cartridges. The Board issues a public notice of the site and time the Election Board will create new cartridges.

At that site and time, the Board will unseal the election materials from the affected precinct(s) and process the ballots in front of any credentialed campaign poll watchers or credentialed media who care to witness the process, as space permits. Unofficial results from those precincts are then made available and added to the unofficial totals on the Board's web site.

- On Wednesday afternoon after the Board reaches "100%" of precincts counted, what ballots will remain to be counted later and when?

All Vote By Mail ballots and Nursing Home ballots, that arrive the Monday before Election Day and on subsequent days, will be counted starting the Friday after Election Day. This allows the Board to check that none of the ballots were cast by those who voted on Election Day in their precinct polling places.

Additionally, provisional ballots will be counted at least one week after Election Day (see next question). Any Vote By Mail ballots that arrive 4 to 14 days after Election Day will be added to the counts up to 14 days later so long as they are postmarked (or certified) as having been mailed on or before Election Day.

Additionally, the Adjudication process will be used in the weeks that follow Election Day to check marks on over-voted or under-voted ballots to see if the voter's intent can be determined so that valid selections may be added to the counts.

- When will provisional and late-arriving (post Election Day) ballots be counted?

These will be counted in the two weeks that follow Election Day. All counting procedures will be posted at the Board and at www.chicagoelections.gov.

- When are pre-election ballots (Early Voting, Grace Period Voting and those Vote By Mail Ballots that are received prior to Election Day) tabulated?

The Board uploads pre-election ballots on Election Day but only tabulates and issues unofficial results from any precinct when the unofficial results of the Election Day voting from that same precinct can be added, merged and reported together.

For example, if voters from Precinct 1 in Ward 1 were to cast 14 ballots in Early Voting, 16 ballots by Vote By Mail and 70 ballots in the polling place on Election Day, the Board will report the unofficial results of all 100 ballots when the unofficial results can be merged, tallied and reported together. The unofficial results of the 14 Early Voting ballots and 16 Vote By Mail ballots will not be reported until the unofficial results of the 70 Election Day ballots in that precinct can be reported.

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- Are post-Election Day Vote By Mail and Provisional ballot totals made public?
Yes, any counting process is announced through public notice and on the Board's web site at www.chicagoelections.gov. Unofficial results are issued at the site at the conclusion of any counting process, and the unofficial results are updated at the Board's web site as soon as possible.
- When do the "unofficial" results become "official" results?
The initial tabulations are all unofficial until the Board completes its canvass and issues its proclamation of results.
The schedule of the canvass is released before Election Day through public notice and on the Board's web site www.chicagoelections.gov.

By law, the Board must complete the canvass process and proclaim the results of the election and transmit a tabulated statement of returns to the County Clerk and State Board of Elections by the close of business 21 days after the election or sooner, if possible.