

**STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

2329 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, Illinois 62704-4503
217/782-4141
Fax: 217/782-5959

James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph St., Ste. 14-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601-3232
312/814-6440
Fax: 312/814-6485



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Steven S. Sandvoss**

BOARD MEMBERS
William J. Cadigan, Chairman
John R. Keith, Vice Chairman
Andrew K. Carruthers
Ian K. Linnabary
William M. McGuffage
Katherine S. O'Brien
Charles W. Scholz
Casandra B. Watson

OCT. 31, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORE INFORMATION: Matt Dietrich
(217) 558-1955/mdietrich@elections.il.gov

EARLY VOTING IN ILLINOIS ECLIPSES 2014, REGISTERED VOTER TOTAL HIGHER THAN 2016

SPRINGFIELD – Early voting for the Nov. 6 midterm election has surpassed the number of early votes cast in the 2014 midterm and could reach the total cast in the 2016 election, according to data from the Illinois State Board of Elections.

Nearly 840,000 votes had been cast across the state as of late Wednesday afternoon, with five days of early voting remaining. The current early vote count surpasses the 791,000 total early votes cast in the 2014 election and is well above the 636,000 early votes cast at this point in the 2014 election cycle. In 2016, 1.013 million early votes had been cast with five days of early voting left.

Some 456,000 of this year's early votes were cast in the past week. Early voting totals include votes cast at early voting sites and vote-by-mail ballots.

"This year's early voting totals are especially noteworthy because they are almost keeping pace with figures from the last presidential election," said Illinois State Board of Elections spokesman Matt Dietrich. "Voter turnout for presidential elections in Illinois typically is much higher than for midterms."

In recent years, turnout for presidential elections has consistently been around 70 percent while midterm turnout generally is around 50 percent, Dietrich said. In 2016, Illinois recorded a total of 1.9 million early votes cast either at early voting polling places or by mail.

Illinois also currently has its highest count of registered voters in the last three statewide elections. The current 8.041 million registered voters tops the 8.029 million total registered voters in 2016 and is considerably higher than the 7.483 million registered voters for the 2014 midterms.

Whether the increased number of registered voters and early voters translates to higher voter turnout overall won't be known until after the polls close on Election Day, Dietrich said.

"We won't know if the higher number of registered voters indicates heightened interest in the election until we see how many of them actually vote, either through early voting or on Nov. 6," Dietrich said. "Likewise, even a record number of early votes could be offset by a drop in Election Day voting."

Voters who wish to vote early should contact their local election authority for locations and hours of early voting. Unregistered voters may register at early voting sites and at polling places on Election Day. Those wishing to register when they vote must bring two pieces of identification confirming identity and residence.

For a list of early voting sites throughout Illinois, visit

<https://www.elections.il.gov/VotingInformation/EarlyVotingLocations.aspx>

Voters can find contact information for their local election authority at

<https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionAuthorities/ElecAuthorityList.aspx>

Those unsure of their registration status or the location of their Election Day polling place can check at

<https://ova.elections.il.gov/RegistrationLookup.aspx>

Updated early voting totals can be found at <https://elections.il.gov/PreElectionCounts.aspx>

Voter registration counts are at <https://elections.il.gov/RegistrationCounts.aspx>

###