

# #MAKEAPLANTOVOTE

## Q&A

PRESENTED BY:

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# **CHANGE ILLINOIS**

CHANGE ILLINOIS IS A NONPARTISAN, NONPROFIT  
LEADING SYSTEMIC GOVERNMENT AND ELECTION  
REFORMS. WE CHAMPION ETHICAL AND EFFICIENT  
GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS.

# WHAT WE'LL BE TALKING ABOUT

- Recap of new law changes
- Your options for safe voting
- Steps for vote-by-mail
- Your questions answered



- What should I do if my vote-by-mail ballot is damaged?
- Can I still vote in person if I already requested a vote-by-mail ballot?
- I haven't registered to vote yet, can I still vote?
- What information do I need for voting in person?
- What is a provisional ballot and when does someone use it?
- What happens if I made an error on my ballot?

**QUESTIONS  
SUBMITTED**

- Will we know the results of who won on election night?
- I've heard that vote by mail is more susceptible to fraud, is that true?
- How do I know if my ballot was received or not?
- If I am returning a vote-by-mail ballot do I need to wait in line?
- What is the difference between a poll worker and poll watcher?
- Why is a judge up for retention not on my ballot?

**QUESTIONS  
SUBMITTED  
CONT...**

- Can I take pictures of my ballot?
- Does my employer have to give me time off to go vote on Election Day?

**QUESTIONS  
SUBMITTED  
CONT...**

# NEW LAWS FOR THE 2020 ELECTION

Voters who cast ballots in the 2018 General Election and any election since were automatically sent an APPLICATION to vote by mail. OR any voter who updated their voter registration or registered to vote between 2020 Primary Election and July 31, 2020.

Voters can request a vote-by-mail ballot online from the Illinois State Board of Elections:

<https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/VotingByMailAgreement.aspx>

Starting Oct. 1, 2020, ballots were supposed to be mailed to voters within two days after the election authority receives the applications.

Vote-by-mail ballots will be reviewed by a three-person panel, with no more than two people from the same political party. All three judges must agree to toss a ballot out in order for it to be deemed invalid.

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# YOUR OPTIONS FOR VOTING

## VOTE BY MAIL

You can still request a ballot to vote by mail. You can mail in an application until Oct. 29, 2020. All ballots must be postmarked by Election Day (Nov. 3, 2020) in order to be counted.

## EARLY VOTING

All early voting locations across the state are available now. You can check with your local election authority or online at the State Board of Elections website for the closest location to you. All early voting locations are required to be open, at a minimum, from 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM on weekdays and 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM on weekends and holidays.

## Election Day

Election Day is November 3, 2020. You can find your polling location on the State Board of Elections' website:

[https://ova.elections.il.gov/PollingPlaceLookup.aspx?  
Name=Jj8LeKA7il5RZ0L11%2fRsfl%2brWDzEE5awHlVA%2f04u5OOffbun  
YO7x4nRtY2XrA4JAErmwTGlPT%2bk%3d&T=637388752647942095](https://ova.elections.il.gov/PollingPlaceLookup.aspx?Name=Jj8LeKA7il5RZ0L11%2fRsfl%2brWDzEE5awHlVA%2f04u5OOffbunYO7x4nRtY2XrA4JAErmwTGlPT%2bk%3d&T=637388752647942095)

# STEPS FOR FILLING OUT A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT

Read the instructions given to you with your ballot. Make sure to review them carefully before starting to fill out your ballot.

Grab a blue or black ink pen to fill out your ballot. DO NOT use red, yellow, green, or any other color pen. Do NOT use a Sharpie, marker or highlighter to mark your ballot.

Fill out your ballot completely filling in the circle next to the candidate you want to choose. DO NOT mark your choice with an X or check mark.

After completing your ballot, return it back in the envelope provided to you. DO NOT grab a new envelope.

On the envelope, you must certify the ballot by printing your name and address, then indicate how many years and months you have lived at that address. After that, sign and date your ballot.

