

Commissioners

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For Immediate Release – March 19, 2018

2018 Primary Election Overview

The March 20, 2018 Primary Election will nominate candidates to a wide range of offices at the federal, state and local levels. Voters in all 50 wards will nominate candidates for U.S. Representative in Congress, Governor, Attorney General, Cook County Board President, County Assessor, County Commissioner and other state and local offices in the Republican and Democratic primaries.

Because it is a primary election to nominate candidates for political parties, voters must declare a party affiliation and take a Democratic or Republican party ballot. Voters may select only one ballot. The selection does not affect how a person may vote in future elections. (Non-partisan ballots also are available but have only referenda questions. The non-partisan ballots have no candidates and no offices.)

Polls in all 50 wards will be open on March 20 from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

To ensure a trouble and fraud-free election, the Chicago Election Board will have 450 investigators assigned to Election Day duty. This will include roving investigators assigned to every ward who will be making unannounced inspections of polling places – and investigators who are assigned to respond to calls for assistance.

Voters who witness anything irregular or encounter a problem on Election Day are urged to call the Board’s “Election Central” hotline at (312) 269-7870. Phone lines at Election Central will be staffed by Board personnel and attorneys versed in election law. “Election Central” hotlines will be operational on Election Day only.

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2018 Primary Election Overview Add One / March 19, 2018

On Election Day, a voter may cast a ballot only at the precinct polling place for that voter's address.

Visit chicagoelections.com to find your:

- Voter registration status
- Polling place location
- Sample ballots for the Democratic and Republican parties.

Voters are allowed to bring sample ballots and notes into the voting booth.

Registration services are available in every precinct polling place for voters who live in that precinct.

- If you moved to your current address **on or before Feb. 18** (at least 30 days before election day), vote at the precinct polling place for your **new/current** address. If you moved to your new address by Feb. 18, you may update your registration and vote at your new precinct polling place with two forms of ID, at least one of which shows your current address. Every polling place has a list of acceptable forms of IDs.
- If you moved within Chicago **after Feb. 18** (less than 30 days before election day), vote at the precinct polling place for your **old** address.

Voters who have cast ballots in Grace Period Voting or Early Voting cannot return to change their votes for any reason. The electronic poll books that are used to check-in voters indicate which voters have already cast ballots. Attempting to vote more than once is a felony.

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2018 Primary Election Overview Add Two / March 19, 2018

To prepare for the March 20, 2018 Primary Election, the Election Board sent a mailing to each of the 1.2 million registered-voter households in Chicago to supply information on Vote By Mail, Early Voting and the polling place assigned to that precinct for that address.

Also, for persons who claim to be legally registered but whose registration records cannot be found are allowed to vote a provisional ballot. This ballot will be kept segregated in the computer records and the election authority then has 14 days to determine if the voter was qualified and whether that ballot can be added to the count. Eligible ballots are then merged into the election totals.

A total of 1,494,199 Chicagoans are registered to vote in the upcoming election at the city's 2,069 precincts. Since the last Mid-Term Primary in March 2014, registrations are up 125,909 or 9.2%, due mostly to registration activity that occurred during and after the 2016 Presidential election.

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