



ADLER UNIVERSITY

Department of Community Engagement

Absentee/Out of State Voting Frequently Asked Questions

Can I vote in my home state?

As a student, if you have recently moved to Illinois but would like to vote for offices in your home state ***you may choose to maintain your home voter registration and submit an absentee ballot.***

What is an absentee ballot?

An absentee ballot is a ballot cast by an individual who cannot physically vote at their designated polling place. The ballot is mailed in advance and counted by the board of elections of that respective state. Citizens abroad, students who are out-of-state, elders, servicemen and women, and the disabled typically vote absentee.

How do I obtain an absentee ballot?

You must first be registered to vote in your home state before you can request an absentee ballot. To check and see if your voter registration is still active, visit your state's board of elections website. If you are an active voter in your state, you may then submit a request for an absentee ballot online at your home state's board of elections. ***We strongly encourage you to request an absentee ballot ASAP; many states require requests at least one month prior to the election.*** Once your request is complete, your absentee ballot will be mailed to you with specific instructions on how to cast your vote.

How will I know if my vote was counted?

All absentee ballots must be postmarked by or before election day and received no later than Tuesday, November 22, 2016. Please consider mailing your ballot as early as possible to ensure you meet the absentee voting deadline. After the November 22nd deadline, check in with your home state's board of elections to make sure your vote was received.

Who is running for what office in my home state?

Your absentee ballot will detail who is running for office and what party they represent. ***To see who is running for office in advance, please visit ballotready.org.*** You may also choose to write in the name of your desired candidate for select offices if that person is not listed.

Why Vote in Illinois?

This year Illinois has two contested local offices and a ballot initiative. Although Illinois is not considered a swing state, you have the opportunity to vote for local candidates and a ballot initiative that will impact your day-to-day life while living in Illinois. Voting in person is also an easier way to ensure your vote was properly cast.