

# ELECTIONS 101

## ELECTIONS 101 DEKALB COUNTY, ILLINOIS



Tasha Sims | DeKalb County Clerk & Recorder | June 12, 2024

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## Introduction

A lack of understanding about the election process has created a vacuum that can be exploited by those seeking to undermine and cast doubt on the system. Without proactive and innovative efforts to address this gap, conspiracy theories will persist, eroding public confidence and threatening the foundation of our democracy.

As DeKalb County Clerk & Recorder and the County's Chief Election Authority, I prioritize communicating our office's commitment to integrity and transparency in elections.

This guide outlines the election administration process in DeKalb County, emphasizing key procedures, adherence to state laws, and ongoing improvements. It aims to inform the County Board and the public about our dedication to ensuring fair, accurate, and efficient elections.

## Overview of Illinois Elections

In Illinois, elections are managed locally by the state's 108 Election Authorities, comprising County Clerks in 101 counties, one County Election Commission, and six Municipal Election Commissions. Their responsibilities include managing local voter registration programs, recruiting and training election judges, selecting polling places, printing ballots, overseeing Election Day activities, and supervising the local vote count.

In Illinois, various types of elections are held to elect officials at different levels of government and to decide on issues affecting the state and local communities. Here are the primary types of elections in Illinois:

1. **General Elections:** These are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years. General Elections include races for federal offices (such as President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives), state offices (including Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, etc.), and local offices (such as countywide officials and county board members).
2. **Primary Elections:** Illinois conducts Primary Elections to nominate candidates who will represent their respective parties (Democratic, Republican, etc.) in the General Election. Primary Elections are typically held on the third Tuesday in March of even-numbered years. Voters choose their preferred candidates for various offices, including federal, state, and local positions, from within their political party. Precinct Committeepersons are elected in the even-year Primary Elections and serve a two-year term.
3. **Consolidated Elections:** Consolidated Elections occur on the first Tuesday of April during every odd year in Illinois. During the Consolidated Election, citizens have the opportunity to vote for township officials, alderpersons, mayors, school boards, park boards and other local elected officials.
4. **Special Elections:** Special Elections may be held at any time during the year to fill vacancies in elected offices. These elections are called to fill unexpired terms due to resignations, deaths, or other reasons. Special Elections can occur at the federal, state, or local level, depending on the vacant office.
5. **Judicial Elections:** Illinois voters also elect judges to serve on various courts, including circuit courts, appellate courts, and the state supreme court. Judicial Elections may occur alongside General Elections or at other times, depending on the specific court and its jurisdiction.

6. **Referendums and Ballot Measures:** In addition to candidate elections, Illinois voters may also decide on various referendums and ballot measures. These can include proposed changes to the state constitution, local ordinances, bond measures, tax levies, and other policy issues.

Each type of election serves to fulfill different aspects of democratic governance, allowing citizens to participate in the selection of their representatives and the decision-making process on important issues affecting their communities and the state as a whole.

## Voter Registration

- **Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible to vote, you must be:

- A US citizen
- At least 18 years of age by Election Day
  - 17-year-olds may vote in a General Primary if they will be 18 by the following General Election
  - 16-year-olds may pre-register to vote so they may start voting as soon as they turn 18
- Have been a resident of the precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day
- Not be serving a sentence of confinement in any penal institution as a result of any conviction
- Not be registered to vote elsewhere

- **Identification Needed**

Two forms of identification with at least one showing your current residence address are needed when you register in-person. If you register by mail, sufficient proof of identity is required by submission of your driver's license number or State identification card number. If you do not have either of those, verification by the last 4 digits of your social security number, a copy of a current and valid photo identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document that shows your name and address will be required. A person may also demonstrate sufficient proof of identity by submission of an identification card issued by a college or university accompanied by either a copy of the applicant's contract or lease for a residence or any postmarked mail delivered to the applicant at their current residence address.

- **Registration Methods**

Registering to vote has never been easier or more convenient. You can register online, in person or you can download registration forms and register through the mail. Below you can find information for each of the ways to register during the standard voter registration period.

1. **Online Registration:** If you have an Illinois driver's license or state ID, you may register online through the Illinois State Board of Elections website: <https://ova.elections.il.gov/>
2. **In-person Registration:** You may register to vote at the Office of the DeKalb County Clerk & Recorder, libraries and most municipalities in DeKalb County. You can register to vote when you obtain or renew your driver's license or state identification card at any of the Illinois Secretary of State's driver's license facilities. Registration is also available at other state government offices, including public assistance offices and military recruitment offices. For information on a Deputy Registrar nearest you, please contact our office at 815-895-7147.

3. **Mail:** Under Federal law, citizens may apply to register to vote by mailing in an application. The applications are available at the County Clerk & Recorder's Office and on the Clerk's website. Applications can also be downloaded from the Illinois State Board of Election's website. When you apply for registration using the mail-in form, it must be postmarked prior to the close of registration. If you do not provide the necessary identification with your mail-in form, you must vote in-person the first time.

*~ Your registration is permanent unless you move or change your name. ~*

- **Deadlines**

Regular registration is open year-round except during the 27-day period just prior to an election, 16 days prior to the election for online registration, and during the 2-day period after each election. Grace period registration is an extension of the regular registration deadline from the 27th day prior to an election through Election Day.

*If you miss both voter registration deadlines, you may still register to vote during the Grace Period or on Election Day.*

1. **Grace Period Registration During Early Voting:** Early Voting extends the registration period by allowing voters to register and vote until the Monday before an election. Guidelines limit when and where Early Voting registrants can vote – during the Early Voting period, voters must register and vote in person at one of the Clerk's designated Early Voting locations.

Individuals wishing to vote during the Early Voting must bring two pieces of identification to register, one with a current address. Registrants must immediately cast their ballot after registering to vote.

2. **Election Day Registration:** On Election Day, voters who are not registered to vote can register and vote at their home precinct or at the County-wide Registration and Vote Center in Sycamore. Any voter who is not registered and needs to know where to go to register and vote on Election Day can utilize the Clerk's online [Find My Polling Location](#) to find their proper polling place by address or DeKalb County's [Voter Information Portal](#). Voters planning on registering to vote or updating their address on Election Day must bring two pieces of identification to register, one with a current address.

You may check to see if you are registered to vote through the State Board of Elections website: <https://ova.elections.il.gov/RegistrationLookup.aspx>. A voter identification card is mailed to every voter once their registration is completed by our office. This card serves as your proof that you are a registered voter and includes information such as your polling place, precinct and all jurisdictions in which you are entitled to vote. If you have misplaced your card or are not sure if you ever received one, you may call the Election Office at 815-895-7147 to request a replacement card.



# Voter Registration Data Management

DeKalb County employs a robust and integrated system to manage voter registration and election data, utilizing both technological solutions and manual processes to ensure the accuracy and security of voter rolls. This system is designed to handle daily updates, manage inter-county transfers, remove deceased individuals, and process notifications from the Illinois State Board of Elections efficiently.

- **Illinois Voter Registration System (IVRS)**

**Responsibility:** The Illinois State Board of Elections Division of Voting and Registration Systems oversees the statewide Illinois Voter Registration System (IVRS).

**Federal Requirement:** IVRS is mandated by the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA).

- **DeKalb County Voter Registration and Election Management**

**Vendor:** Platinum Technology Resource, LLC, has been the vendor since September 2021.

**Integration:** Platinum's voter registration system integrates with IVRS.

**Data Management:** The system maintains all voter data, election races, precincts, candidates, ballot styles, and Vote By Mail management.

