



ADLER UNIVERSITY

Department of Community Engagement

Know Your Rights

On election day you may be challenged by a judge or told you are not registered to vote. Below are possible solutions to common issues voters face at the polls. **If you are having difficulty casting a ballot in Illinois the day of the election, call the Illinois State Board of Elections (217) 782-4141 or the Chicago State Board of Elections (312) 844 6440. If you believe your right to vote was denied, call the American Civil Liberties Union Voter Protection Hotline at (877) 523-2792.**

A judge tells me I am not registered to vote.

First, make sure you are at the right polling place. Polling places are specific to your ward and precinct. Make sure to **check and see where your polling place is located by visiting canivote.org, Illinois voters may also check their polling place by visiting elections.state.il.gov.** After confirming you are at the right polling place, you will then have two options. Illinois voters who reside in Chicago are eligible for same-day voter registration. ***If you are a Chicago resident you may register to vote at your polling location and cast your ballot immediately after. If you live outside of Chicago, you may ask for a provisional ballot.***

What is a Same-Day Voter Registration?

If you wish to register to vote the day of the election, you must go to the polling place designated for your address and bring two forms of identification (one with your current address). Some acceptable forms of identification include: driver's license, social security card, utility bill, employee or student card, credit card, library card, letter delivered through the mail from a government agency or employer or school, and birth certificate. For an exhaustive list please visit elections.state.il.gov. Once you register to vote, you may cast your ballot at the polling location. Unfortunately same-day registration is only permitted in certain counties and states. A bill to permit same day voter registration throughout all of Illinois is waiting to be signed by Governor Rauner. Currently Cook County (including Chicago) allows for same-day voter registration.

What is a provisional ballot?

A provisional ballot is a form available to voters who are not listed in the electoral roll for the precinct and ward of the polling place. The provisional ballot will include a full ballot for the general election and a section where you list your personal information to testify that you are in fact a resident voter in that area. After you complete your provisional ballot, the state will store your ballot and then check on your voter registration status after polls close on election day. ***If there was a mistake made and you were in fact registered to vote at that address, your ballot will be counted. If you were not registered to vote at that address, your vote will not be counted in this election but you will be automatically registered to vote for the next election.***

How do I Know if My Vote Was Counted?

If you cast a provisional ballot you may inquire if your vote was counted by calling your local state board of elections. It is suggested that you call about a week or so after election day to see if your vote was counted. In Illinois if you are registered to vote, you will know your vote is counted on election day when you review your ballot electronically and hit submit (if using a touch screen) or if the optical scanner receives your ballot and increases its number by one. If your ballot is not received by the optical scan paper ballot because it is "spoiled," that means you have mis-marked your ballot and you must review it. Ballots are spoiled if marks were not made clearly and/or if offices are skipped. You may choose to cast your ballot without voting for every office by overriding your spoiled ballot in the optical scanner. An election judge will come to help you if your ballot was not received by the optical scanner.