



# TIPS FOR CHICAGO VOTERS APRIL 2015



<http://ballot-integrity.org/docs/tips-for-chicago-voters.pdf>

**Don't get scammed or intimidated into not voting,**  
OR delaying your vote,  
OR voting in the wrong precinct

**If your name is not in the poll book  
but should be**  
Here's what you can do

## IF YOU ARE A REGISTERED VOTER:

- You can vote if you have unpaid parking tickets.
- You can vote if you have unpaid child support
- You can vote if you lost your voter registration card.
- You can vote without having to show a photo ID, unless you are voting early
- You can vote *without showing a Social Security card.* (But you may need other IDs. See below.)
- You can vote if someone in your family has been convicted of any offense.
- You can vote if you have served time in prison but are no longer serving time.
- You can bring voting materials to the poll—but only for your own use in voting. You may **not** distribute those materials within the Campaign-Free Zone—within 100' of the polling place.
- You can ask for a new ballot if you spoil the one you're using.
- You can vote if you're in your polling place or in line when the polls close.
- You can vote if you're homeless and have a mailing address (like a sponsoring organization).
- You can vote, even if you need assistance.
- You can vote if you're a naturalized citizen.
- You can vote in your precinct if you've moved within 27 days of the election within the *same precinct.* (*Bring IDs—See below.*)
- You can vote in your precinct if you've changed your name and live in the same *precinct.* (*Bring IDs—See below.*)
- You can vote in your old precinct if you moved to a *new county* within 30 days of the election. (If possible, bring two forms of identification for both addresses--four in all.)
- You cannot vote after Election Day, Tues. April 7.
- You cannot vote twice. (Voting on a new ballot after your old one has been spoiled or canceled is not the same as voting twice.)
- April 7: You must enter your polling place between 6 AM and 7 PM, unless there's a waiting line.
- You must not wear political buttons, political shirts, or political stickers to the polling place.
- **Carefully read all instructions.**
- **Please ask for help if you need it.**
- **Please treat everyone respectfully, even those who disrespect you.**

## ➤ You may be in the wrong precinct or poll.

The judge **must search** for your name on the regular and the supplemental voter-registration lists. If your name is found, you can vote normally.

- If you're not on those lists, the judge must phone the Board of Elections to verify your registration. If your name is found, you can vote normally.
- If the Board can't verify your registration, the judge must let you vote "provisionally." You must then prove your eligibility within seven days, by **April 14.**

**Don't get scammed or intimidated  
by any of the following**

- Phone calls, flyers, or letters. (In the past, one flyer falsely claimed to be from the NAACP. Another claimed to be from the "Black Voters League." Calls stating that Election Day is one day after the official date.)
- Men or women who claim to be officials, without proper credentials or drive official-looking cars.
- Anyone wearing ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) cap or clothing.
- A police officer outside or inside the polling place. (A police officer has no jurisdiction in the poll. He will **not** question you or seek information about you.)

### **\*Bring ID:**

*At least two forms of identification showing your name and address.*

**Acceptable:** Photo IDs, utility bills, a paycheck, bank statement, voter registration card, or a government check or document.

These will help if your eligibility to vote is challenged (or your sign-in page is orange).

**If you have a problem** or observe a problem, take the following steps:

1. Ask the poll judges to help.
2. Ask a credentialed pollwatcher in the polling place for help. Many are very helpful.
3. Step outside the polling place and call one or more of the phone numbers listed below.

**Handy phone numbers and websites** for asking questions and reporting problems.

- **The official website of the Chicago Board of Elections:** <http://chicagoelections.com>
- **312 269-7925 Chicago Board of Elections** (*Available April 7 only: 312 269-7870.*)

866 687-8683 (866 OUR-VOTE)  
Election Protection Coalition.  
They provide personalized voter information plus legal assistance. In some cases, they send troubleshooters to the polling place.

- **312 603-1880 Cook County State's Attorney** (Chicago and Cook County).
- **Alert other voters. Report problems online.** <http://tinyurl.com/IL-Hotsheet..>

### Special tips

- **You must vote in your assigned polling place.** If you're not 100% sure where it is, contact the **Chicago Board of Elections, 312 269-7900** <http://www.chicagoelections.com/voterinfo.php>
- If you are "**Early Voting**" (voting in person between March 23 and April 4), you **must show** an up-to-date government-issued **photo ID** that has your name and address.

### Bonus Suggestions

- Bring a copy of this "Tips for Voters" sheet to the poll.
- Go to the poll with two or three friends. This will discourage intimidators.
- Bring a cell phone and/or camera. **Caution:** if you use one in the polling place without the judges' permission, they may eject you from the polling place.
- If your polling place serves more than one precinct, make sure to use only your own precinct's judges, ballots, voting booths, and machines.
- If your precinct is split into different legislative districts, be sure you get the right ballot for your district.
- If voting on a touch-screen, *be sure to carefully verify the paper printout of your votes!*
- **Consider serving as a judge or pollwatcher!** To apply, contact the Board of Elections, or your local political or fair-elections organization.

### Additional Resources

#### **Chicago Pollwatcher's Toolkit**

<http://ballot-integrity.org/pollwatcher-toolkit-chicago.pdf>

#### **More tools for voters and pollwatchers**

<http://ballot-integrity.org>

#### **Illinois Voter Information**

<http://www.elections.il.gov/infoforvoters.aspx>

#### **Election Judges: Their Duties and Responsibilities**

<http://www.elections.il.gov/downloads/electioninformation/pdf/electionjudges.pdf>

#### **Pollwatchers: Their Rights and Limitations**

<http://www.elections.il.gov/downloads/electioninformation/pdf/pollwtch.pdf>



## **ILLINOIS BALLOT INTEGRITY PROJECT**

***Make Every Vote Count . . . Count Every Vote***

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