Your signature should match the signature on your drivers' license or the signature you provided when you registered to vote. Check how the ballot was addressed to you.

# STEPS FOR FILLING OUT A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT CONT...

Check to see if your ballot postage has been paid. IF NOT, make sure to put the correct amount of postage on your ballot. It usually costs about \$1.40 in postage.

If you are designating someone deliver your ballot for you, fill out the back side of the envelope by putting the name of the person you are authorizing to return your ballot. You and that authorized person must sign that section.

If you are unable to personally mark your ballot due to a physical incapacity and received help, make sure to fill out the section on the top left of the ballot, indicating that person's name and address.

DOUBLE CHECK to make sure you filled out your ballot and followed the instructions to a T!

After double checking your ballot and envelope, return your ballot either by mail through the United States Postal Service, or by dropping it off at a secure drop box location provided by local election authorities.



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**YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

You shouldn't worry if you've accidentally spilled a drink or your ballot got wet in the rain. You can contact your local election authority to get a replacement ballot mailed to you.

OR

You can take the damaged ballot with you to an in-person voting location, surrender the ballot and vote in person.

DO NOT try to fill out a damaged ballot and mail it in.

**WHAT SHOULD I DO  
IF MY VOTE-BY-  
MAIL BALLOT IS  
DAMAGED?**

If you no longer want to vote-by-mail after requesting your mail-in ballot, that's OK.

If you HAVE received your vote-by-mail ballot, take it with you to an early voting location or your polling location on Election Day and surrender the ballot to a poll worker. After surrendering the ballot, the poll worker will give you a new ballot.

If you have NOT received your vote-by-mail ballot, go to your polling location and sign an affidavit swearing that you haven't received a ballot, and then you will be given a new ballot.

Whether you do or don't have your mail-in ballot, you should NOT vote on a provisional ballot.

