

MAIL IN BALLOT INFO

NOTICE: Due to COVID-19, voters are encouraged to use Vote By Mail or Early Voting before Election Day on Nov. 3, 2020.

1. Apply Now to Vote By Mail

Any Chicago voter may apply online now to Vote By Mail ahead of the Nov. 3, 2020 Election. No reason or excuse is needed to Vote By Mail.

Mail-in application form Need to check the status of your Vote By Mail application?

Chicago voters who apply online between now and Sept. 24 will be among the first to receive ballots. Ballot mailings will begin Sept. 24-Oct. 5.

Chicago voters who apply online to Vote By Mail will receive emails:

- In the days that follow their online application, to confirm that the online application has been received and processed;
- When the ballot is being mailed to the voter -- with a unique link to a system to track the ballot through the US Postal Service;
- When the Vote By Mail "Ballot Return Envelope" is received by the Election Board; and,
- When the Vote By Mail "Ballot Return Envelope" has been approved for counting -- or if there is a question or problem with your Ballot Return Envelope.

If you are unable to apply online, the Election Board also will be sending Vote By Mail applications and postage-paid return envelopes in late July to all voters who have voted in any election(s) since Nov. 2018 and to any voters who have registered for the first time or updated their registrations since March 18, 2020.

2. Mark Your Ballot

Follow all instructions that come with your ballot and be sure to vote in secret.

NOTE: When marking your ballot, use a black or blue ballpoint pen or a felt-tip pen. Do NOT use a red pen, because red ink cannot be read by the ballot scanners.

NOTE: The Board supplies all Vote By Mail voters with postage-paid Ballot Return Envelopes to return the ballots.

3. Return Your Ballot

The signed and sealed Ballot Return Envelope may be returned:

- through the U.S. Postal Service or licensed couriers such as FedEx or UPS, OR
- by personal delivery to the Election Board at 69 W. Washington, Sixth Floor, OR
- NEW: starting in mid-October, at any Secured Drop Box, which will be available at every Early Voting site in Chicago.

Especially in the two weeks before Election Day, Chicago voters are encouraged to use a Secured Drop Box at any Chicago Early Voting site to return the signed and sealed Ballot Return Envelope.

[\[1\]](#)

Once a mail ballot has been returned to the Board, it cannot be retrieved or withdrawn. The same voter cannot vote in person in the polling place on Election Day unless he or she brings the mail ballot (or a portion of it) to the election judges OR completes an affidavit stating the mail ballot was never received by the voter or that it was received and lost.

Note: Any mail ballot that is postmarked Wed., Nov. 4 or later cannot be counted, by law. If a ballot envelope is placed in a mail drop box on or near Election Day, that envelope may be postmarked late and will not be eligible to be counted.

If you could not apply for a mail ballot by the Oct. 29 deadline, OR if you applied and did not receive your mail ballot, or if you lose the ballot, or if you cannot return the ballot with a postmark on or before Election Day:

- Call 312-269-7967 on or before Thurs., Oct. 29 to alert us that you have not received your ballot; OR

- Use Early Voting through Tue., Nov. 3; OR

- Cancel your mail ballot and receive and cast an Election Day ballot at the polling place assigned to your precinct on Tues., Nov. 3. If the voter has the mail ballot, that ballot should be surrendered to the election judges. If the voter does not have the mail ballot, the voter may cast a provisional ballot after completing a provisional-ballot affidavit.

Military/Civilian Overseas Voters

Click [here](#) for more information on voting for members of the armed services and civilians living overseas.

Voting By Mail for Physical Disability

Certain voters may also qualify for special additional Vote By Mail privileges