



For Immediate Release – November 6, 2016

2016 Presidential Election Overview

At the November 8, 2016 Presidential Election, Chicago voters will vote for candidates in a variety of contests at the federal, state and local levels. In addition to voting for President and Vice President of the United States, Chicago's voters will make selections for U.S. Senate, Congress, Illinois Comptroller and various legislative, county and judicial offices.

The 2,069 precinct polling places in Chicago will be open on Election Day from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Chicago voters may find their polling place and sample ballots at www.chicagoelections.com/info

The 2016 ballots also will include a variety of state and local referenda, both binding and advisory. The binding measures include whether to create a "lock box" for state transportation funds and, in certain South and West Side precincts, whether to create a new taxing district to provide mental-health services.

"To ensure a trouble and fraud-free election, the Chicago Election Board will have more than 500 investigators assigned to Election Day duty. This will include roving investigators assigned to every ward who will be making unannounced inspections of polling places – and investigators who are assigned to respond to calls for assistance," said Election Board Chairwoman Marisel A. Hernandez.

Voters who witness anything irregular or encounter a problem on Election Day are urged to call the Board's "Election Central" hotline at (312) 269-7870. These telephone lines will be staffed by Board personnel and attorneys versed in election law. "Election Central" hotlines will be operational on Election Day only.

On Election Day, voters may cast ballots only at the polling place assigned to their home precinct. Voters who cast ballots in Grace Period Voting or Early Voting cannot return to change their votes. Lists of voters who have already cast ballots will be uploaded to the Electronic Poll Books that are used to check in voters.

more

Hernandez advised voters to take a few minutes to prepare before going to vote. “Visit your local election agency web site to find the precinct polling place for your home address, and to review a sample ballot. Chicago’s web site also has a mobile version. It is also legal to bring a list of your selections with you.”

At chicagoelections.com/info voters will find:

- Their voter registration status
- Their polling place and precinct, with a map
- Their sample ballots – with the ballot style numbers
- Their status using Vote By Mail or Early Voting.

For more information on or before Election Day, voters may visit the web site or call (312) 269-7900.

TWO paper ballots on Election Day

On Election Day, voters who use the paper ballots should be issued two paper ballots: a “CON” ballot with the Constitutional Amendment question and other local referenda, and a separate ballot which will contain all of the election contests and the candidates.

Vote By Mail Ballot Postmark Deadline: Tues., Nov. 8

More than 100,000 Chicago voters applied to Vote By Mail, the highest number since World War II. “It is important that voters know that Vote By Mail ballots must be postmarked on or before Tues., Nov. 8,” Hernandez said. Mail ballots postmarked on Election Day or earlier can be counted even if they arrive up to two weeks after Election Day on Nov. 22; however, mailed ballots that are postmarked Nov. 9 or later cannot be counted.

Any voter who applied for and has not received or cannot return their Vote By Mail ballot should go to the Precinct and Polling Place assigned to their home address to vote on Election Day. Voters may surrender Vote By Mail ballots to the Election Judges and/or sign an affidavit to say that the ballot did not arrive.

Pre-Election Mailing & Voter Registration Rolls

To prepare for the Presidential Election, the Election Board mailed canvass and election notices to every Chicago voter on Oct. 20. The notices included the voter’s Election Day Precinct Polling Place, as well as one or two nearby Early Voting locations and information on Voting By Mail.

more

A total of 1.570 million Chicagoans were registered to vote for this election. Thanks to online registration and expanded registration throughout Early Voting, this is the highest registration total since the early 1990s, up 14.8% from the 1.368 million registered in 2012 and up 4.9% from the 1.498 million registered in 2008.

Under federal law, any voter who might be listed as “inactive” and who has not moved, may restore their voting rights on Election Day in the polling place by signing an affidavit and presenting ID, if needed, to show that the voter still lives at the address on that registration.

NEW: Election Day Registration

Those voters who have moved or need to register for the first time should find their correct precinct and polling place at chicagoelections.com/info. Once at the correct precinct and polling place, a voter may use Election Day Registration by presenting two forms of ID, at least one of which shows the voter’s current address.

The new electronic poll books in each precinct will provide directions to the correct precinct and polling place for those who might arrive at the wrong polling places. The Chicago poll books also can text the correct precinct and polling place to the voter who is in the wrong precinct.

Those who lack ID or who do not want to go to the correct precinct may vote a provisional ballot. This ballot will be kept separately. The voter has one week to submit ID or proof of their registration, and the election authority then has 14 days from the election to determine if that provisional ballot can be added to the count.

By law, if a voter uses Election Day Registration and casts a provisional ballot in the wrong precinct, that ballot will not count.

“We will have two electronic poll books in each precinct to help process both those already registered and those who need Election Day Registration services,” Hernandez said. “Additionally, at the 27 precincts where we saw the most Election Day Registration during the Primary Election, we will have a third electronic poll book. Most all of these 27 precincts were on or near campuses of UIC, the University of Chicago, Loyola, DePaul, Columbia and Roosevelt.”