Welcome to the Illinois Action for Children Voter Registration Toolkit!

Illinois once again finds itself in an important election season, and children across the state are relying on this campaign to make a difference.

This toolkit will help you plan and carry out simple and effective voter registration activities in your communities this election year! With the help of this guide, we encourage providers, parents, and anyone with a stake in accessible, high-quality early care and education to get involved.

- Guidelines & Instructions
- Election Activity Ideas
- Sample Flyers
- Other Resources

www.actforchildren.org/for-advocates
Since 1969, Illinois Action for Children (IAFC) has been a catalyst for organizing, developing and supporting strong families and powerful communities where children matter most. For a half century, we have successfully formed a common voice and vision for advancing high quality, accessible and affordable child care programs and early education opportunities. As a result, our successes have provided an important support to families and helped children to develop to their fullest potential.

IAFCs Public Policy and Advocacy Program has four goals:

1. **Advocate** for systems of early learning that are responsive to the needs of families and their children and foster the development, health, and well-being of all children.

2. **Collaborate** with individuals and organizations to encourage participation in civic and community life and, in that way, bring about meaningful changes in the public arena.

3. **Promote** quality improvement to early care and education and best practices for providers, programs, and policymakers.

4. **Support** parents in making the best choices for their children and achieving economic stability.

**Contact us!**
advocacy@actforchildren.org
Phone: 773.564.8843
Fax: 773.561.2256
www.actforchildren.org/for-advocates

**Stay in Touch & Share!**
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: @IAFC_CARES
YouTube, LinkedIn: Illinois Action for Children
Focus on the month before the deadline

People are more likely to register closer to the deadline, so plan to conduct most of your activities in the weeks before that date.

Set a goal

Create a goal for how many people you want to register. Consider how many additional programs or organizations in your community you want to recruit to join you in registering new voters.

Decide your approach

Consider the capacity of your program, or organization and the relationships you have in the community when designing voter registration activities. Get creative!

Know what to expect

Many of the parents you serve may already be registered, may not be citizens and are ineligible to vote, or have moved to new home. Remind them to re-register at their new address.

Understand voter registration rules

To register in Illinois you must:

- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be at least 18 years old by Election Day
- Reside in your precinct for at least 30 days
- Have two forms of identification, including one that shows your current address

Don’t Forget These Important Dates!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Election Day</td>
<td>Feb. 26, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day to Register to Vote</td>
<td>Feb. 10, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Period Registration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Voting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Day</td>
<td>Jan. 30, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day</td>
<td>Feb. 26, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Voting for Election</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Day</td>
<td>Jan. 17, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day</td>
<td>Feb. 25, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Instructions for Registering Voters

Step 1: In addition to any other promotional materials, make the Illinois Voter Registration Form available. You can print Motor Voter Registration Forms at: [http://www.elections.il.gov/infoforvoters.aspx](http://www.elections.il.gov/infoforvoters.aspx) under “How do I Register to Vote?”. Have a computer available to register voters online, see information below;

Step 2: Ask the person if they are registered to vote. Confirm that the person is allowed to vote (See Principles of Effective Voting). If they say “yes,” make sure they are registered at their current address and under their current name. If they need to be registered for the first time (or if they need to change their name or address on a current registration), have them complete a white Motor Voter Form.

Step 3: Once a person completes the Illinois Voter Registration Form, have them hand it back to you. Give them the Registered Now Vote fact sheet. Then, add their name and address to the Motor Voter Tracking Sheet to track your voter registration goals.

Step 4: Collect the completed Illinois Voter Registration Forms and send all the forms to your local election authority at the end of each week. You can find the address of your local election authority at: [www.elections.il.gov/](http://www.elections.il.gov/)

Online voter registration: Eligible voters can register online at [http://ova.elections.il.gov](http://ova.elections.il.gov) The application must be printed, signed, and delivered to the election authority. For online voter registration, you need your driver’s license or state ID card and the last four digits of your social security number.

Additional Resources

For additional resources on voter registration and election information, visit:

Illinois Board of Elections
[http://www.elections.il.gov/](http://www.elections.il.gov/)

Nonprofit VOTE
Activities You Can Do!

Elected officials pay attention to who votes. An important step to being a voice for early care and education is registering to vote and voting! As an advocate, you can increase voter and civic engagement by registering the families and the communities that you already serve.

1 Publicize and Promote

⚠️ Promote voter registration deadlines and instructions in the weeks before the election.

Tip!
Announce registration deadlines and offer details on how to register to vote at trainings and meetings, in newsletters, and on your website.

⚠️ Display posters and other flyers at your site showing voter registration deadlines, along with where to obtain and submit voter registration forms.

