DuPage County Election

BILINGUAL JUDGES NEEDED

Based on the 2010 census data, the Department of Justice informed the DuPage County Election Commission that future elections must be conducted in Spanish as well as English. To fulfill this requirement, DuPage County is in need of qualified English/Spanish speaking individuals who are interested in serving as election judges. For more information, please visit our website at:

http://www.dupageco.org/election/Workers/37071/
or complete the Application to be a Judge of Election on page 7 and return to the Election Commission.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

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SEPTEMBER 2013

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

* Presidential Election Recap
* Improving the Polling Place
* Judge’s FAQ—Your questions answered
* Save the Date! - 2014 Election Calendar

EARLY VOTING AND VOTE BY MAIL

Early Voting will begin March 3, 2014, and will run through March 15, 2014. We anticipate having eight to twelve established Early Voting sites by the March 18, 2014, Primary Election.

We are in the process of identifying which sites meet the criteria as an established site to be used for Early Voting. These “established” sites will offer longer hours of operation to better serve the voters wanting to exercise this option.

During the Early Voting period, any eligible voter may cast a ballot by visiting an Early Voting site and showing a valid government issued photo identification (usually a driver’s license).

Absentee Voting will begin February 6, 2014, and will run through March 17, 2014. Any eligible voter may request and vote an absentee ballot without indicating a reason for voting absentee. Absentee voting may be done either “by mail” or “in person” beginning February 6, 2014.

Voters may now request an absentee ballot be mailed to them by completing an Application for Ballot on the Election Commission website beginning in 2014.
Illinois House Bill 226, signed July 3, 2013, allows an otherwise qualified individual who is 17 years old to register to vote in the General Primary Election if that individual will be 18 years old by the date of the immediately following General Election. This change goes into effect on January 1, 2014, making the upcoming General Primary Election the first Election in which a seventeen year old will have cast a ballot.

On Saturday, July 27, 2013, Governor Pat Quinn signed Illinois House Bill 2418 into law. With this omnibus bill, we will see many changes to elections here in DuPage County.

In an effort to boost voter registration rates, one big change is the introduction of online voter registration.

This legislation requires the online voter registration system to be operational through the State Board of Elections by July 1, 2014. In order to register online, voters must have a valid driver’s license or state identification card and be able to provide the last four digits of their Social Security number.

Some other key changes to DuPage County Elections due to HB 2418:

- Email Addresses – Registration forms will now include a field for email address. Additional communication of notices on challenges to registration or ballot will be provided through this address
- In a Primary Election, Lt. Governor nominees will now be appointed to the ballot
- Votes for candidates who withdraw after ballot certification will be invalid and not be reported
- School electoral boards are eliminated and petitions will be filed with the Election Commission
- Ballots cast provisionally in the incorrect precinct, provided they are cast in the correct district and the voter is otherwise qualified, are now valid. The correct ballot will be remade with votes counted only in the corresponding districts.
- Provisional voters have seven (7) days to provide additional validating information to the Election Commission (current law is two (2) days).
- Voters can now request an absentee ballot be mailed to them via an online application on the Election Commission website. https://www.dupageco.org/election/voters/41942/.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Robert T. Saar
Executive Director
2012 GENERAL ELECTION

Historically, the General Election has boasted a larger voter turnout than any other type of election. With the 403,312 ballots cast, the 2012 General Election was no exception.

In the 2012 General Election, we observed a 71.93% turnout, involving the largest amount of registered voters (560,718) ever in DuPage County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Election Turnout Statistics for DuPage County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

VOTING BY THE NUMBERS

Now with more options than ever to vote, we are seeing a decrease in turnout at the polling place on Election Day.

Since 2009, the ability to request a ballot and vote absentee without stating a reason has increased requests for absentee ballot applications and ‘in person’ absentee voting.

In the 2012 General Election, DuPage County counted 19,031 Absentee Ballots. With the introduction of “no excuse” Absentee Voting, the implementation of an online Application for Ballot, and political campaigns taking advantage of this voting method in their mailers, we are sure to see a rise in ballots cast by mail.

Early voting has shown a steady increase since its inception in DuPage County. Even with the recently shortened Early Voting schedule, 78,577 (14.1%) voters took advantage of Early Voting in the 2012 General Election.

