



# **Your Vote, Your Voice: Voting in the 2020 Election**

Parkland College Student Life  
September 14, 2020

**The vote is precious.  
It is the most powerful nonviolent tool  
we have in a democratic society,  
and we must use it.**

**—US Representative John Lewis,  
2016**

# Overview

- Why vote?
- Who is eligible to vote in Illinois?
- What are the steps to voting?
- How can I prepare?
- Where can I find election and voting information?

**What are your questions?**

# Election Question #1

**1. Who was the first woman to run for president?**

- a) Shirley Chisholm
- b) Geraldine Ferraro
- c) Victoria Woodhull
- d) Margaret Chase Smith

## Question #1 Answer

**C.** Victoria Woodhull, who ran in 1872—before women had the right to vote—as the nominee for the Equal Rights Party. Her vice presidential running mate was Frederick Douglass, a strong advocate for voting rights in general and women’s right to vote specifically.

## Election Question #2

**2. When did 18-year-olds get the right to vote nationally?**

- a) 1870
- b) 1920
- c) 1965
- d) 1971

## Voter Question #2 Answer

**D.** 1971. The Twenty-Sixth Amendment required all states to set a voting age that was no higher than 18.

The effort to lower the voting age to 18 had begun three decades earlier. “Old enough to fight, old enough to vote,” a slogan first heard during World War II, was adopted by student activists during the Vietnam War. Congressional support and rapid approval by the required number of states led to prompt ratification.

## Election Question #3

**3. Which US age group votes the most?**

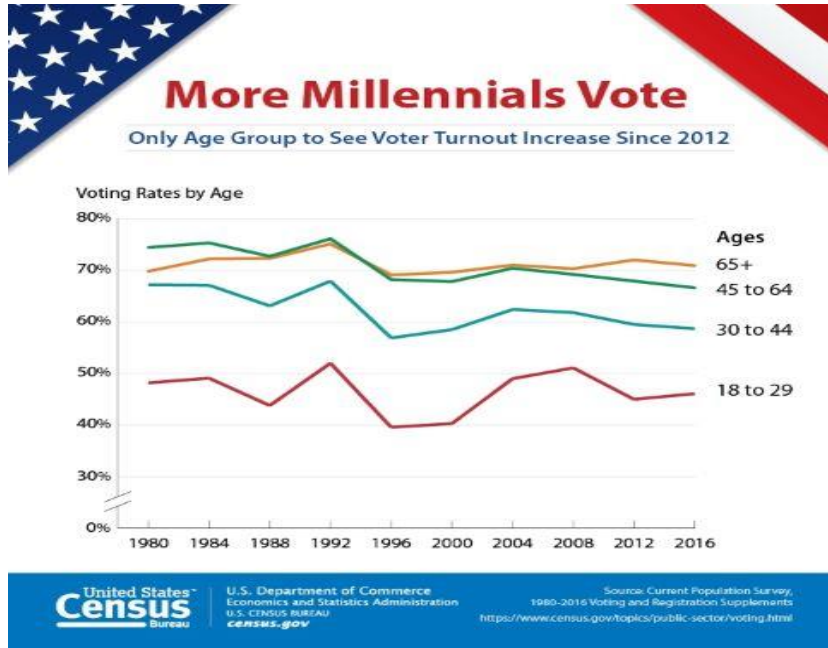
- a) 18–29
- b) 30–44
- c) 45–64
- d) 65 and older



# Voter Question #3 Answer

D. 65 and older

But . . . More people 18 to 29 are voting depending on issues and local efforts to get out the vote.



## **Election Question #4**

**4. Why do we vote the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November?**

## Voter Question #4 Answer

### **4. Why do we vote the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November?**

In 1845 Congress passed a law establishing this day for presidential elections in even-numbered years. The US was largely agrarian at that time. Early November was after the harvesting season. Towns were largely small and spread out. People had to travel to the county seat to vote, and traveling on Sundays was out for religious reasons.




# Why Vote?




# Reasons for Voting

- I've always voted.
- My parents got me started voting.
- It's my responsibility.
- I'm concerned about an issue.
- I want to make my voice heard.
- I want to help choose people who will make decisions that affect me and my community.



# Who Is Eligible to Vote in Illinois?



# Who Is Eligible to Vote in Illinois?

Eligible to vote in 2020:

- US citizens
- 18 years or older by November 3, 2020
- Live in your voting area (precinct) for 30 days before the election (college students can choose to vote at college address or at home address)
- Not convicted and serving time in prison
- Not claiming right to vote anywhere else

# Who Is Not Eligible to Vote in Illinois?

- Those who are citizens but not yet 18 years old
- Those who are visa or green card holders
- Those who have passed the USCIS citizenship interview but have not yet taken the oath
- Those who live in other states but are visiting here
- Those who have been convicted and are in prison





# **What Are the Steps to Voting? How Can I Prepare?**



# What Are the Steps to Voting?

1. **Register** to vote.
2. **Prepare:** learn about candidates and issues.
3. **Make a plan:** decide how and when to vote.
4. **Vote!**

# Step 1: Register to Vote

1. **Go online** at [ova.elections.il.gov](https://ova.elections.il.gov) now through October 18.
2. **Complete a paper form** and mail it in before October 6.  
Download from  
<https://champaigncountyclerk.com/elections/register-vote>
3. **Register in person** now through October 6 if available.
4. **Register and vote in person** on the same day  
October 7–November 3.