**CAN I STILL VOTE  
IN PERSON IF I  
ALREADY  
REQUESTED A  
VOTE-BY-MAIL  
BALLOT?**

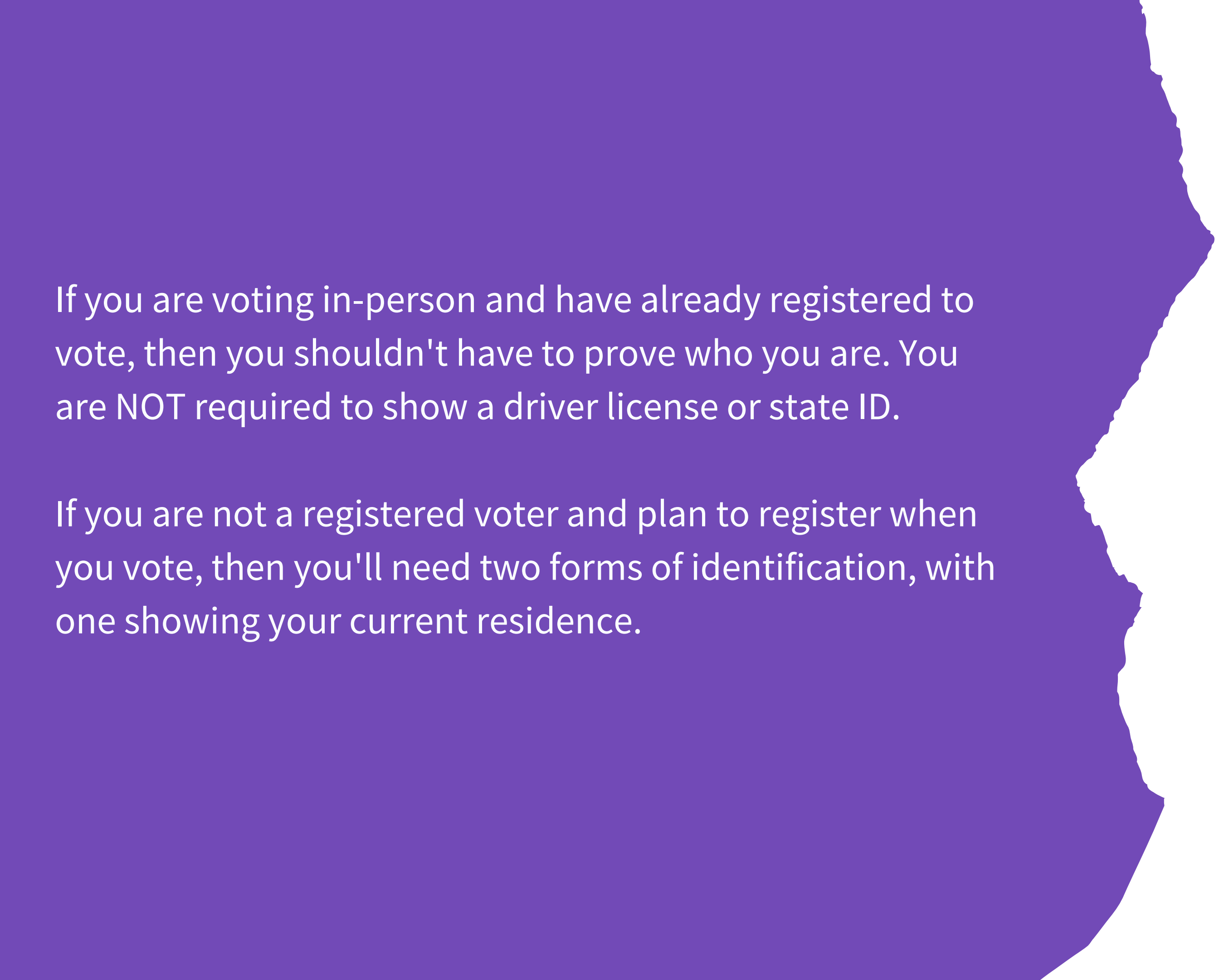
YES! Online voter register has ended, but you still have other options!

If you haven't registered, you can register in-person during the grace period which goes from now until November 2, 2020. You can do so in-person by either going to your local polling location and registering on the spot, or going to location designated by your local election authority.

If you plan to vote on Election Day, you can also use same-day registration to vote in Illinois.

You will need to bring two forms of identification with one showing your current residence. If you don't have a state driver's license or ID, then you can use other documents as ID such as a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, a college ID or a current rental lease.

**I HAVEN'T  
REGISTERED TO  
VOTE YET, CAN I  
STILL VOTE?**



If you are voting in-person and have already registered to vote, then you shouldn't have to prove who you are. You are NOT required to show a driver license or state ID.

If you are not a registered voter and plan to register when you vote, then you'll need two forms of identification, with one showing your current residence.

## **WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED FOR VOTING IN PERSON?**

Provisional voting allows someone to vote on Election Day even if their ability to vote has been questioned. Provisional ballots are kept separate from other ballots. They require verification by the election authority.

A provisional ballot must be offered to a voter when:

- Election judges have no record of the individual at that precinct,
- A voter's status has been successfully challenged,
- A court order extends the time for closing the polls, or
- The voter's name appears on the list of voters who voted during early voting.

**WHAT IS A  
PROVISIONAL  
BALLOT AND WHEN  
DOES SOMEONE  
USE IT?**

If you have made an error on your ballot, your local election authority is required to notify you of the error within two days.

If the election authority finds an error on or after Election Day, they must notify you within 24 hours.

A person has the right to correct any errors on their ballot such as a signature mismatch, not properly sealing the envelope, or signing their return envelope in the wrong spot.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF  
I MADE AN ERROR  
ON MY BALLOT?**

It is possible that we will not know the results on the election on election night and that is OK!

For counting ballots, accuracy is more important than speed and we want to make sure everyone is counted.

This is nothing new, either. For many down-the-ballot races on local levels, a clear winner isn't determined on election night.

And given the higher-than-usual amount of absentee and vote-by-mail ballots being requested, it likely will take longer to tally the results and have a clear picture of the winner.

It takes a while to process and certify vote-by-mail ballots.

Think about how long it takes to open thousands of pieces of mail!

**WILL WE KNOW  
THE RESULTS OF  
WHO WON ON  
ELECTION NIGHT?**

To check on the status of your ballot the easiest thing to do is to check in with your local election authority.

You can find out the information to contact your local election authority on the Illinois State Board of Elections' website here:  
<https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/ElectionAuthorities.aspx?MID=cQHxtxVEmuo%3d&T=637389504238079676>

**HOW DO I KNOW IF  
MY BALLOT WAS  
RECEIVED OR NOT?**

No, if you are returning your vote-by-mail ballot to a drop box you do NOT need to wait in line with people voting in person. You can skip the line and put your ballot in the secure drop box to finish up!

**IF I AM RETURNING  
A VOTE-BY-MAIL  
BALLOT DO I NEED  
TO WAIT IN LINE?**

Poll workers are people who are hired and paid in Illinois by local election authorities. Poll workers primarily are responsible for opening and closing the polling place, setting up equipment, providing assistance to voters, verifying voters' qualifications, distributing ballots, certifying vote totals, and other election operations.

Poll watchers are volunteers who are appointed by either a political party, a candidate for office, or nonpartisan civic organizations. They are given credentials by the local election authority. By law, only two poll watchers from each major political party or candidate can be in a precinct at a time. In order to be a poll watcher, a person must be selected by one of the aforementioned groups and must be a registered voter. Poll watchers are allowed to be inside their assigned polling location to observe the administration of the election without interfering with the proceedings.

## **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A POLL WORKER AND POLL WATCHER?**

Some seats are not statewide office and, therefore, will only show up on ballots for people who live in that candidate's district.

For judges, they are not statewide races. Also, the districts do not uniformly follow municipal or county boundaries so you may have a circumstance where a candidate is not on your ballot but on voter's ballot in a different part of your county.

If you believe that you live in a candidate's district you can always contact your local election authority to make sure that there is not an error with your ballot.

**WHY IS A JUDGE  
UP FOR RETENTION  
NOT ON MY  
BALLOT?**

NO! It is a felony in Illinois to take a picture of your ballot.

Instead, take a picture of you with your "I voted!" sticker or wristband.

It's better to be safe than sorry, so don't take any picture in the polling place to make sure that other voters are also not mistakenly concerned that they or their ballots are being photographed.

**CAN I TAKE  
PICTURES OF MY  
BALLOT?**

In Illinois, your employer is required to give you two-hours unpaid time off to go vote while polls are open. However, there's a few caveats to when that two-hour happens.

The employer is not required to give those two hour if the employee has at least two hours before or after work to vote. Employee must provide notice before Election Day. Employer may specify the hours employee can take off.

If you are concerned that you won't have time to vote outside of your work schedule, it best to go ahead and speak with your employer now to work out an arrangement so you can cast your vote.

**DOES MY  
EMPLOYER HAVE  
TO GIVE ME TIME  
OFF TO GO VOTE  
ON ELECTION DAY?**



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**BE INFORMED.  
FOLLOW US.**

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR VOTERS:**

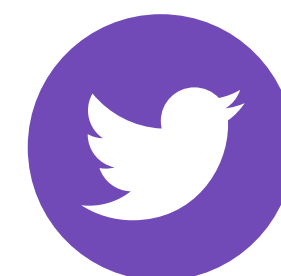
**STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS:**

**[HTTPS://WWW.ELECTIONS.IL.GOV](https://www.elections.il.gov)**

**MORE QUESTIONS: [INFO@CHANGEIL.ORG](mailto:info@changeil.org)**

**ADDITIONAL INFO: [CHANGEIL.ORG/VOTE](https://changeil.org/vote)**

**CALL: 866-OUR-VOTE**



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