- **Data Updates and Security**

**Daily Updates:** Voter registration rolls are updated daily via a secure fiber optic line from IVRS to PlatinumVRMS software.

**Sources:** Registrations come from the Secretary of State, online applications, and other state government offices.

**Inter-County Transfers:** IVRS manages transfers between counties, notifying DeKalb County to update and cancel registrations as needed.

- **Maintenance of Voter Rolls**

**Deceased Voters:** Monthly updates from the Illinois Department of Public Health to remove deceased individuals.

\*Clerk Staff additionally performs manual weekly reviews of county death records and local obituaries against voter registration data and the Permanent Vote By Mail list.

**Incomplete Information:** If identifying information (birth date, driver's license number, last 4 digits of social security number) is missing, IVRS cannot update the status of deceased individuals or changes of address.

- **Corrections Notifications**

**Convicted Individuals:** Notices from the Illinois Department of Corrections are transmitted through IVRS to cancel registrations of individuals currently incarcerated.

- **Voting Rights**

**Restoration:** Voting rights are restored immediately upon release from incarceration for felony or misdemeanor convictions.

**Non-Restriction:** Voting rights are not affected by pretrial detention, misdemeanors, probation, or parole.

- **Manual Registrations**

**Paper Applications:** Scanned and manually entered into the PlatinumVRMS software.

- **Cancellation of Voter Registration**

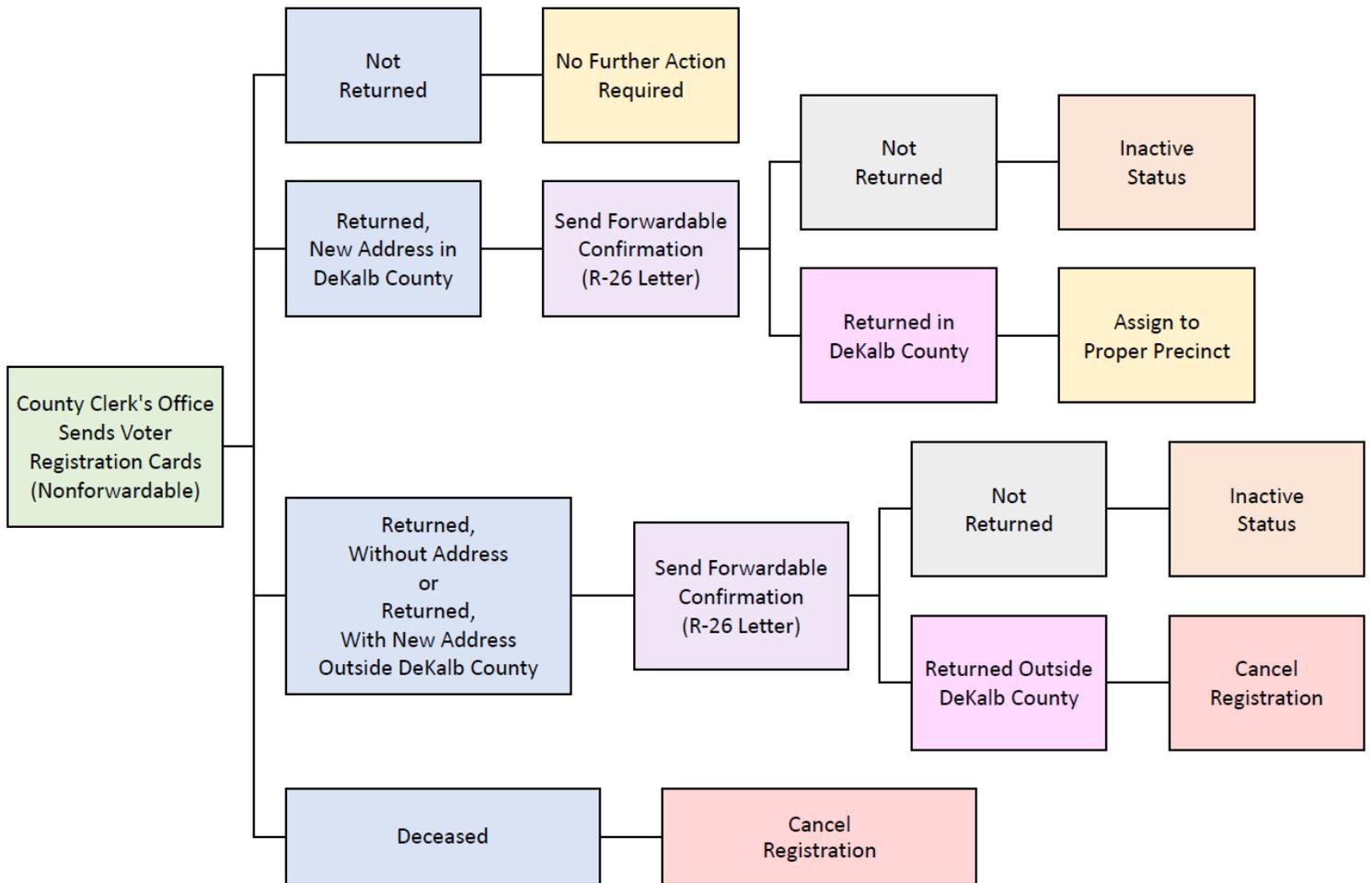
**Methods:**

**Email:** Requests can be emailed to elections@dekalbcounty.org with the name, address, and birthdate.

**Voter Information Card:** Updated information can be filled out on the back of the card and mailed.

**Letter:** A cancellation letter including the name, address, and birthdate can be mailed to the office.

## DeKalb County, Illinois Voter Registration File Maintenance Program



## Candidate Filing

Prospective candidates can download petition packets for County Offices, County Board, and Precinct Committeeperson from the County Clerk's website when available.

Filing materials for Consolidated Elections (except for School Districts) can be obtained from and filed with the relevant Unit of Government for the desired office.

Candidates for all federal, state, and judicial offices must file with the State Board of Elections.

The process for candidate filing with the County Clerk involves several key steps that ensure candidates meet all legal requirements to run for office.

- **Determine Eligibility and Office Requirements:**
  - Before filing, candidates must ensure they meet the eligibility criteria for the office they seek. This includes age, residency, and other specific qualifications.
  - Candidates should also be aware of the specific requirements for the office, such as the number of signatures needed on the nomination petition.
- **Gather Necessary Forms and Documents:**
  - **Statement of Candidacy:** This form declares the candidate's intent to run for a specific office and includes personal details and the office being sought.
  - **Nomination Petitions:** These are signed by registered voters in the candidate's district. The number of required signatures varies by office and is stipulated by state law.
  - **Loyalty Oath (Optional):** Although optional, many candidates choose to file a Loyalty Oath, affirming their allegiance to the United States and the State of Illinois.
  - **Statement of Economic Interests:** This form, required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act, discloses financial interests and potential conflicts of interest. A receipt indicating filing of this statement with the appropriate office must be included with the candidate's filing papers.
  - **Certificate of Deletions:** If applicable, candidates must also submit a Certificate of Deletions to account for any signatures removed from their petitions.
- **Filing the Candidacy Papers:**
  - Candidates must file their completed paperwork with the County Clerk's Office (or the appropriate Unit of Government for Consolidated Elections) within the designated filing period, which typically occurs several months before the election.
  - The filing period is strictly enforced. Papers must be filed in person or by mail, with submissions via mail required to be received by the close of the filing period.
  - Upon submission, Deputy Clerks review the paperwork to ensure all forms are correctly completed and the necessary signatures are valid.
- **Receipt of Filing:**
  - After successfully filing, the candidate receives a receipt from the County Clerk, confirming the submission of their candidacy documents.
  - This receipt serves as proof of filing and may be needed if any challenges to the candidacy arise.