2 Conduct On-Site Voter Registration

⚠️ Incorporate voter registration into your ongoing activities and interactions with families and providers.

⚠️ Assign a staff member to plan and direct voter registration activities. Train staff on how to conduct voter registration using materials from this toolkit and resources from your local elections office. One person should be in charge of promptly returning forms to the local elections office once a week.

⚠️ Make voter registration forms widely available and offer people the opportunity to register at your site.

Tip!
Set up a space at your site with voter registration forms, instructions, and a drop box for completed registrations.
Provide a sample registration form highlighting all the required fields.
3 Mobilize and Partner with Your Community

- Depending on your capacity and resources, extend your voter registration efforts outside your organization by working with others in your community.

- Identify partners in your community and encourage them to register voters – like child care associations, early childhood collaborations, schools, public libraries, volunteer groups, or small businesses.

Tip!

Have staff or volunteers set-up a voter registration table at community events or high traffic areas. Good locations are where people from the community gather – grocery stores, shopping centers, school and sports events, places of worship, transit stops, etc.

"The vote is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have."

-Congressman John Lewis
You’re Registered! Now Make A Difference...

VOTE!

Take an important step for children and families, and VOTE on February 26, 2019!
Send a strong message to your elected officials that children should be healthy, eager to learn, and ready to succeed when they enter school!

Frequently Asked Questions

How will I know I’m officially registered to vote?
You should receive a voter ID card in the mail within 3 weeks of when you register.

I have not received my voter registration card. What do I do?
If you have not received your voter registration card, call the State Board of Elections at (312) 814-6440 in Chicago or (217) 782-4141 to get the number of your County Clerk’s office. Even if you do not receive your voter registration card by election day, GO TO THE POLLS to vote. Your local polling place should have your information, or you might get a provisional ballot.

I didn’t get a chance to register to vote?
That’s okay! Grace Period Registration takes place January 30 through February 26, 2019. Grace period registration and voting is the only way to register or change your address or name after the regular registration period ends. It is also the only way to vote if you are not registered or if your voter registration is not up to date.

Where can I participate in Grace Period Registration?
To see where your county is holding Grace Period Registration, visit www.elections.il.gov under Election Authorities.

What if I am already registered?
You don’t have to wait until Election Day to vote! Early Voting will take place from January 17 to February 25, 2019. To find an early voting site near you, visit www.election.il.gov under Election Authorities. Find your county and visit its Election Site for locations. Just remember to bring your voter ID and a government-issued photo ID such as a passport, driver’s license, or military ID. All Early Voting is conducted on touch screens. Voters who participate in Early Voting must vote in person.

What do I need to bring to the polling place on February 26?
If you are registering and voting for the first time, you will need to provide identification when you vote. Acceptable ID includes your voter ID card, a driver’s license, other current valid photo ID, a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address.
Where do I go to vote?
You should receive a notice in the mail that gives your voting place. If you have not received this notice, call your local county clerk’s office. Contact information by county can be found on www.elections.il.gov under Election Authorities.

How do I know who is running in my area?
You can find out who is running for all offices on www.elections.il.gov under Offices Up for Election. If you do not have the Internet, call the Illinois State Board of Elections at 312.814.6440 in Chicago or 217.782.4141 in Springfield and ask who is running in your district. Your registration card will tell you your voting district.

How do I know who to vote for?
Illinois Action for Children is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization and does not endorse candidates for elected office. However, since elected officials get to make policy decisions about programs that matter to children and families, we do encourage you to learn more about each candidate. Consider how the candidate stands on the issues that matter to working families and children, such as early care and education. To help you, below is a list of programs that support children and families. Be sure to find out where the candidates stand on these issues.
It’s easy and takes just a few minutes! To register you must:

- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be at least 18 years of age by election day
- Be a resident of your precinct at least 30 days
- Have two forms of identification, including one that shows your current address

CAST YOUR BALLOT ON FEBRUARY 26, 2019
Activity Tracking Report

Please fill out one form for each voter registration activity that occurs. Send this form to the Community Engagement Team by fax at 773-561-2256 or email advocacy@actforchildren.org.

If you coordinating ongoing events, fill out 1 form for each week.

Contact Information

Program/Organization Name: ____________________________
Staff Name: ____________________________ Telephone Number: ____________________________
Email Address: ____________________________

Events and Registration Activities

Please describe the activity: (i.e. on-site registration booth, mock election, etc.)

What date(s) did the activity occur? __________ How many people attended the event? __________

How many voters did you register (including first time voters and name/address changes)? __________

Comments

Please share any stories or experiences you encountered while trying to register voters: