

(<https://www.actforchildren.org/champion/join-movement/e-advocate>)

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## This Issue: New Year's Resolutions

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Happy New Year! There is a lot to look forward to in 2020—in this issue of eAdvocate, we kick off the year by offering tips on improving our advocacy for children and families. We highlight some exciting events coming up and include important dates to put on your calendar, as 2020 is an election year.



## 2020 Advocacy Resolutions

- **Participate in the 2020 Census** (<https://go.actforchildren.org/l/471011/2020-01-13/f5vxx#2>): Educate yourself on this important survey that happens once every ten years! Your knowledge will help you answer questions of the families that you serve. Start here (<https://go.actforchildren.org/l/471011/2019-11-15/dkt3z>) with our easy-to-read Myths and Facts about the 2020 Census.
- **Vote. Twice!** (<https://go.actforchildren.org/l/471011/2020-01-13/f5vxx#2>) Take a look at the registration deadlines below and make sure you are registered to vote, and vote in both the Illinois Primary Election and the General Election!
- **Register others to vote:** Forward this email and remind friends about registration deadlines and voting dates.
- **Vote for candidates** who support the early childhood education and care issues that matter to you! See what's on your ballot ([https://ballotpedia.org/Illinois\\_elections,\\_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Illinois_elections,_2020)).
- **Connect with your legislators:** Make sure your legislators know how important increased investments are in early childhood. Among many things, we need our elected officials to prioritize funding for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), Early Intervention, home visiting, and increase compensation for early childhood providers! Find

your elected officials

(<https://elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/DistrictLocator/DistrictOfficialSearchByAddress.aspx>).

- **Bring a new friend to an advocacy event:** Mark your calendars! Our annual Spring into Action Conference and Early Childhood Advocacy Day will be held April 28-29 in Springfield, IL. This is a great opportunity to participate in actionable workshops and speak with your legislators, and it's always more fun when you bring a friend! All year we will convene Providers in Action and this fall you can look forward to the next iteration of Fall into Action workshops. Plus, we offer lots of informative webinars all year. Visit our website (<https://www.actforchildren.org/for-advocates/>) to stay up-to-date on our calendar of in-person and online events.
- **Advocacy training:** Did you see a training you would have liked to attend but couldn't make it? Let us know (<mailto:advocacy@actforchildren.org?subject=Advocacy%20Training%20Inquiry>), and invite our policy and advocacy team to your organization. We don't want you to miss out!
- **Stay informed with us:** Be sure to follow us on social media (Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ILAction4children>), Twitter ([https://twitter.com/iafc\\_cares](https://twitter.com/iafc_cares)), and Instagram ([https://instagram.com/iafc\\_cares](https://instagram.com/iafc_cares))), and sign up for our newsletters (<https://go.actforchildren.org/I/471011/2018-05-21/39dsr>).
- **Practice self-care:** We know the days get busy, but this is the most important resolution. If we don't care for ourselves, we can't be the best advocates for children and families. Here (<http://www.mindfulteachers.org/p/self-care-resources.html>) are some tips to incorporate self-care into your daily routine.
- **Follow through with action:** Now that you've done all of the above, the best thing to remember is to follow through with action. If you don't have time to visit a legislator, give him/her a call instead. It will only take a minute! Try setting a goal for the number of events to attend or the number of elected officials you'd like to connect with this year. You can do it—and we can't do it without you!

## 2020 Census



### AgeOptions 2020 Census Webinar Series, Webinar III: Reaching Low Income and Racial & Ethnic Minority Communities: Jan 21, 2020, 1-2 pm CT

AgeOptions will be hosting a webinar series about the 2020 Census and how aging service professionals can help promote the message. Liz Wilson from Illinois Action for Children will present on how to reach Low Income and Racial & Ethnic Minority Communities, why these communities are hard to count, and messaging tips and tricks. Cristina Diaz from AgeOptions will present specifically on reaching Spanish-speaking communities.

Register here (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7918177371381900299>).

### The Census Bureau is hiring and wants to hire 77,000 people in Illinois!

And here's the best part: income from Census employment will **NOT** adversely affect benefits like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). The Census is hiring a variety of positions—both full-time and part-time—including Census takers, recruitment assistants, office staff, and supervisory staff from now until July 2020. Census takers can receive \$18- \$22.50 / hour. Click here (<https://recruitment.2020census.gov/ats/careersite/census.aspx?site=1&c=censushttps://recruitment.2020census.gov/ats/careersite/census.aspx?site=1&c=census>) to apply.

## Voting in 2020 Elections



Illinois has a General Primary Election on **Tuesday, March 17, 2020** and a General Election on **Tuesday, November 3, 2020**! We know there is a lot to keep track of, so included here is a cheat sheet (<https://www.usvotefoundation.org/vote/state-elections/state-election-dates-deadlines.htm?stateName=IL>) to help.

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| <b>Illinois General Primary Voting</b> |   |
| February 6 - March 16, 2020            | Early voting  |
| February 18, 2020                      | Voter registration deadline within offices of the election authority        |
| February 29, 2020                      | ONLINE voter registration deadline via the State Board of Elections website |
| March 12, 2020                         | Absentee ballot request deadline  |
| March 16, 2020                         | Absentee ballot request in person deadline                                  |
| March 17, 2020                         | Absentee ballot postmarked by this date                                     |
| <b>March 17, 2020</b>                  | <b>ELECTION DAY!</b>  |
| March 31, 2020                         | Absentee ballot post received by this date                                  |
| <b>Illinois General Election</b>       |   |
| October 19 - November 2, 2020          | Early voting  |
| October 6, 2020                        | Voter registration deadline within the offices of the election authority    |
| October 18, 2020                       | ONLINE voter registration deadline via the State Board of Elections website |
| October 29, 2020                       | Absentee ballot request deadline  |
| November 2, 2020                       | Absentee ballot request in person deadline                                  |
| November 3, 2020                       | Absentee ballot postmarked by this date                                     |
| <b>November 3, 2020</b>                | <b>ELECTION DAY!</b>  |
| November 17, 2020                      | Absentee ballot post received by this date                                  |



## Upcoming Advocacy Events

### Policy Priorities Webinar: Jan 30, 2020, 12 - 1pm

Join our policy team to hear about Illinois Action for Children’s priorities for the upcoming legislative session! We will cover anticipated legislation and early childhood funding requests for FY2021. As we gear up for another busy session, we will share exciting opportunities to advocate for early childhood education and care.

Register here (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3525603130214405133>).

### Governor Pritzker’s Budget Address: February 19, 2020

In the coming days, Illinois Action for Children will be sharing opportunities to advocate for early childhood investments before Governor Pritzker's Budget Address. Look out for more details coming soon!

**Spring into Action: April 28 & 29, 2020**

Our two-day agenda in Springfield, IL will include policy workshops and time to meet with your legislator. Registration and additional details forthcoming!