- **Review and Challenge Period:**
  - Following the filing period, there is a designated period during which the validity of a candidate’s filing can be challenged. This might include objections to petition signatures or the candidate’s eligibility.
  - Challenges are reviewed by an Electoral Board, which holds hearings to determine the validity of the objections.
- **Ballot Placement:**
  - Once the review and challenge period conclude and any issues are resolved, the County Clerk finalizes the list of candidates who will appear on the ballot.
  - The order in which candidates appear on the ballot is typically determined by a lottery if multiple candidates file simultaneously.
- **Campaign Finance Compliance:**
  - Candidates must comply with campaign finance laws, including registering their campaign committee with the Illinois State Board of Elections and regularly filing financial disclosure reports.

## Creating the Election Definition in DeKalb County

Once petitions have been received, the following steps are undertaken to ensure accurate and secure ballot creation and election management:

- **Data Entry:**
  - Candidate and/or referenda information from the petitions is entered into the Election Management Software (EMS).
- **Ballot Coding:**
  - The entered data is sent to the vendor, Election Systems & Software (ES&S), to begin coding the ballot.
- **Proofing:**
  - Multiple rounds of proofing are conducted to ensure accuracy. This includes:
    - Verifying that all voting districts are correctly associated with the appropriate ballot styles.
    - Checking for spelling and grammatical errors.
    - Confirming the “Vote For” instructions and terms of office are correct.
- **Exporting and Securing Data:**
  - Once the election is defined and the ballot created, the raw data is exported from a multi-factor secured site (similar to Dropbox) onto an encrypted USB flash drive.
- **Importing to Electionware PC:**
  - The encrypted USB flash drive is then imported into the hardened Electionware PC. This computer is not connected to the internet, ensuring added security.
  - This PC is responsible for creating the media used in every DS200 tabulator.
- **DS200 Tabulator Preparation:**
  - Each DS200 tabulator receives its own encrypted USB flash drive, specific to its location.
  - The flash drives are configured to read the ballots and capture write-in images, thus providing the election results for each precinct.

# Early Voting

Early Voting is a procedure implemented in Illinois for the first time at the 2006 General Primary Election, allowing registered voters to vote in person, in advance of Election Day without providing a reason or an excuse. Here's how Early Voting works in Illinois, with specific details for DeKalb County:

- **General Overview**

- **Purpose:** Early Voting ensures a more accessible and efficient voting process by allowing voters to cast their ballots ahead of Election Day.
- **Eligibility:** Available to all registered voters without needing to provide a reason.
- **Timeframe:** Early Voting begins on the 40th day before the election and continues through the day prior to Election Day.
- **Locations:** Voting can only be done at specific locations determined by the Election Authority.

- **Early Voting in DeKalb County**

- **Main Location:** DeKalb County Legislative Center's Gathertorium, 200 N. Main St., Sycamore, IL
- **Satellite Sites:** Two weeks before Election Day, four additional satellite sites open throughout DeKalb County to provide more accessible voting options.
  - Kingston Friendship Center – 120 Main St., Kingston, IL
  - DeKalb Township Building – 2323 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St., DeKalb, IL
  - NIU-Holmes Student Center, Gallery Lounge – 340 Carroll Ave., DeKalb, IL
  - Sandwich Library – 925 S. Main St., Sandwich, IL
- **Extended Hours:** As Election Day approaches, Early Voting Sites offer extended hours, including weekends, to accommodate voters' schedules.



- **Process**

- **Early Voting Judges:** Early Voting Judges are provided with additional special training for Early Voting procedures, including Grace Registration. They also serve as the Computer Judges for Election Day Registration. Early Voting Judges check in voters, verify their eligibility, and provide them with the appropriate ballot.
- **Voting Equipment:** The same voting equipment used on Election Day is used during Early Voting.
- **Vote Counting:** Votes cast during the early voting period are securely stored and not counted until after the polls close on Election Day.
- **Finality of Vote:** Once a voter casts an early ballot, the vote is final and cannot be revoked. The voter cannot vote again on Election Day.

*All Early Voting Sites are available to ALL DeKalb County Voters, regardless of where you live.*

- **Benefits**

- **Convenience:** Early Voting allows voters to choose a time that fits their schedule, avoiding potential conflicts or long lines on Election Day.



## Vote By Mail

Vote By Mail (VBM) in DeKalb County provides a convenient way for registered voters to cast their ballots without needing to visit an Early Voting site or a polling place on Election Day. The process is made easier with the implementation of a permanent VBM request list, allowing voters to receive ballots for every election they are eligible for after a one-time request.

- **Permanent Vote by Mail Request List**
  - **Establishment:** In Spring 2021, Public Act 102-0015 created a permanent VBM request list in Illinois.
  - **One-Time Request:** Voters only need to request a VBM ballot once. After this, they will automatically receive a VBM ballot for each eligible election unless they move, pass away, or request removal from the list.
  - **Single Election Option:** Voters can still choose to request a VBM ballot for a single election if they prefer not to join the permanent list.
- **Application Process**
  - **Submission Timing:** VBM applications are accepted anytime, but can only be processed between 90 days and 5 days before an election.
  - **How to Apply:** Applications can be submitted online, by mail, or in person at the DeKalb County Clerk's Office.
- **Completing the Ballot**
  - **Assistance:** If you need assistance in completing your ballot, ensure the Certification Statement area is filled out by both the voter and the individual providing assistance. Assistance cannot be provided by employers, union agents, or candidates.
  - **Reading the Ballot:** Carefully review the ballot instructions, noting the offices, candidates, number to be elected, and any propositions. Check both sides of the ballot if applicable.
  - **Marking the Ballot:**
    - Use a black ballpoint pen to darken the oval next to your choices.
    - Select candidates and propositions according to the instructions.
    - Avoid making any identifying marks on the ballot.
    - If you make a mistake, request a new ballot from the County Clerk's Office or bring the spoiled ballot to your polling place on Election Day for a replacement.
- **Returning the Voted Ballot**
  - **Certification:** Complete and SIGN the Certification Statement.
  - **Enveloping:** Place the completed ballot into the Certification Statement envelope and seal it.
  - **Return Envelope:** Insert the sealed Certification Statement envelope into the return envelope.

- **Delivery Options**

- **By Mail:** Mail your ballot with sufficient postage. It must be postmarked by Election Day and received by the Election Authority within 14 days after Election Day.
- **In Person:** Deliver your ballot to the County Clerk's Office – 110 E. Sycamore St., Sycamore, IL. It can be delivered by you, an authorized person, or a licensed motor carrier by 7:00 PM on Election Night.
- **Authorization to Deliver:** If someone else delivers your ballot, they must fill out the Authorization to Deliver form on the back of the return envelope, signed by both you and the deliverer.

## Processing Vote By Mail Ballots in DeKalb County

Processing Vote By Mail (VBM) ballots in DeKalb County follows a structured procedure to ensure accurate and secure counting. Ballots are stored in their Certification Statement envelopes and locked in the Election Division until weekly processing begins. This takes place in the G.H. Hill Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the Administration Building. A bipartisan team of Election Judges from both major parties oversees the process, ensuring fairness and adherence to strict criteria and procedural guidelines.

- **Criteria for Counting VBM Ballots**

- **Postmarked on or before Election Day:** The ballot must have a postmark on or before Election Day.
- **Received within 14 days after Election Day:** The ballot must be received by the County Clerk's Office no later than 14 days after Election Day.
- **Certification Statement:** The Certification Statement must be signed and the envelope sealed.

- **Detailed Processing Steps**

1. **Print List of Received Ballots:**
  - The Chief Deputy generates a list of all VBM ballots that have been received, scanned, and are ready for processing.
2. **Opening and Initial Verification:**
  - **1st Election Judge (EJ):** Opens the Certification Statement envelope and checks off the voter's name on the printed list.
  - **2nd & 3rd EJs:** Verify the voter's signature on the computer against the records.
  - **3rd EJ:** Also checks for any write-in candidates and deposits the ballot into the tabulator.
  - **4th EJ:** Assists with depositing ballots, alphabetizes the envelopes, and files them accordingly.
3. **Logging:**
  - A log of the machine's activity is recorded at the start and conclusion of each processing session to maintain precise records.

- **Handling Signature Issues and Rejections**

- **Criteria for Rejection:**

- **Unsigned Envelope:** If the Certification Statement envelope is not signed.
- **Signature Mismatch:** If the signature does not match the one on file.

- **Rejection Procedure:**

- Fill out the rejection form.
- The rejection form must be signed by three judges.
- Return the rejected ballot and a letter explaining the rejection to the Election Office.
- Send the voter a letter detailing the reason for rejection and the necessary documents to rectify the issue.
- Update the voter's status to "Rejected" in PlatinumVRMS, noting the reason.

- **Storage of Rejected Ballots:**

- Rejected ballots are kept locked in the Election Division to maintain security.

- **Handling Rectified Ballots**

- **Processing Rectified Letters:**

- When rectified VBM letters are returned, scan the new document.
- Clip the signature to the record.
- Change the status to "Re-Accepted" in the system.
- Update the return date and place the ballot in the box to be re-processed.

- **Canceling a VBM to Vote In Person**

If a voter wishes to vote in person instead of by mail, they should bring their VBM ballot to their polling place. Upon arrival, they will surrender the VBM ballot to the election judge, who will mark it as "spoiled." If the voter does not have their VBM ballot, they must fill out a Voter Affidavit. The election judges will then contact the Election Office to cancel the VBM ballot in the system before issuing the voter a new ballot to vote in person. This process ensures that the voter can only vote once.

- **Vote by Mail Voters Who Require Assistance**

If you are physically unable to mark the ballot or unable to read or write the English language, a relative or friend may assist you in voting. Federal and State laws prohibit your employer, your employer's agent or an officer or agent of your union from assisting physically disabled voters. State law prohibits a candidate whose name appears on the ballot (unless the physically disabled voter is the spouse, parent, child, brother or sister of the candidate) from assisting a physically disabled voter.

The person assisting **MUST** mark the ballot as directed by the voter. Individuals who make any attempt to influence the voter's choice of candidates, party or votes in relation to a public question, or the mark the ballot other than as directed by the voter may be guilty of a Class 4 felony. If the person assisting cannot tell the voter's intent, they must not mark the ballot in anyway or subsequently divulge the candidate(s) or public questions for whom the voter chose to cast a vote for or against.

If the voter receives assistance in voting his VBM ballot, the name and address of the person giving assistance must be placed on the ballot certification envelope.

By adhering to these detailed steps, DeKalb County ensures that the processing of Vote By Mail ballots is thorough, secure, and compliant with all legal requirements.

## Additional Types of Voting

In addition to Early Voting, Vote By Mail, and Election Day voting, Illinois offers the following voting methods:

1. **Grace Period Voting:**
  - Available for individuals who missed the regular voter registration deadline.
  - Voters can register and vote simultaneously during the grace period, which begins the day after the registration deadline and extends through Election Day.
  - Grace Period Voting can be done at any of the DeKalb County Early Voting locations.
2. **Provisional Voting:**
  - For voters whose eligibility is in question or whose names do not appear on the voter rolls at their polling place.
  - Provisional ballots are used to ensure that every eligible voter has the opportunity to vote, even if there are issues that need to be resolved.
  - Provisional ballots are kept separate and reviewed after Election Day to determine if they are valid and should be counted.
3. **Military and Overseas Voting:**
  - Available for Illinois residents who are active-duty military members, their families, and citizens living abroad.
  - Voters can use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to register to vote and request an absentee ballot.
  - The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) serves as a backup ballot if the regular absentee ballot does not arrive in time.
4. **Curbside Voting:**
  - Offered to voters who are physically unable to enter the polling place.
  - Voters can stay in their vehicle, and election judges will bring a ballot to them.
  - Available at all early voting sites and polling places on Election Day.
5. **Hospital/Nursing Home/Rehabilitation Center Voting:**
  - Special provisions for voters residing in hospitals, nursing homes, or rehabilitation centers.
  - Election judges visit these facilities before Election Day to assist residents in casting their ballots.
  - Ensures that individuals who are unable to leave these facilities can still participate in the election.
6. **Disabled Voter Program:**
  - Provides additional support to voters with disabilities.
  - Includes accessible voting equipment at polling places and the option to request assistance from election judges.
  - Voters can also request to vote curbside if they are unable to enter the polling place.
  - Ensures that all polling places are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide a barrier-free voting experience.

These additional voting options in DeKalb County are designed to ensure accessibility and convenience for all eligible voters, accommodating various needs and circumstances.



## Pre-Election Preparations

- Book all County Conference Rooms needed for elections.
  - Prepare press releases for Notice of Petition Availability and Filing Dates.
  - Review (10 ILCS 5/) Illinois Election Code for any new legislation.
  - Obtain and review the State Board of Election's Election Calendars and Guides.
- **3-5 Months Before the Election**
    - Email Polling Places and Township Supervisors to ensure they have us on their calendars, verify that any contact information has not changed since the last election and send a copy of the election equipment delivery schedule.
    - Contact Blackhawk Moving & Storage, Inc. with the date of the election and confirm all Early Voting and Election Day equipment delivery schedules.
    - Confirm tasks and timelines with County Information Management Office (technology set-ups) and FMO Department (moving supplies/Election Night coordination).
    - Contact Early Voting Satellite Sites with schedule.
    - Set Election Judge, Early Voting Judge, Election Day Registration training dates.
    - Prepare Early Voting Judge work schedules.
    - Update [dekalbcountyclerkil.gov](http://dekalbcountyclerkil.gov) website with election dates and information.
  - **2 Months Before the Election**
    - Set up election in Platinum and begin working on ballot coding.
    - Email Early Voting Satellite Sites (Kingston Friendship Center, NIU, DeKalb Township, Sandwich Library) with reminder of set up and share Early Voting schedule for posting.
    - Prepare security carts for Early Voting equipment and supplies.
    - Send postcards to Deputy Registrars reminding them of the last day of registration.
    - Ballot prep through proofing.
    - Nursing Home voting preparation.
    - Update IVRS with Early Voting locations, dates and times.
    - Contact Facilities Management Office to change door codes to restrict access to Gathertorium and G.H. Hill Conference Room.
    - Review and determine ballot quantities.
    - Schedule election publications and DeKalb County Election Guides.
  - **1 Month Before the Election**
    - Begin packing Election Day supply bags.
    - Have Official Ballot Record forms printed.
    - Contact and schedule, as needed, Nursing Home Election Judges.
    - Have Write-In Tally forms printed.
    - Enter the names of the valid write-in candidates on the Tally Sheets.
    - Insert ballot styles and quantities on the Official Ballot Record forms.
    - Election Judge correspondences and Polling Place assignments begin.
    - Prepare voter application covers and labels.
    - Export election data from Electionware PC and upload it to IVRS.
    - Schedule Vote By Mail processing and post dates and times on website.
    - Contact Election Day Polling Places 2-3 weeks before the election to confirm pick-up and delivery of equipment.
    - Contact local Party Chairs for Election Night Receiving Judges.

- Plug in all of the Election Day registration laptops and Wi-Fi devices, as well as prep for supply pick-up.
  - Ensure all of the DS200s (poll place ballot scanner and vote tabulator) are charged and working properly.
  - Prepare Election Day Registration supply bags.
- **2 Weeks Before the Election**
    - Contact Facilities Management to: restrict access to Conference Room East, schedule date and time when they will move DS200s and supplies into Conference Room East, confirm who will be working on Election Night.
    - Print Specimen Ballots for Polling Places.
    - Print Election Day Ballots for locations that need small quantities.
    - Pack Ballots.
    - Schedule Election Night workers and Troubleshooters.
    - Finalize Election Judge Precinct Binders.
    - Enter equipment and precincts in IVRS.
    - Confirm with Platinum when they will extract data for Election Day Applications.
    - Lock and Load (on-site accuracy testing) of the ExpressVote (touch-screen ballot marking device) machines and the DS200 tabulators.
- **1 Week Before the Election**
    - Stamp "Already Voted" on Election Day Applications for those who have already voted early, following the printing of the voter application books.
    - Monday – Thursday: Facilities Management Staff move election supplies into Conference Room East.
    - Wednesday: Public Test (publicly testing the DS200s and comparing the results to Platinum's previous results).
    - Friday: Stage election equipment and supplies in precinct order in Conference Room East.
    - Saturday: Put voter application books (after stamping Friday's Early Voters) in supply suitcases. Print out lists for each precinct of Early, Vote By Mail, and Grace voters.
    - Prepare envelopes and forms for Election Night.
    - Sunday: Election Supply Pick Up – Election judges and/or Township Supervisors pick up the election equipment and supplies for their designated polling place.



# Election Day

Polling places are open continuously from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. DeKalb County has 39 polling places and 1 Vote Center. Voters are assigned to specific precincts and polling places based on their residential address.

- **Ballots**

- When available, registered voters can log on to DeKalb County's [Voter Information Portal](#) to preview and print a personalized sample ballot to be used as a reference.
- DeKalb County uses only paper ballots – preprinted or printed-on-demand in the polling places.
- In a Primary Election, you are required to declare a party before receiving a ballot. You may select any party, regardless of how you voted in the past.
- If you do not wish to declare a party in the primary and a public question is on your ballot, a nonpartisan ballot containing only the public question (no partisan candidates will be available).
- You do not have to vote every race.
- Vote for not more than the number of choices allowed in each race.
- Illinois election law requires the ballot counter to alert you if you do not cast a vote in each statewide constitutional office. You can choose to cast your ballot with the unvoted offices. All your other votes will be counted.
- If you voted early or by mail, you may not vote again on Election Day.
- No ballot may be retrieved or changed once it is placed in the ballot bin.
- If you have any questions about the correctness of your ballot, ask the election judges BEFORE you cast your ballot.

- **Preprinted Ballots**

Preprinted ballots are used in:

- All Election Day polling places.

Election judges will verify your identity, match your signature to your voter registration record, and issue a preprinted ballot.

Using the provided pen, completely fill in the oval next to your choices.

- **How to Vote on Paper Ballot**

- Read both sides of your ballot.
- Indicate your choices by filling in the oval next to your candidate's name.
- After you make all your selections, place your ballot inside the privacy sleeve leaving the election judge's initials uncovered and proceed to ballot counter.
- An election judge will verify your ballot bears another judge's initials.
- Place ballot in ballot counter.

- **Print-on-Demand Ballots**

Print-on-demand ballots are available to voters who utilize the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) ballot marking device, known as ExpressVote. It's important to note that the ExpressVote is accessible to all voters, regardless of ability, and we encourage everyone to use it.

- **How to Vote using a Print-on-Demand Ballot**

- Election judges will verify your identity, match your signature to your voter registration record, and issue an ExpressVote activation card.
- Insert the ExpressVote activation card into the ballot marking equipment, and the screen will show you your choices in each race.
- Select your candidates using the touch-screen features.

- After you finish making your choices, select the option to print your completed ballot.
- Your completed ballot will be returned so you may cast it in the ballot counter.
- Place your ballot inside the privacy sleeve.
- Place ballot in ballot counter.

- **Ballot Styles**

Boundaries for units of government, schools, parks, libraries, fire and water districts intersect and create many unique ballot style combinations. So, your ballot may be different than your neighbor's ballot and will list only the candidates and issues for the districts serving your address.

- **Electioneering**

At every polling place, an American Flag is placed 100 feet from the door of the room where voting occurs and marks the "No Electioneering" zone. In this area, voters, candidates, pollwatchers, or election judges cannot show support or opposition for candidates or questions on the ballot. This includes brochures, conversations, signs, clothing, hats, buttons, etc.

- **Is Identification Required?**

No, you do not provide identification if you are correctly registered with your current name and address and if your signature on the application at the time of voting matches the signature on your registration record.

You will be asked to provide identification if you:

- Registered by mail, did not provide identification at that time, and are voting for the first time.
- Used a different style handwriting on your ballot application than what is recorded on your voter registration record.
- Are marked as an inactive voter because of an address change or mail returned to the DeKalb County Clerk's Office by the U.S. Postal Service.
- Are updating your name and/or address or registering for the first time under Grace Registration.
- Are challenged in the polling place.

- **Voter's Bill of Rights**

You have the right to:

- Cast your ballot in a non-disruptive atmosphere free of interference.
- Vote if you're in line by 7 PM.
- Vote by provisional ballot if your registration is not found.
- Vote at your old voting site if you have moved within 30 days of the election.
- Request assistance in voting, if qualified.
- Bring newspaper endorsements or sample ballots into the voting booth but take them with you when you finish voting.
- Protect the secrecy of your ballot.
- Receive a new ballot if you make a mistake or change your mind.
- Screen your ballot after voting to ensure it is complete and correct.
- Have your ballot counted fairly and impartially.



- **Write-ins**

Your write-in votes will only count for candidates who have properly filed appropriate forms with the DeKalb County Clerk's Office.

# Election Night

On Election Night in DeKalb County, a meticulous process unfolds to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the election results. After the polls close, two election judges from each precinct, representing different parties, are tasked with returning vital supplies to the County’s Legislative Center in Sycamore. These supplies encompass a range of items, from voted ballots to essential documentation mandated by the State Board of Election.

Assisted by County Facilities Management Office staff and designated runners, the judges navigate the logistics of unloading supplies and are directed to the Legislative Center.

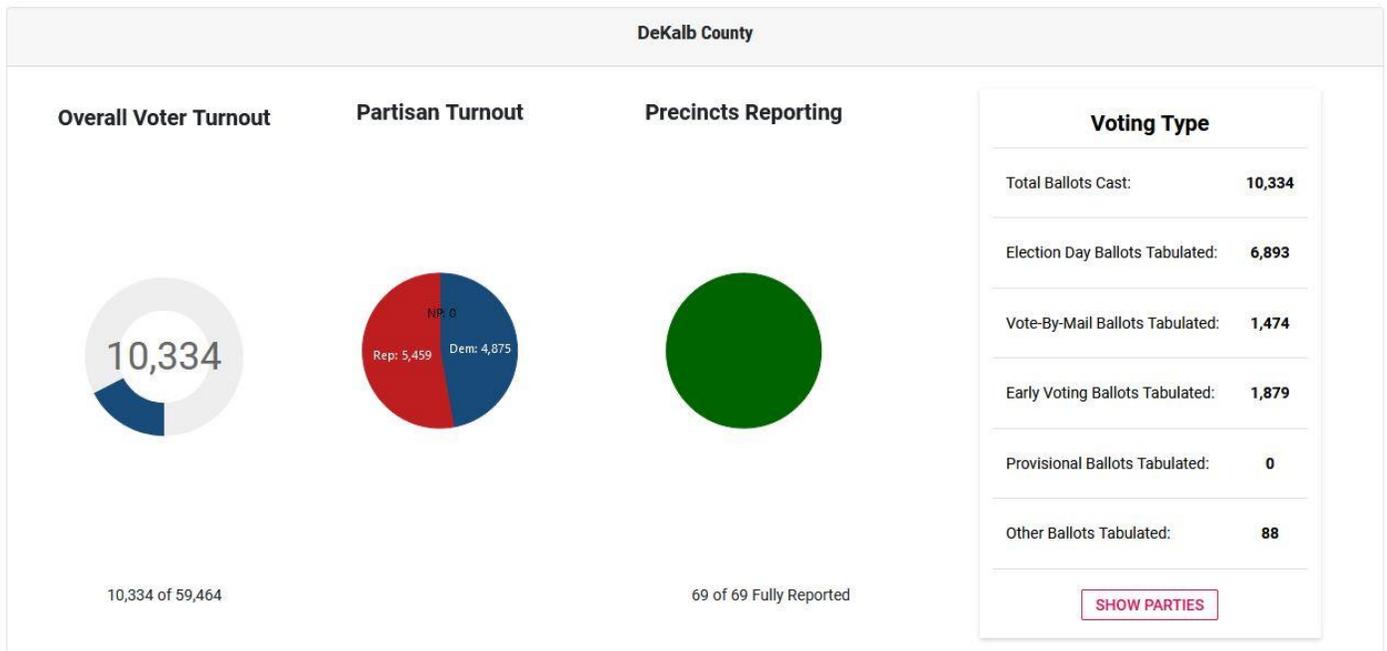
Following this initial step, judges proceed to the Gathertorium, where they submit their Expense Bills/Time Sheets and convene with party representatives. A bipartisan team of Receiving Judges oversee the check-in process for voted ballots, ensuring all requisite paperwork is completed and returned. Upon completion, judges are issued time-stamped receipts as confirmation. The voted ballots are securely stored, and the accompanying paperwork is meticulously filed with the County Clerk.

Throughout this process, County Staff and Receiving Judges remain vigilant until all precincts have completed their check-ins. Concurrently, trained staff record the arrival of DS200 machines, documenting the time and security tag code for each unit. The election definition media, stored on encrypted flash drives, is carefully removed and transported by designated runners to the Election Office. Here, it undergoes thorough logging procedures before being handed over to ES&S On-Site Support Specialists for uploading into the Electionware PC.

As the evening progresses, the focus shifts to ensuring the successful upload of Early Voting, Vote By Mail, and Election Day flash drives. As uploads occur, exports are created and promptly uploaded to the Election Reporting Console, providing transparent access to the public. This cycle continues until all polling places have reported to the Receiving Center, culminating in the comprehensive and transparent dissemination of unofficial election results for DeKalb County.

## VOTING SUMMARY

General Primary (03/19/2024) Official Results



## Post-Election

These post-election procedures, including the counting of VBM ballots postmarked on Election Day, mandated re-tabulation, and thorough canvassing, are essential components of the electoral process in Illinois. They serve to uphold the integrity, transparency, and accuracy of elections, ensuring that every vote is properly counted and that the outcome reflects the will of the electorate.

- **Counting Vote By Mail Ballots Postmarked on Election Day:**
  - Illinois allows for the counting of Vote By Mail (VBM) ballots that are postmarked on or before Election Day and received by the election authority within 14 days after the election.
  - Election officials meticulously verify the postmark date on each VBM ballot envelope to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements.
  - Once verified, these VBM ballots are processed and included in the overall tabulation of election results, contributing to the final outcome.
  
- **Additional Statutory Provision - 10 ILCS 5/1-9.2:**
  - Section 1-9.2 of the Illinois Election Code requires each Election Authority to post uncounted ballot information on their website within 48 hours after the closing of the polling locations on Election Day.
  - The information posted must include the number of ballots that remain uncounted, categorized by ballots cast on Election Day, Early Voting ballots, Provisional ballots, Vote By Mail ballots received but not counted, and VBM ballots sent but not returned.
  - Election authorities without websites must share the same information with the State Board of Elections within the same timeframe.
  - This information must be updated daily on website until the period for counting provisional and VBM ballots has ended, ensuring transparency and accountability in the election process.
  
- **Re-tabulation (Retab) of Election Results:**
  - Pursuant to Illinois state law, specifically 10 ILCS 5/24B-15 and 5/24C-15, each Election Authority is obligated to conduct a re-tabulation (retab) of election results after each election and before the official canvass of results.
  - This statutory mandate aims to enhance the accuracy and integrity of the electoral process by subjecting a random selection of precincts and Early Voting equipment to re-tabulation.
  - The Illinois State Board of Elections oversees the implementation of this process, ensuring its adherence to legal requirements and standards.
  - Re-tabulation involves a thorough review and reprocessing of ballots through tabulation machines, with a focus on validating the initial count and addressing any discrepancies or concerns that may arise.
  
- **Canvassing Information:**
  - Canvassing is the formal process of reviewing and certifying election results, involving a comprehensive examination of all ballots, records, and documentation from each precinct.
  - During canvassing, Election Authorities meticulously verify the total number of votes cast, reconcile any discrepancies, and address outstanding issues or challenges.
  - Canvassing typically includes the verification of voter signatures, reconciliation of provisional and absentee ballots, and resolution of any reported irregularities or challenges.
  - Once completed, the canvassing process culminates in the official certification of election results.

# Security and Integrity Measures

DeKalb County employs a comprehensive set of measures to ensure the security and integrity of its election process. These measures encompass multiple aspects, from data handling and ballot creation to the actual voting process and post-election procedures.

- **Legal Compliance:**
  - **Adherence to Laws:** DeKalb County strictly adheres to all federal and state election laws, including the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the Illinois Election Code.
  - **Staying Informed:** The County Clerk and Deputies remain vigilant by regularly keeping up with any new or potential legislation to ensure ongoing compliance and readiness for any changes in election law.
- **Secure Data Handling:**
  - **Multi-Factor Authentication:** Access to sensitive election data is protected by multi-factor authentication, ensuring that only authorized personnel can access critical systems.
  - **Encrypted Transfers:** Election data is transferred using encrypted USB flash drives, adding an extra layer of security during data movement.
- **Ballot Creation and Proofing:**
  - **Vendor Collaboration:** DeKalb County collaborates with Election Systems & Software (ES&S) to code the ballots, involving rigorous rounds of proofing to ensure accuracy.
  - **Comprehensive Proofing:** Multiple rounds of proofing are conducted to verify correct voting district assignments, check for spelling and grammatical errors, and ensure that all “Vote For” instructions and term lengths are accurate.
- **Cybersecurity Measures:**
  - **Hardened Electionware PC:** This PC is designed to resist unauthorized access and is not connected to the internet, eliminating cyberattack risks during the election preparation phase.
  - **CrowdStrike Antivirus Software:** DeKalb County employs CrowdStrike Antivirus Software, which includes Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) tools as required by Public Act 102-0015, to protect its networks from cyber threats.
  - **Partnerships:** The DeKalb County Clerk & Recorder collaborates with:
    - **State Board of Election's Cyber Navigator Program:** Leveraging resources and expertise to enhance cybersecurity measures.
    - **Cybersecurity Information Sharing Program:** Sharing information and best practices with other entities to strengthen defenses against cyber threats.
    - **Illinois State Board of Elections, Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center:** Accessing intelligence and threat information to proactively address potential security risks.
  - **Advanced Security for Cloud-Based Systems:** Our Platinum Voter Registration and Election Management software is cloud-based and additionally provides a range of security services. They collaborate with top cybersecurity vendors such as Microsoft Azure Security, CrowdStrike, and Armor to enhance protection.
  - **Staff Training:** Election staff receive ongoing training in cybersecurity best practices to recognize and respond to potential cyber threats.



