

CHICAGO BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

ACCESSIBLE VOTE BY MAIL

An Accessible Voting Option for Chicago Voters with Disabilities and Disabled Veterans

November 3, 2026 General Election

Vote privately. Vote independently. Vote accessibly. Accessible Vote By Mail can allow a Chicago voter with a qualifying print disability to receive an electronic ballot and use assistive technology to read, mark, and verify the ballot more independently.

WHAT IS ACCESSIBLE VOTE BY MAIL?

Accessible Vote By Mail is an option for voters with print disabilities who need an electronic ballot in order to effectively read, write, or use voting materials. Illinois law recognizes assistive technology such as screen readers, screen magnification, refreshable Braille displays, and speech-recognition software.

WHO MAY QUALIFY?

A print disability is a temporary or permanent physical or mental impairment that prevents effective reading, writing, or use of printed material. Examples include:

- Blindness or low vision
- Physical dexterity limitations
- Difficulty holding, handling, or marking printed material
- Certain learning disabilities
- Certain cognitive disabilities
- Other disabilities that prevent effective use of printed voting materials

Disabled veterans: Veterans with qualifying visual, physical, neurological, dexterity, learning, or cognitive limitations may be eligible. Eligibility is based on the effect of the disability on use of printed material, not simply on a diagnosis or disability label.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

1. **Request an Accessible Vote By Mail ballot.** Complete an Accessible Vote By Mail application. Chicago voters with print disabilities may use the approved OmniBallot process identified by the Illinois State Board of Elections.
2. **Receive the ballot electronically.** The voter receives access to an electronic ballot through the certified accessible system.
3. **Use assistive technology.** The voter can read, mark, and verify selections using compatible assistive technology.
4. **Print the completed ballot.** Accessible Vote By Mail is not online voting. Under current Illinois law, the voter prints the marked ballot.
5. **Return the physical ballot.** Follow the official return instructions. If returning it by mail, the ballot must be postmarked no later than Election Day.

IMPORTANT 2026 DATES

September 24, 2026: First day election authorities may mail Vote By Mail ballots for the General Election.

October 29, 2026: Deadline for election authorities to receive Vote By Mail requests submitted by mail. Apply early whenever possible.

November 3, 2026: General Election Day. Mailed Vote By Mail ballots must be postmarked no later than Election Day.

PERMANENT ACCESSIBLE VOTE BY MAIL

A voter with a non-temporary print disability may apply for permanent Accessible Vote By Mail status. This can provide an ongoing accessible ballot option for future elections while the voter remains eligible for permanent Vote By Mail status.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

Some voters may be able to mark an electronic ballot independently but still need assistance with physical tasks such as printing, handling paper, using the return envelope, or returning the ballot. Illinois law permits assistance when a voter is physically unable to mark the ballot, subject to legal restrictions on who may provide that assistance.

OTHER ACCESSIBLE VOTING OPTIONS

Accessible Vote By Mail is a voting option, not a requirement. Voters with disabilities may also choose standard Vote By Mail, Early Voting, Election Day voting, accessible voting equipment, or other available accommodations.

CONTACT THE CHICAGO BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Chicago Board of Election Commissioners

69 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602

General Information: 312-269-7900

Voting Accessibility: 312-269-7976

Vote By Mail: 312-269-7967

Accessibility email: cboe@chicagoelections.gov

Vote By Mail email: VoteByMail@chicagoelections.gov

Accessible Vote By Mail information: [Chicago Board of Elections - Vote By Mail](#)

HELP SPREAD THE WORD

Disability organizations, disabled veteran organizations, independent living centers, rehabilitation programs, veterans organizations, caregivers, service providers, and community partners can help by making voters aware that Accessible Vote By Mail is available.

A voter who cannot effectively use a conventional printed ballot may have an option that supports greater privacy, independence, and accessibility.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

[Illinois State Board of Elections - Voting By Mail and Accessible Vote By Mail](#)

[Illinois Election Code - 10 ILCS 5/19-2.6](#)

[Illinois Election Code - 10 ILCS 5/19-5](#)

Information verified September 24, 2026. Verify election dates and procedures before reusing this flyer for a future election.