



# HOW TO VOTE IN ILLINOIS

**A Quick Guide for People with Disabilities Voting in the 2022 General Election on or Before November 8, 2022.**



## REGISTERING TO VOTE

- **How can I register to vote?** You can register:
  - If you have already registered, you can check if you are registered to vote at [vote411.org](https://vote411.org).
  - Online at Illinois's [Online Voter Registration Website](#).
  - By downloading and mailing the Illinois [mail in registration form](#).
- **When do I need to register?** Be sure to register to vote by mail registration on or before October 11, 2022. Or, register to vote by online registration on or before October 23, 2022. You may also register to vote in person on Election Day.
- **Do I need identification (ID) to register?** You will need to have an Illinois address and Illinois state ID card or driver's license. You can use your social security number if you don't have a state ID.
- **Can I vote if I have a disability?** Yes! People with disabilities who are 18 years old or older have the right to vote. Your vote matters and is protected by laws to make sure voting is accessible, independent, and private. If you have a guardian, you can still vote. For help understanding or getting back your right to vote, contact your local [Protection and Advocacy Agency \(P&A\)](#).

- **Can I vote if I have gone to jail or prison?** If you have gone to jail or prison, you should check to see if you are allowed to vote. Learn about voting rights for people who have [gone to jail or prison](#). You can also [contact your local P&A](#).



## LEARNING ABOUT THE ISSUES

- **What is a ballot?** A ballot is a list of who and what you can vote for. Your ballot will list candidates who are running for different offices, such as Senator or Representative. You vote by marking your choice on the ballot.
- **What is a ballot measure?** Sometimes, your ballot will have ballot measures. A ballot measure is a law, issue, or question that you can vote on. Voters get to decide if they agree or disagree with the ballot measure by voting yes to agree or no to disagree. You can learn about ballot measures on the Illinois [election website](#).
- **Can I look at my ballot before I go to vote?** Enter your home address in [Ballotpedia's Sample Ballot Lookup](#). This tool will give you a "sample ballot," which will show you what will be on your ballot when you vote.



## VOTING IN PERSON

- **Where do I need to go to vote?** The place where you go to vote in person is called a polling place. You can find your local polling place through the Illinois election website. [Find your polling place](#).
- **Can I vote before Election Day?** Yes, Illinois allows any voter to vote in person before Election Day during the Early Voting period. The early voting period is set by the polling place, but it generally starts on September 29, 2022 and ends on November 7, 2022. Contact the local election office for more information.
- **Can I vote outside if the polling place is inaccessible?** Yes, Illinois allows voters to vote outside the polling place if it is inaccessible. This

is called curbside voting. If you need to use curbside voting, you must call the local election office the day before you vote to let them know that you need to do curbside voting.

- **What if I want help with filling out my ballot?** You may choose someone to help you vote. Your helper cannot be a candidate or your boss. If you are part of a labor union at work, the person who helps you vote cannot be a representative of that labor union. [What is a labor union?](#) You may also ask for help from poll workers at the polling place.
- **Do I need an ID?** Illinois does not require voters to show ID to vote in person, unless it is their first time voting in a federal election in Illinois. [Learn about voter ID.](#)



## VOTING BY MAIL

- **Can I vote by mail?** Any voter in Illinois can vote by mail.
- **How do I request a mail ballot?** You must request your ballot online through the State Board of Elections or through your local election office. [Request your ballot.](#)
- **Can I get an electronic vote by mail ballot?** Illinois allows voters with disabilities to request an electronic ballot that they can fill out electronically, print, and return. Contact your local election office to request an electronic ballot.
- **When do I need to request my ballot?** The last day to apply by mail or online for a mail ballot is November 3, 2022. The last day to apply in person for a ballot is November 7, 2022. Request your ballot as soon as possible to make sure that you receive your ballot on time.
- **Do I need to sign my ballot?** Be sure to sign your ballot or envelope when asked, since Illinois requires this signature to match one of your past signatures.
- **What if I want help with filling out my ballot?** You are allowed to choose someone, except for a candidate, to help you with filling out

your ballot. Someone helping you will need to write their name and address on the ballot envelope.

- **How do I return my ballot?** You can return your ballot by mail. Some counties may also have ballot drop boxes. If you are returning your ballot by mail, it must be postmarked by November 8, 2022, and received by election officials on November 22, 2022. If you are returning your ballot to a ballot drop box, it must be received before the polls close on November 8, 2022.
- **Can someone return my ballot for me?** Yes, you may choose to have someone return your ballot for you. The person who returns your ballot must sign a statement called an affidavit on the ballot envelope. [What is an affidavit?](#)
- **Do I need an ID to vote by mail?** No, you do not need an ID when voting by mail unless you are voting for the first time in a federal election in Illinois.
- **Can I track my ballot?** Unfortunately, you cannot track your ballot online to see if the elections office has received it. You can help make sure your ballot counts by returning it as early as possible and following the instructions as best as you can.



## MORE VOTING HELP

- **Where can I find more info on how to vote?** Check out the Illinois [state election website](#).
- **What if I am having trouble voting or registering to vote?** If you have any trouble voting, [contact your local P&A](#). The hotline number for voters with disabilities is 312-341-0022.
- **What if I have more questions?** Check out these resources:
  - [Illinois Polling Place Accessibility by Jurisdiction](#)
  - [Guardianship and Voting Laws](#)

- [Resources for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Voters](#)
- [Resources for Blind and Low Vision Voters](#)
- [Easy Read and Plain Language Voting Resources](#)
- [ASL Hotline](#): 301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683)
- [Election Protection Hotline](#): 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)



The 2022 State Voting Guides for Disabled Voters are made by the REV UP Voting Campaign at the American Association of People with Disabilities. This project was led by Sarah Blahovec with plain language support from Liz Weintraub at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities and input from REV UP organizers.