- **DS200 Tabulators:**
  - **Specific Flash Drives:** Each DS200 tabulator is assigned an encrypted USB flash drive specific to its location, which reads ballots and captures write-in images.
  - **Tamper-Evident Seals:** Tabulators and USB drives are sealed with tamper-evident seals to detect any unauthorized access.
- **Physical Security:**
  - **Controlled Access:** Election facilities are equipped with controlled access systems, ensuring that only authorized personnel can enter secure areas.
  - **Surveillance:** Continuous video surveillance is employed in critical areas to monitor activities and deter potential tampering.
- **Chain of Custody:**
  - **Documented Transfers:** The chain of custody for all election materials, including ballots and electronic media, is meticulously documented to track their movement and ensure accountability.
  - **Secure Transport:** Election materials are transported securely, with measures in place to prevent unauthorized access during transit.
- **Post-Election Audits:**
  - **Re-tabulation (Retab):** Following state law (10 ILCS 5/24B-15 and 5/24C-15), DeKalb County conducts a re-tabulation of election results for a randomly selected 5% of precincts and Early Voting equipment.
  - **Canvassing:** The canvassing process involves a thorough review and certification of election results, ensuring all ballots are accounted for and accurately counted.
- **Transparency and Reporting:**
  - **Uncounted Ballots Reporting:** In compliance with 10 ILCS 5/1-9.2, the County Clerk's office posts information about uncounted ballots on its website within 48 hours after the polls close, and updates this information daily until all ballots are counted. That information is additionally reported daily to the State Board of Elections through IVRS.
  - **Public Records:** Election results and audit reports, Public Tests and Re-tabulations are all made available to the public, providing transparency and building trust in the election process.

By implementing these stringent security, integrity, legal compliance, and cybersecurity measures, and by partnering with relevant organizations and staying informed about new and potential legislation, DeKalb County ensures that its elections are conducted in a secure, transparent, and trustworthy manner, safeguarding the democratic process.

# Election Judges: Serving Democracy with Integrity

In the polling place, election judges play a crucial role in upholding the integrity of the electoral process, ensuring that all procedures adhere to federal and state election laws. Here's what you need to know about the responsibilities, requirements, and opportunities for election judges in DeKalb County:

- **Duties and Responsibilities:**
  - Election judges are sworn officers of the circuit court and are tasked with administering the electoral process fairly and impartially.
  - Each judge has equal authority and responsibility, and decisions must be made in accordance with election laws and majority vote.
  - Judges must ensure order in the polling place, enforce election laws, monitor for electioneering, and report any serious issues to the election authority.
- **Polling Place Operations:**
  - Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, and judges must report by 5:00 a.m. and remain until all tasks are completed.
  - Only judges are authorized to handle election materials, supplies, and ballots.
  - Two judges, representing each political party, must return to the County Building at the end of the night with election materials.
- **Recruitment and Training:**
  - DeKalb County currently has about 420 Election Judges and is always looking for more to ensure smooth operations.
  - Judges are assigned based on location, party affiliation, and availability, with at least 3-5 judges assigned to each precinct.
  - Training is required every two years, with sessions offered before every election to new judges, students, or those needing a refresher.
- **Beyond Election Day:**
  - Election judges also work during Early Voting and in processing Vote By Mail Ballots, ensuring accuracy and integrity in these processes.
  - High school juniors and seniors are eligible to serve as judges, providing them with valuable experience and earning opportunities.
- **Requirements:**
  - Must be a citizen of the United States, able to speak, read, and write English, and skilled in fundamental arithmetic.
  - Completion of state-required training and availability to work from 5:15 a.m. until at least 8 p.m. on Election Day.
  - Must be registered to vote in DeKalb County or enrolled in a University or Community College with at least a 3.0 GPA.
- **High School Judges:**
  - High School Juniors or Seniors with at least a 3.0 GPA can serve as election judges with signed permission from parents/guardians and schools.
  - This opportunity offers valuable learning experiences, earning potential, and a positive addition to resumes.

- **Benefits:**
  - Earn \$200 with training, gain valuable insights into the election process, and contribute to the democratic process.
  - Election judges cannot be counted as absent for serving, making it a meaningful and rewarding commitment.
- **How to Apply:**
  - Apply online, by mail, or in person at the County Clerk's Office to become an election judge and serve democracy with integrity.

By becoming an election judge in DeKalb County, you play a vital role in upholding democracy, ensuring fairness, and contributing to the smooth functioning of elections. Join us in serving the community and safeguarding the electoral process. Apply today!



## DO YOU WANT TO BECOME AN ELECTION JUDGE?

**All election Judges Must:**

- \* Be a citizen of the United States
- \* Be able to speak, read & write the English language
- \* Be skilled in the 4 fundamental rules of arithmetic (+/-/×/÷)
- \* Complete state required training
- \* Be available to work from 5:15am until at least 8pm on Election Day

**Are You Over 18? → YES ← NO →**

**You must:**

- \* Be Registered to Vote in DeKalb County OR
- \* Be enrolled in a University or Community College & Have at least a 3.0 GPA
- \* Be a High school Junior or Senior
- \* Have at least a 3.0 GPA
- \* Have signed permission from parent/guardian
- \* Have signed permission from school

**UPCOMING ELECTIONS**

November 5, 2024—General Election  
April 1, 2025—Consolidated Election

Application & More info:



**UPCOMING ELECTIONS**

March 18, 2024—General Primary  
November 5, 2024—General Election  
April 1, 2025—Consolidated Election

Application & More info:



**UPCOMING ELECTIONS**

March 18, 2024—General Primary  
November 5, 2024—General Election  
April 1, 2025—Consolidated Election

From the office of Tasha Sims  
DeKalb County Clerk & Recorder  
110 E. Sycamore Street • Sycamore, IL 60178  
815-895-7147  
dekalbcountyclerkil.gov



## BECOME A HIGH SCHOOL ELECTION JUDGE

\*Earn Money--\$150+

\*Great addition to applications and resumes

\*Learn about the election process

\*You cannot be counted as absent for serving as an election judge

**You Must:**

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be able to speak, read & write the English language
- Be skilled in the 4 fundamental rules of arithmetic (+/-/×/÷)
- Complete state required training
- Be a High school Junior or Senior
- Have at least a 3.0 GPA
- Have signed permission from parent/guardian
- Have signed permission from school principal
- Be available to work from 5:15am until at least 8pm on Election Day

For more information or to schedule training contact Theresa Nordquist 815-895-7183 tnordquist@dekalbcounty.org

Application & More info:





From the office of Tasha Sims  
DeKalb County Clerk & Recorder  
110 E. Sycamore Street  
Sycamore, IL 60178  
815-895-7147  
http://dekalb.il.clerkserve.com



## BECOME A HIGH SCHOOL ELECTION JUDGE

\*Earn \$200 with training

\*Be Involved

\*Learn about the election process

\*Great addition to applications and resumes

\*You cannot be counted as absent for serving as an election judge

**You Must:**

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be able to speak, read & write the English language
- Be skilled in the 4 fundamental rules of arithmetic (+/-/×/÷)
- Complete state required training
- Be a High school Junior or Senior
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- Have signed permission from parent/guardian
- Have signed permission from school principal
- Be available to work from 5:15am until at least 8pm on Election Day

Application & More info:





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## Public Participation

Public participation in the election process is crucial for ensuring that government accurately represents the will of the people and serves the public interest. By actively engaging in elections, individuals have the power to shape the future of their communities and the nation as a whole. It's important to recognize that every vote matters and can make a significant difference, so never underestimate the impact of your voice at the ballot box or on the campaign trail!

