

## **WHAT IS GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION?**

Although the traditional voter registration period closes 28 days prior to the election, Illinois residents may register in-person at the office of their election authority. The grace period for registration is the 27th to the 7th day prior to the election. An election authority is either a county clerk or a Board of Election Commissioners.

## **WHEN CAN PEOPLE REGISTER TO VOTE?**

Regular registration is open year round except: During the 27-day period just prior to an election and during the 2-day period after each election (1 day after in Chicago)

## **WHEN ARE THE ELECTIONS?**

In even-numbered years, the general election is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November; the general primary election is held on the third Tuesday in March.

In odd-numbered years, the consolidated election is held on the first Tuesday in April (this date may be subject to change for Passover). The consolidated primary election is held on the last Tuesday in February.

## **WHERE CAN PEOPLE REGISTER DURING THE GRACE PERIOD?**

During the grace period, people can register only at the office of the election authority or at a voter registration location specifically designated for this purpose by the election authority.

## **CAN I CHANGE MY REGISTRATION ADDRESS DURING GRACE PERIOD?**

Yes. A registered voter may submit a change of address form, in person in the office of the election authority or at a voter registration location specifically designated for this purpose by the election authority.

## **WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW TO REGISTER?**

The requirements are: U.S. citizenship; at least 18 years of age by Election Day; and resident of the precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day. Identification is required.

## **WHERE CAN I CHECK TO SEE IF I AM REGISTERED?**

Illinois residents can check with their election authority or go online at [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov). Go to "Voting and Elections" and then, click "Am I Registered" at the top of the page. Follow the prompts.

## **CAN PEOPLE WHO REGISTER DURING THE GRACE PERIOD VOTE ON ELECTION DAY?**

No. A voter who registers or changes address during this grace period may not vote on Election Day. Such a voter may only vote in that next upcoming election during the grace period, either in person in the office of the election authority (or at a location specifically designated for this purpose by the election authority) or by mail (offering grace period voting by mail is done at the discretion of the election authority).

## **IS GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION NEW?**

No, but the deadline is fairly new. A recent state law, Public Act 96-0441, extended the deadline one week, until the 7<sup>th</sup> day before the election. The grace period was first established for the 2006 General Primary election.

## **WHAT IS EARLY VOTING?**

Registered voters may cast a ballot prior to Election Day without having to provide a reason for wanting to vote early. This ballot is cast by personal appearance at the office of the election authority or at an Early Voting Center.

## **HOW EARLY CAN PEOPLE VOTE?**

Registered voters can vote in person during the 22nd day through the 5th day preceding an election.

## **CAN I VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL WITHOUT GIVING AN EXCUSE?**

Yes. A new state law, Public Act 96-0553, allows a registered voter to request and vote an absentee ballot without specifying a reason for being absent from the polling place on Election Day. Persons who desire an absentee ballot should contact their election authority for an application.

## **WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT?**

Registered voters can make application by mail or in person 40 days before an election.



For more information on early voting, absentee voting, grace period registration or other election laws and procedures, contact your election authority or visit the Board's website: [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov)

# GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION

## THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

A primary goal of the State Board of Elections is to help bring about greater understanding and participation in the electoral process.

The State Board of Elections is an independent state agency charged with the responsibility of having general supervision over the administration of election laws of the State.

The State Board works closely with election authorities in all regions of the State.

Elections are administered locally by the State's 110 election authorities. These are the county clerks in 101 counties, one county election commission and eight municipal election commissions.

As part of their many responsibilities, election authorities conduct local voter registration programs, train election judges, find polling places, prepare ballots, oversee Election Day activities and supervise the vote count at the local level.

State Board of Elections  
1020 South Spring Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704  
217/782-4141  
TDD 217/782-1518

100 West Randolph, Suite 14-100  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
312/814-6440  
TDD 312/814-6431

Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois  
[www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov)

Revised 1/20/11



This pamphlet provides information regarding a new state law on grace period registration and voting, plus information on early voting and no-excuse absentee voting.