# Register to Vote Online

- Go to State Board of Elections website at [ova.elections.il.gov](https://ova.elections.il.gov)
- Available through Oct. 18
- Select from 4 languages
- Use Online Voter Registration how-to video



EVEN IF YOU'RE BUSY  
**YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE.**

Register online at <https://ova.elections.il.gov>



# Register to Vote: Paper Form

- Download paper form on County Clerk's website at <https://champaigncountyclerk.com/elections/register-vote>
- Print form.
- Complete the form.
- Mail or take it to the County Clerk's office before Oct. 6: address is on the form.

Note: you can also call the office and request a form:  
217-382-3724.

# Register to Vote: In Person

- At community voter registration events if available.
- Register and vote on the same day October 7–November 3.
- Find information here:

<https://champaigncountyclerk.com/elections/register-vote>



## Step 2: Prepare

Learn about candidates and issues so you can decide who to vote for.

- Why Vote 2020
- Candidate Guide: [votechampaign.org](https://votechampaign.org)
- Candidate Forums: See and hear candidates for many races as they answer citizens' questions. Zoom sessions at 7 pm Sept. 9, 14, 16, and 17.

## **Step 3: Make a Plan**

## **Step 4: Vote**

- Vote by mail
- Vote early
- Vote on election day

**Our state has a choice for every voter!**



# Vote by Mail Information

- Any registered voter can request a mail ballot. No reason is required. Voting by mail is safe, secure, and easy to do.
- Request your mail ballot **right away**.  
<https://champaigncountyclerk.com/elections/my-voting-information/vote-mail-ballot-request>
- Ballots are mailed starting September 24.
- Ballots can be returned through the mail, put in a secure drop box, or taken in person to the County Clerk's office.

# Vote by Mail: How-To

1. Request a mail ballot from the County Clerk at [champaigncountyclerk.com/elections/vote-by-mail-request](http://champaigncountyclerk.com/elections/vote-by-mail-request).
2. Once you receive your ballot, fill it out.
3. Sign and date the voter statement on the return envelope.
4. Return your completed ballot as soon as possible.
  - Mail: Must be postmarked on or before November 3.
  - Secure drop box: by 7 pm November 3.

**Don't wait! Request early—Return as soon as possible.**

# Confirm Your Vote by Mail Application

## Voter Information

Williams, Amelia  
1713 Smithfield Rd  
Champaign, IL 61822  
Update

**Precinct:** City of  
Champaign 34  
Voting Districts

**Registration Status**  
Current

## Election Information

2020 General Election  
11/3/2020

## Track Your Ballot

Ballot Requested ✓  
5/29/20

Sent

Received

## Polling Places

Directions to Polling Place  
Parkland College  
Student Life Center  
2400 W Bradley Ave  
Champaign, IL 61821

Directions to Polling Place

Early Voting

# Important: Sign and Date

## Spoiled ballot

- I have spoiled my ballot, send me a new ballot.  
Be sure to include your spoiled ballot in the return mailing to the Election Authority

### FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Signature Verified: \_\_\_\_\_

Rejected, reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Voter: Return only your ballot in this envelope.

## Did you get help?

If you received assistance in casting your ballot, you further attest that, due to physical incapacity, you marked the enclosed ballot in secret with the assistance of the following person.

Signature of person providing assistance  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address of person providing assistance  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature or mark of voter

X

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Ballot Certification

I state that I am a resident of the precinct specified and have lived at such address for 30 days or more preceding said election, all in the County of Champaign and State of Illinois. I am lawfully entitled to vote in this precinct and election. I further state that I personally marked the enclosed ballot in secret.

Under penalties of perjury as provided by law pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/29-10, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this certification are true and correct.

Complete if ballot is delivered by individual authorized by the voter

### Affidavit Of Delivery

I (insert name) \_\_\_\_\_

residing at (insert address) \_\_\_\_\_

authorize (name of person delivering ballot) \_\_\_\_\_

to deliver my ballot to the office of the Champaign County Clerk.

Signature or mark of voter  
\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Authorized Delivery Agent  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Authorized Delivery Agent  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Example of a Secure Drop Box

Secure, 24/7

Ballots picked up daily here:

- Brookens Center
- Urbana Library
- Douglass Library
- Champaign Public Library
- U of Illinois Quad
- Sholem Pool drive
- C-U Public Health



# Vote Early in Person

- Early voting starts September 24 at the County Clerk's office.
- Other county-wide early voting locations open October 19.
- Vote early at any of the locations no matter where you live:  
<https://champaigncountyclerk.com/elections/many-ways-vote/early-voting-information>
- All locations follow Public Health guidelines.

**Less crowded, lines are shorter, quicker!**

# Vote in Person on Election Day

- Vote at your home precinct. Find your precinct here:  
<https://champaigncountyclerk.com/elections/my-voting-information>
- Vote at one of the early voting locations no matter where you live.
- All locations follow Public Health guidelines.
- All locations open 6 am to 7 pm.

**You can register to vote and then vote on the same day.**







# Where Can I Find Election and Voting Information?



# Information Sources

- County Clerk's website for election information: [champaigncountyclerk.com](http://champaigncountyclerk.com)
- Nonpartisan Candidate Guide: [votechampaign.org](http://votechampaign.org)
- League of Women Voters: [lwwchampaigncounty.org](http://lwwchampaigncounty.org)
- League of Women Voters *Grow the Vote* for shareable social media graphics, Online Voter Registration how-to video, and Vote at Home video: [lwwchampaigncounty.org/grow-the-vote.html](http://lwwchampaigncounty.org/grow-the-vote.html)