- **Voting:** Perhaps the most fundamental way for individuals to participate in the election process is by exercising their right to vote. By casting a ballot, citizens have a direct say in the selection of their representatives at various levels of government, from local to national.
- **Educating Yourself:** Informed voting requires knowledge about the candidates, their positions on issues, and the various ballot measures. Individuals can participate by researching candidates, attending candidate forums or debates, and staying informed about current events and political developments.
- **Volunteering:** Elections require a significant amount of manpower to operate smoothly. Volunteers and election judges are always needed. By volunteering, individuals play a hands-on role in ensuring that elections are conducted fairly and efficiently.
- **Campaigning:** Individuals can actively support candidates or causes by volunteering for political campaigns. This may involve tasks such as canvassing neighborhoods, making phone calls, distributing campaign materials, or organizing events.
- **Running for Office:** Individuals can actively participate in the election process by running for public office. By offering themselves as candidates, they bring new perspectives, ideas, and solutions to the table, enriching the democratic debate and providing voters with meaningful choices.
- **Participating in Public Forums:** Public forums, town halls, and community meetings provide opportunities for citizens to engage directly with elected officials, candidates, and policymakers. By attending these events and voicing their opinions, individuals can influence decision-making and hold elected representatives accountable.
- **Advocacy and Activism:** Individuals can advocate for policy changes or social issues that are important to them by contacting elected officials, writing letters or op-eds, organizing protests or demonstrations, or joining advocacy groups or grassroots movements.
- **Supporting Voter Registration and Turnout Efforts:** Encouraging others to register to vote and turn out at the polls is crucial for a robust democracy. Individuals can help by assisting with voter registration drives, encouraging friends and family to vote, or providing transportation to polling places for those in need.

## Continuous Improvements

Election Staff and I are committed to ongoing improvement in our electoral process here in DeKalb County. With each election, we gain valuable insights and identify areas for enhancement. While my goal isn't to make drastic changes, I aim to prioritize measures that enhance the integrity, accessibility, and efficiency of our elections. The improvements outlined here are just a few initiatives we'll be implementing or exploring in the elections ahead.

- **Secure, Accessible Ballot Box:**

DeKalb County is proud to announce the introduction of a permanent, secure, and accessible Ballot Drop Box for the 2024 General Election, offering voters an additional safe and convenient option for submitting their ballots. Located on the east side of the DeKalb County Administration Building at 110 E. Sycamore St., Sycamore, IL, the Drop Box will provide 24/7 access from the 40th day prior to an election until 7:00 p.m. on Election Night. Rest assured, the tamper-proof Box will be situated in a well-lit area and monitored by multiple cameras for added security. Furthermore, it will be emptied daily throughout its operational period, ensuring the timely processing of submitted ballots.

- **Additional Voter Education and Outreach:**

We are dedicated to broadening voter education initiatives to heighten awareness of upcoming elections, our election procedures, voter registration requirements, and critical deadlines. My hope is to continue to foster partnerships with community organizations, our local schools, and media outlets to effectively communicate with diverse demographics in the hopes to actively involve traditionally underrepresented groups in our electoral process.

- **Increased Security Measures:**

Strengthening cybersecurity protocols is paramount to safeguarding voter registration databases, election management systems, and other vital infrastructure from cyber threats. Furthermore, I aim to persist in strengthening physical security measures within our office and building, including access controls, expanded surveillance camera coverage, and secure storage solutions for election materials.

- **ePoll Books:**

We are interested in exploring the possibility and feasibility of transitioning to electronic poll books (ePoll books) in the future. This move could streamline the check-in process at polling places, decrease wait times, and enhance the accuracy of voter registration records.

- **Exploration of Additional Vote Centers:**

Evaluate the feasibility of establishing an additional Vote Centers in a high-traffic area or underserved area of the City of DeKalb to provide voters with more convenient options for casting their ballots.

These are just a few of the continuous improvements we aim to make and explore. I am always open to suggestions that could enhance the visibility, accessibility, and security of elections for all of DeKalb County.



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER  
DEKALB COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
*Tasha Sims, DeKalb County Clerk & Recorder*

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110 E. Sycamore St., Sycamore, IL 60178 ♦ (815) 895-7149 ♦ dekalbcountyclerk.il.gov

Dear Friends:

As your County Clerk, I want to emphasize the importance of understanding who oversees our local elections. Local election officials, including myself, are not distant figures but members of your community, chosen to serve through the democratic process. We live and breathe the same air, share the same streets, and our children attend the same schools. You see us at the grocery store and community events. By electing or appointing us to our respective positions, you entrust us with the crucial task of managing the electoral process in our community. This proximity to your daily lives strengthens accountability and transparency, ensuring that we remain accountable to you, the voters. I do not take these responsibilities lightly and will continue to prioritize communicating our office's commitment to integrity and transparency in elections and all that we do.

Additionally, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of my amazing staff and elections judges for their outstanding dedication and hard work on every Election Day. There would be no successful elections here without them!

To the diligent staff behind the scenes, your tireless efforts in organizing, preparing, and managing the logistics of the elections do not go unnoticed. Your attention to detail and professionalism are what make everything run so seamlessly.

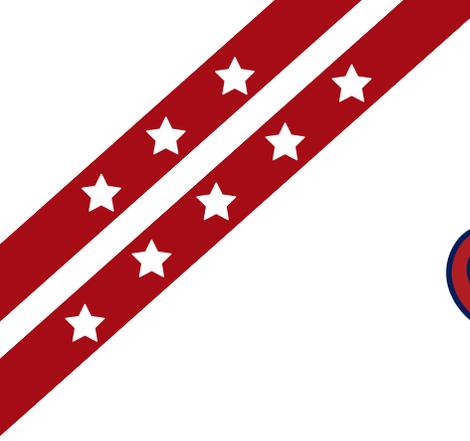
To the over 400+ incredible election judges, who serve with integrity and impartiality, your contributions are invaluable. Your patience and dedication to ensure that every vote is counted accurately continue to make DeKalb County Elections secure and fair.

Thank you to our polling places for providing a safe and accessible environment for voters to exercise their right to vote. As well as a big thank you to Blackhawk Moving & Storage of Sycamore. We appreciate the care and attention to detail demonstrated by your team throughout the entire moving process of election equipment.

Together, you all play a vital role in making election day a success! It is truly appreciated, and I am honored to work alongside such dedicated individuals.

With honor and appreciation,

Tasha Sims  
DeKalb County Clerk & Recorder



**Contact Us**



**DeKalb County Elections**

**110 E Sycamore St**

**Sycamore, IL 60178**

**Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30**



**815.895.7147**



**[elections@dekalbcounty.org](mailto:elections@dekalbcounty.org)**



**[dekalbcountyclerkil.gov](http://dekalbcountyclerkil.gov)**

**Visit our Voter Information Portal:**

**View your Sample Ballot**

**Check your Voter Registration Status**

**Request a Vote by Mail Ballot**

**Check the Status of your Vote by Mail Ballot**

