

DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 24	First day absentee ballot applications are accepted.
January 5	Last day to register to vote.
January 6	First day of grace-period registration and voting.
January 11	First day of early voting.
January 26	Last day of grace-period registration and voting.
January 28	Last day of early voting.
Jan. 29 - Feb. 1	In-person absentee voting at the Clerk's downtown Chicago office only.
February 1	Last day absentee ballots can be postmarked for acceptance by the Clerk.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Eligibility:

- **Any** registered suburban Cook County voter may apply for an absentee ballot—It is no longer necessary to provide a reason.
- **College students** living away from home can sign up for the Student Absentee Voter Program to receive an application for absentee ballot—to sign up go to voterinfo.net.com and click on “Vote”, then “Absentee” and the “College Students” on the right hand side bar.

How to vote absentee:

To vote absentee by mail voters can:

- Download and print an application at www.voterinfo.net.com/sub/absentee_application.asp. There is an English, Spanish, and Chinese version of the absentee ballot application.
- Call the Clerk's office at (312) 603-0906
- Write or visit the Clerk's downtown Chicago office at 69 W. Washington St., 5th floor.

After reviewing the application, the Clerk's office will then mail the voter an absentee ballot. Voters must postmark their absentee ballots before the day of the primary.

EARLY VOTING

Voters can vote early from Monday, Jan. 11 through Thursday, Jan. 28.

State law requires early voters to display **valid identification**. Valid forms of ID include:

- a current driver's license,
- state-issued ID card, or
- another government-issued ID with a photograph.

Cook County has not yet released the polling sites for early voting, but it is usually done by township. Anyone can also vote at the Clerk's **downtown Chicago office**. Voting hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday and Friday, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday and Sunday.

REGISTERING TO VOTE

To register to vote, a person must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old by the day of the primary.
- A resident of your precinct at least 30 days prior to the primary.

To register by mail, voters can:

- Download a voter application form from the website at voterinfonet.com/sub/register.asp. Voter registration applications are available in English, Spanish and Chinese. Also, instructions are available in Korean and Polish.
- Call (312) 603-0906 to request that the Clerk's office mail them a form.

Note: First-time voters who register by mail no longer have to vote in person the first time they vote. They can either vote in person or vote absentee by mail (but not through early voting).

To register to vote in person, voters can:

- Visit the Cook County Clerk's office in downtown Chicago or one of its five other locations. The link to the list is www.voterinfonet.com/sub/contact.asp. The closest ones:
 - 5600 W. Old Orchard Road, Room 149, Skokie (847) 470-7233
 - 2121 Euclid Ave., Room 238, Rolling Meadows (847) 818-2850Hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm - Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri and 8:30 am to 7:00 pm on Wednesday.
- Visit a village, city, or township clerk's office. The link to that list is www.cookctyclerk.com/sub/elected_officials_detail.asp?TYPEId=5&OfficeId=28.
- Visit an Illinois Secretary of State's drivers license facility. You can register to vote when you obtain or renew your driver's license or state identification card.
- Trained volunteer deputy registrars may register you to vote.

Two forms of identification with at least **one** showing your current residence address is needed when you register in-person.

When to re-register:

- Your registration is permanent unless you move or change your name.
- **Address changes:** If you have moved within suburban Cook County, you must transfer your registration by re-registering. You may choose to write your new address on the back of your voter identification card and mail it to the Clerk's downtown Chicago office.
- **Name changes:** Voters who change their name, but not their address, do **not** have to re-register. If you have changed your name, vote after updating your information at the polls.

GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION AND VOTING

Grace-period registration and voting is only the way to register to vote from Wednesday, Jan. 6 through Tuesday, Jan. 26. It is also the only way to vote if you are not registered or if your voter registration is not up to date. Grace period registrants vote immediately after registering or by absentee paper ballot. Grace period registrants are not eligible to vote at the polls on Election Day or take part in Early Voting.