

MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ, *Chair*
WILLIAM J. KRESSE, *Commissioner/Secretary*
JUNE A. BROWN, *Commissioner*
CHARLES HOLIDAY, JR., *Executive Director*



**RULES GOVERNING THE CANVASS OF THE RETURNS
OF THE MARCH 19, 2024 GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION
IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

1. It shall be the duty of the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago (the “Board”) to canvass and add up and declare the result of every election hereafter held within the boundaries of the City of Chicago. The Board shall open all returns and shall make abstracts or statements of the votes for all offices voted on at the election. The powers and duties of the Board in canvassing the votes are those specified in Articles 7 and 22 of the Election Code.¹
2. Preliminary, unofficial vote totals for all candidates shall be obtained by the transfer of the precinct vote totals into the Board’s central computer system by one or more means, including:
 - (a) by wireless telephone modem transmission; and/or
 - (b) by inserting the precinct Memory Card into memory card readers located at Remote Transmission Sites in Receiving Stations throughout the city of Chicago.
3. On Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., the Board shall tabulate all valid early voting ballots and grace period ballots.
4. Vote by mail ballots shall be processed and counted, and tabulation shall commence in the offices of the Board.

Tabulation shall commence after 7:00 p.m. but no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. The tabulation shall continue until all vote by mail ballots required to be counted on Election Day have been tabulated. Such ballots shall have been inserted into the ICC Scanner in the Board’s office under the supervision of a panel or panels of election judges or officials appointed in the manner provided by law. The results shall be entered into the central computer system, tabulated and made a part of the preliminary vote totals.
5. Whenever a discrepancy exists during the canvass of votes between the unofficial results and the certificate of results, or whenever a discrepancy exists during the canvass of votes between the certificate of results and the set of totals which has been affixed to the certificate of results, the ballots for that precinct shall be retabulated to correct the return. Such retabulation shall begin on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.
 - (a) The Board shall first check to determine whether the memory card for a precinct contains vote totals data that can be read electronically.

¹ Article 7 governs primary elections and Article 22 governs general, municipal, alderperson, runoff, and special elections.

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- (i) If so, such data shall be reviewed to determine whether the data is correct and accurate and, if so, entered into the central computer system.
 - (ii) If not, or if the Board suspects that the data is incorrect, the Board shall cause the ballots for such precinct to be retabulated.
6. On or after Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. the Board's staff shall begin entering provisional voters' information.
7. Preliminary and unofficial candidate vote totals shall be periodically printed by the central computer system and copies released to the public. Preliminary and unofficial precinct vote totals of all precincts read into the central computer system shall be printed by the central computer system and copies thereof shall be available at approximately 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 20, 2024.
8. A panel or panels of election judges or officials, as allowed by law, shall review appeals of rejected vote by mail ballots on dates and times as determined and announced by the Board.
9. On or about Friday, March 22, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., authorized Board staff shall begin validating provisional ballots to determine whether they are valid and should be counted.
10. On or about Monday, March 25, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., the verification of preliminary and unofficial totals shall begin.
11. Voters who cast provisional ballots may submit to the Board additional information in support of their provisional ballot not later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.
12. On or about Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., the Board shall begin to test (i) ballots cast in 5% of the precincts and (ii) 5% of the Early Voting devices as set forth in the list provided by the Illinois State Board of Elections and in accordance with Section 24B-15 of the Election Code.
13. On or before Monday, April 1, 2024, the Board shall count all valid provisional ballots. The Board shall have seven calendar days from the completion of the validation and counting of provisional ballots to conduct its final canvass. After all valid provisional ballots have been counted, all information that has been entered into the Board's master provisional voting database concerning whether a provisional ballot has been counted, partially counted or not counted, and the reason for not counting the ballot, as the case may be, shall be uploaded to the Board's Internet Web site so that provisional voters may be able to check on the status of their provisional ballots.
14. The Board will stand ready to reconcile any vote total differences noted by any political party, candidate or interested citizen by noon on Sunday, April 7, 2024.
15. The Board will consider all written suggestions of error in the preliminary precinct vote totals prior to the proclamation of the results.

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- 16. Final totals of all the votes cast for all candidates and referenda (if any) will be officially proclaimed by the Board at 10:00 a.m., on or before Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in the 8th floor conference room, 69 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois.
- 17. The Board may amend these rules as needed and may, in its discretion, modify the date and time for performing any act specified by these rules, except that the Board may not extend the last date for counting valid provisional ballots beyond the 14th day following the election or for proclaiming the final totals and results of the election beyond the 21st day following the election.
- 18. The Board shall, upon completion of the canvassing of the returns, make and transmit to the Cook County Clerk a certified copy of the proclamation of the results of the election. The Board shall also transmit to the Illinois State Board of Elections a copy of the proclamation of the results of the election via e-mail or other electronic means or by overnight mail so that it arrives at the State Board of Elections' main office the following calendar day.

Adopted on: Tuesday, March 19, 2024

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MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ, CHAIR)
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WILLIAM J. KRESSE, COMMISSIONER-SECRETARY)
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JUNE A. BROWN, COMMISSIONER)

Constituting the
Board of Election
Commissioners for the
City of Chicago