

QUESTIONS FROM CHAT with County Clerk Jean Kaczmarek (answers in red)

What happens to the people who register to vote after the mass mailing of the applications to vote by mail come? Do they get an application after they register sent to their house?

If a person registered between July 4th and July 31st they will receive an application to vote by mail from us.

People who register to vote will be given the option to request a ballot by mail and will NOT have to fill out an additional application.

In the event they do not ask for a ballot at that time, they can apply for a mail ballot anytime by filling out an application online, or calling our office and requesting a paper application, so long as it is submitted by 4:30PM on 10/29/2020.

How is the County preparing for the influx of applications to VBM; both on the front end in terms of volume of applications, but also on the back end in terms of tabulating ballots?

We are changing our process to send ballots directly from Runbeck, the standard in vote by mail. In the past, these ballots were printed directly in office. This will allow VBM staff to focus on processing applications. On the back end, we have invested in additional VBM technology, such as the Agilis Mail sorter to organize and process faster than ever before. We are also hiring additional temps and vote by mail judges to assist in data entry, processing, and feeding the ballots.

As an election judge, any information you can share about what to expect “on the front line” in November.

All Illinois Department of Public Health policies will be followed. The election division is already purchasing masks, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes for each polling location. . Voters will be asked to wear masks and observe 6' social distancing. The number of voters in the polling place at one time may be limited. With the anticipated substantial increases in Vote by Mail and Early Voting, the Election Day turnout may be lessened as more voters would have already voted. As additional changes occur, the Election Judges will be informed.

With the Twitter hack today, what types of interference in the execution and tabulation of voting might we expect?

None - our tabulation and voting systems are air gapped and disconnected from any internet facing connections. Election Day results are uploaded directly via air gapped memory cards and are then pushed to Election Night Results via physical media, not a direct connection between tabulation and internet.

Are you having difficulty in establishing polling places for early voting and voting day?

SB1863 established election day 2020 as a state holiday so all schools will be available to become a polling location if necessary. The ability to locate polling places in schools allows greater flexibility to provide polling places on Election Day. Some difficulty remains in securing locations for early voting but the election division is committed to finding sites that will voters to cast their ballot early.

Will absentee early voting also be available at the County site or only Fairgrounds?

Due to Covid-19 and the ability to manage crowds effectively, we will be moving the onsite county site to the DuPage County Fairgrounds. In addition, we are looking to add additional EV sites across the county to make it easier and safer to vote early.

Early Voting will begin on September 24, 2020, at the fairgrounds. Early Voting starts 10/19/2020 and goes through 11/2/2020. Please check our website <https://www.dupageco.org/election/> for locations.

Will there be curbside or drive -thru voting?

Ideally, it would be best for voters considering curbside to instead seriously consider VBM.

Curbside voting requires an appointment during non-peak times. In the past, it was understood that this service would be reserved for special cases, ie: those with disabilities. We have not worked out the details. No, there is no drive-through voting.

What should a voter do if they applied for a ballot and did not receive it?

*Call the election office at Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday
Phone: (English) 630-407-5600 (Spanish) 630-407-5608*

Remember – requested ballots will begin to be mailed on September 24. Please allow 4 or 5 days for delivery before contacting the Election Division. Also, please don't wait until the last minute to report a ballot that may be lost or misplaced.

I ordered mine today from Montana...I understand they are to be mailed on 9/24. I assume that if you don't get it at your out of state address and you are back by 11/3, you can still go to your polling place?

Yes, you will be able to vote by provisional ballot on election day. Once it has been confirmed that you have not previously voted. Your ballot will be tallied and included in the official count.

Will DuPage County offer a drop box for ballots, or do they all need to go through the US mail?

There will be a drop box located on the grounds of the 421 building. Another drop box will be located in the lobby of the 421 Building.

I was an on-site judge for the primary; our ballot box broke down. will equipment be checked before it is delivered to polling place.

All equipment is checked and double checked before delivery. We are sorry that happened but hope the problem was resolved quickly by staff.

Will there be a drop box at polling places or do you hand the sealed envelope to an election judge?

You would hand the signed, sealed envelope to an election judge.

Are ballots counted as received, or on Election Day?

Ballots are counted and process as they are received but a total tally is not done until 7:00PM on election day.

Final Tally of ballots is not final until certification two weeks after election. Until this point, the election is not 100% tallied.

Can voter use their own envelope if they misplace the official envelope, assuming they sign the envelope flap?

Yes they can use their own envelope the envelope should include their printed name and signature.

Are there special election judges just to collect and count the absentee ballots?

Yes, every signature is validated and processed by election judges of from both parties.

Is there a difference between absentee voting and vote by mail?

No, they are one and the same.

If a voter has just registered between now and 8/1 will they automatically receive a vote by mail ballot?

Those who register between now and election day have an option to request a mail ballot when they register. In addition, any registered voter can fill out an application online, or request a paper application so long as the request is received by 4:30PM on October 29, 2020.

We strongly encourage people to register NOW and to then apply ASAP for vote-by-mail and to not wait.

I have moved since my last registration but not updated yet, can I send the ballot to my new address?

Yes, but it is easy to change your registration on line. Please visit <https://www.dupageco.org/Election/Voting/37059/>

Are VBM ballots counted before election day?

The VBM ballots are processed through the tabulating machine but a final tally is not done until 7:00PM on election day

What do you mean by “recently” registered?

People who just recently completed voter registration. Perhaps a better way to say it is new registered voters

Some of the precincts in the County are small. On Election Day when you are implementing 6’ social distancing it wouldn’t take many people in line before you are standing outside. This is problematic if there is inclement weather. Any advance planning to protect voters?

Probably the best way to avoid that circumstance would be to vote early at one of the locations established throughout the county or request a ballot by mail.

Would that include my student who just registered in May?

All registered voters in DuPage County will be mailed an application to vote by mail.