2012 General Election DuPage County Voting Method Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method of Voting</th>
<th>Ballots Cast</th>
<th>% of Total Ballots Cast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polling</td>
<td>305,016</td>
<td>75.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Voting</td>
<td>78,577</td>
<td>19.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absentee</td>
<td>19,031</td>
<td>4.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisional</td>
<td>688</td>
<td>0.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>403,312</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What do these numbers mean? These numbers indicate that nearly a quarter of DuPage County registered voters took advantage of the alternative voting options available and did not show up at the polling place on Election Day.
Hi, my name is Kathy Vana, the Supervisor of Election Judges. I am starting my 29th year with the Election Commission, and have been working in the Election Judge department for 22 years and I have enjoyed every minute of it.

Many things have changed for the better over the years. Some of you will remember “hanging chads” and coming into the building to pick-up and return the supplies. The last time supplies were brought back was rough for the judges and we recognized the problem. That was why the Election Supply Cabinet (ESC) became a necessity. Now the process is much easier with “drive-thru” pick-up and return of supplies. (I know all of you returning love it and so do we!) There were other important changes including the consolidation of polling places and the addition of student judges.

New improvements are in the works; this summer we have consolidated more polling places, we are using a Voter Turnout Estimator for scheduling judges, and a some locations will be participating in a pilot program for electronic poll books.

As we move forward, we will always be looking to make additional improvements to enrich the polling place experience. Many of these improvements have come from suggestions by you, so keep them coming! We thank you.

As we move into a Gubernatorial Primary Election it is important to remember that you as Judges of Election are the cornerstone of the election process. In each of the polling places within DuPage County, you play a vital role in upholding the laws of the Constitution of the United States and the State of Illinois.

It is also important to remember that we provide excellent customer service. Correctly done, a voter seeking help will not only feel that they have been treated well in the polling place, it will reflect favorably on the electoral process itself. Properly valuing and acknowledging a voter issue can decrease

JUDGE’S FAQ

When are Absentee and Early Voting ballots counted?
Early Voting and Absentee Ballots are not counted until Election Night, after the polls close.

Do all the judges have to help setup the day/night before?
Yes, all judges assigned to work must assist with the setup of the polling place on Monday before the election.

Why are candidates on the ballot even though they withdrew?
The statutory deadline for a candidate to withdraw is the date of certification (around 60 days prior to the election). Any candidate that withdrawals after the deadline will still have their name appear on the ballot but their votes will not be counted.

Why are inactive voters still on the voter list, even when judges tell us they have moved?
The National Voter Registration Act requires that inactive voters be kept on file for 2 Federal Elections (4 years). It takes 4 1/2 to 5 years before they are totally removed, unless we hear from the voter, receive a Death Certificate or we are notified that they have registered in another County.

TRAINING

Early Voting Training
February 3, 2014 through February 5, 2014

Technical Judge Training
February 10, 2014 through February 25, 2014

All Sessions will be held in the JTK Administration Building Auditorium, 421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton.
the chance of voter confusion and reduce possible mistakes making closing the polls easier.

That’s all there is to it. Remember, have a great election and we’ll see you soon!

Some key tips to providing help to voters:

⇒ Always listen to the voter
⇒ Identify the problem
⇒ Be Patient!
⇒ Attitude, attitude, attitude! Service with a smile
⇒ Always look for ways to help
⇒ Give the voter the benefit of the doubt

Can a TSX Touch Screen ballot be cancelled? How?
Yes, by holding your finger on the “page one of” display at the bottom of the screen for about 30 to 45 seconds. A screen will appear with a cancel option that allows the voter to cancel the ballot.

Can the TSX Touch Screen accept write-in votes?
Yes, if a write-in box is displayed in a race, at least one valid write-in candidate has filed. Select the write-in box, then using the keyboard, type in the name of the candidate.

Where is “Spanish Assistance” available?
Spanish Assistance is available in the Election Commission Office at 630-407-5608.

If a voter is required to cast a provisional ballot for lack of required ID, how much time (if any) is the voter permitted to provide the necessary ID in order for the provisional ballot to count?
Seven calendar days

What happens to the Absentee and Provisional Ballots? Do they get counted or thrown out?
All ballots are processed, but not all are counted due to determining criteria such as whether the person voting is not registered to vote, does not live in the county or they failed to provide identification either at the polling place or when they mailed in their registration.

Why was my ballot provisional?
A person may cast a provisional ballot if any of the following apply:

- The person’s name does not appear on the official list of eligible voters
- The voter’s registration is challenged and that challenge is sustained by a majority of election judges
- A court order extends the time for voting
- The voter registered by mail and failed to include a copy of their ID (Driver’s License, State ID) or a copy of an utility bill when submitting their mail-in application
- The voter received a ballot by mail but didn’t return it

What’s new in the polling place for the March Election?
Per Illinois Statute:

- 17 year olds turning 18 on or before a November General Election may register and vote in the preceding March Primary Election.
- The number of Judges assigned to each polling place will be determined by the projected Voter Turnout for each location.
The Election Commission is always looking for ways to improve the voting experience by offering more voting space, additional parking and a welcoming environment with well-trained judges. Still, it will take better site preparation, set-up, signage and training to make these sites effective for voters.

To that end, our objective is to visit all polling sites this Summer and Fall. Individual site schematics will be created to guide Election Judges in what is felt to be the most efficient voting area set-up. Our purpose is to have the voting to run as smoothly at the peak times (6:00 AM – 9:30 AM and 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM), as it does the rest of the day. Early Voting and Absentee Voting make it convenient and really helps lighten up the Election Day time pressure that some voters have to face.

We will map out the placement of street signage and ‘Campaign Free Zone’ cones in an attempt to eliminate many of the questions and challenges in those areas.

Meetings with the trainers, several election judges and Election Commission Staff were held in July and August. Several suggestions were made and will be considered for future training and Election Day operations. Some of the suggestions included ways for the Field Reps and Judges of Election to have their jobs more defined and additional training available to them. The objective is to allow voters to proceed continuously and effortlessly through the voting process, even during those ‘peak’ times on Election Day.

Staff Spotlight

Erica Duhig
Election Judge Coordinator

Erica is one of the Election Commission’s newer employees and is instrumental in helping the judges and tech judges get started with online training as well as assigning them to their polling places.

Erica began with the Election Commission as our receptionist in December of 2011, and quickly started learning the ropes. Her talents were noticed quickly and she was placed in her new role as Judge of Election Coordinator in June of 2013. Erica enjoys working with the Election Judges and the challenge of assigning them. She has also begun assisting Kathy with the commissioning of judges.

You’ve probably talked to Erica already as she has been manning the Judges phones the last two elections. Now you can put a face with the voice!

Contact Us

Main Contact
Election Commission
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ecommission1@dupageco.org

Judges of Election
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kathy.vana@dupageco.org

Absentee Voting
Jessica Sierakowski
(630) 407-5611
ejessica.sierakowski@dupageco.org

Election Workers
Cynthia Kneip
(630) 407-5618
cynthia.kneip@dupageco.org

Voter Registration
Rocky Lofendo
(630) 407-5609
rocky.lofendo@dupageco.org
APPLICATION TO SERVE AS A JUDGE OF ELECTION

In a constant effort to secure Judges of Election, we invite you to make an application to serve as a Judge, in future elections, for your political party.

If you wish to do so, please begin by indicating your political affiliation and complete this form.

I wish to serve as a  [ ] Republican Judge  [ ] Democratic Judge  ... in future elections.

If you are fluent in other languages please list them below (optional)

________________________________________

Your Name (Please print)

________________________________________

Your Address (Street Number, Street name, City/Village, and Zip Code)

________________________________________  ________________________________  ________________________________

Your email address (please print)       Home phone #       Daytime phone #

________________________________________

Signature

Did you know there are other ways to vote besides the polling place on Election Day?

Absentee Voting
You can cast a “no excuse” absentee ballot beginning on the 40th day prior to Election Day.

  •  In person—Stop by the Election Commission office to vote an absentee ballot

  •  Vote by Mail—You can complete an application online, call the Election Commission office, or stop by any one of the registration locations to pickup an application to start the process.

Early Voting
Visit any one of the DuPage County Early Voting sites from the 15th day prior through the 3rd day before Election Day.
# Election Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/6/2014</td>
<td>Absentee voting begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/18/2014</td>
<td>Registration closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/19/2014</td>
<td>Grace Period begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/3/2014</td>
<td>First day for Early Voting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/15/2014</td>
<td>Last day for Grace Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/15/2014</td>
<td>Last day of Early Voting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/15/2014</td>
<td>Healthcare voting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/16/2014</td>
<td>Sunday election supply pickup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/17/2014</td>
<td>Last day to in-person absentee vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/18/2014</td>
<td>2014 General Primary Election</td>
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</tbody>
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For more information visit our website at: [www.dupageco.org/election](http://www.dupageco.org/election) or just scan the QR Code!