



# STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**ALBERT S. PORTER**  
*Chairman*

**BRYAN A. SCHNEIDER**  
*Vice Chairman*

**DANIEL W. WHITE**  
*Executive Director*

---

## ELECTION NEWS

## ELECTION NEWS

## ELECTION NEWS

---

100 W. Randolph Street  
Suite 14-100  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
312/814-6440  
312/814-6431 (TDD)

1020 S. Spring Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704  
217/782-4141  
217/782-1518 (TDD)  
[www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: DANIEL W. WHITE  
(312)814-6440

### **REGISTRATION RECORD; EARLY VOTING CENTERS OPEN**

**SPRINGFIELD, IL, Oct. 14, 2008** – In at least one Illinois county, registered voters may cast a ballot at an early voting center located at a shopping mall. In another county, an early voting center is located in a bank and in a “Votemobile” that travels around the county.

Each of the 102 counties across the state has at least one location designated as an early voter center. Although the hours of operation for each location may vary somewhat, every county has an early voting center that remains open through Thursday, Oct. 30. Election Day is Nov. 4. Many of the less populated counties have just one location for early voting, and that is the county clerk’s office. Some of the larger counties have a dozen or more early voting locations while Will County has nearly 70 and Cook County (Chicago included) has nearly 100. The vast majority of early voting centers are located in government buildings.

Each of the state’s 110 election authorities has announced the locations and hours of operations for their early voting centers. The information often is available on the county’s website.

Although absentee voting laws remain in place, the early voting law allows a registered voter to cast a ballot at an early voting center without having to give a reason or an excuse for wanting to vote early.

“Approximately 220,000 people cast ballots at early voting centers in the Illinois primary, and, counting absentee ballots, nearly 11 percent of the primary vote was cast prior to Election Day,” said Daniel W. White, executive director of the State Board of Elections.

- more -

White also said voter registration is at an all-time high for Illinois. According to the state's centralized voter registration database, 7,511,593 people are registered to vote.

The early voting law, which was approved by the Illinois General Assembly after the 2004 Presidential election, requires voters casting a ballot at an early voting center to display valid identification such as a current driver's license, a state-issued ID card or another government issued-ID with a photograph. The requirement of photo identification for an early voter is stricter than other identification requirements for people casting a ballot at their polling place on Election Day.

State law prohibits a person who voted at an early voting center from voting again on Election Day. The votes cast at early voting centers are not counted until Election Day.

Another new law since the last Presidential election creates a "grace period" for voter registration. Under the law, people may register at the office of their election authority until Oct. 21.

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

For more information on early voting 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)

# # #