



Toluca Star Herald

Early Voting Has Begun. How To Vote In Illinois In 2026

by Jenna Schweikert

UIS Public Affairs Reporting

Capitol News Illinois has launched its revamped 2026 Election Guide to coincide with the opening of early voting throughout much of the state.

The guide has a rundown of key dates, information on how to register and vote early, and a lookup tool to put voters in touch with their local election authority. It also links to our coverage of the various races for statewide office.

Early voting opens

The guide launched this week to coincide with early voting opening on Feb. 5 for the March 17 primary in most of the state, outside of Cook County. Early voting kicks off on Feb. 12 in downtown Chicago and either Feb. 18 or March 2 in suburban Cook County, depending on where you live. Early voting for all jurisdictions ends on March 16.

Most early voting takes place at the local election authority's offices, which for most residents is their county clerk's office. Some churches, libraries, colleges and universities and other government buildings are also offering early voting. Voters can find local polling locations and hours at the Illinois State Board of Elections website.

Registration is also open at most polling locations through Feb. 17. Grace period registration, available at some polling locations, opens Feb. 18 and closes on Election Day, March 17.

Registration is also open online at ova.elections.il.gov until March 1 and will reopen on March 19.

Registration identification

Any voter who needs to register for the first time or file an address change must present two forms of ID, one of which shows the voter's current address.

Valid forms of identification include work, school, state and military ID, passports and drivers licenses, leases and mortgages, utility bills, vehicle registration, credit and debit cards and insurance cards.

Voters who do not present a valid form of ID if needed can cast a provisional ballot and present ID to the election authority by March 24.

ID requirements vary at polling locations, but election authorities recommend bringing at least one form of identification in case of any questions.

Mail-in ballots

Mail-in ballots will also be sent to voters who've requested them beginning Feb. 5. The last day to request a mail-in ballot is March 12.

They must be postmarked by Election Day, but county clerks recommend mailing these ballots at least a week in advance of the election, due to United States Postal Service changes that could delay mail.

Election authorities will also accept mail ballots delivered by hand, and some have drop boxes where ballots can be delivered. Voters who requested a mail-in ballot can still vote in person but must surrender the mailed ballot before doing so.

Polls will be open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day. If voters are in line before the polls close, they are guaranteed a chance to vote.

2026's Best States To Retire

Where you choose to retire can make a big difference in how far your money goes - especially since 65% of non-retired adults say their retirement savings aren't on track. To determine the best states to retire, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 46 key indicators of retirement-friendliness, from financial factors like tax rates and the cost of living to things like access to quality medical care and fun activities.

2026's Best States To Retire

State	Score
1. Wyoming.....	61.56
2. Florida.....	61.55
3. South Dakota.....	58.69
4. Colorado.....	58.37

5. Minnesota.....	58.29
6. Alaska.....	57.90
7. Delaware.....	57.35
8. Pennsylvania.....	56.85
9. New Hampshire.....	56.40
10. Iowa.....	56.26
11. Wisconsin.....	56.05
12. Virginia.....	55.48
13. North Carolina.....	54.91
14. North Dakota.....	54.90
15. Missouri.....	54.73

43. Washington.....	45.63
44. Arkansas.....	45.34
45. New York.....	45.34
46. Hawaii.....	45.27
47. West Virginia.....	45.24
48. Mississippi.....	44.60
49. Oklahoma.....	42.59
50. Kentucky.....	41.83

Best vs. Worst

♦ Oklahoma has the lowest adjusted cost-of-living index for retirees, which is 2.1 times lower than in Hawaii, where it is highest.

♦ Louisiana has the lowest median annual cost of elderly house-keeping, which is 2.2 times lower than in South Dakota, where it is highest.

♦ New Hampshire has the highest share of the population aged 65 and older still working, 1.7 times higher than in West Virginia, where it is lowest.

♦ Maine has the highest share of the population aged 65 and older, which is 1.9 times higher than in Utah, where it is lowest.

2026's Worst States To Retire

36. Maryland.....	47.05
37. Alabama.....	46.85
38. Illinois.....	46.78
39. Louisiana.....	46.65
40. Oregon.....	46.24
41. New Mexico.....	46.18
42. Rhode Island.....	45.98

Presidential Trivia For February From Chief Senachwine DAR Chapter For America 250

Lincoln Trivia

To honor Abraham Lincoln, who was born 217 years ago on Feb. 12, 1809, here is a quiz to test your knowledge about President Lincoln.

1. In which state was Lincoln born? (Kentucky, Illinois, Virginia, California)

2. What was the highest level of education Lincoln received? (less than one year of formal education, attended Oberlin College but did not graduate, graduated from West Point in 1832, received a law degree from Harvard in 1834)

3. In which political party did Lincoln spend most of his life? (Whig, an independent, Republican, Democratic)

4. Who won the 1858 senatorial election in Illinois? (Stephen Douglas, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Henry Clay)

5. How many debates did Lincoln have with Stephen Douglas? (7, 1, 26, 70)

Washington Trivia

To honor George Washington, who was born 294 years ago on Feb. 22, 1732, here is a quiz to test your knowledge about our first president.

1. Where was Washington born? (England, Massachusetts, South Carolina, Virginia)

2. Where did Washington attend college? (College of William and Mary, University of Virginia, Jamestown Institute of Technology, he didn't attend college)

3. What caused Washington's face to be scarred? (bad teeth, broken jaw, smallpox, bubonic plague)

4. In 1759, whom did Washington marry? (Martha Dandridge, Sally Fairfax, Martha Robinson, Abigail Smith)

5. How many children did Washington have? (2 daughters, he had no biological children, 3 sons, one son and one daughter)

Lincoln's quiz answers: Kentucky, Less than one year of for- (Continued On Page 4)

Fieldcrest Tops Ridgeview, G.C.M.S.



Fieldcrest's Layten Gerdes (#23) goes up for two of his five points against G.C.M.S. on Friday night. See story and box scores on page 4.

Marshall County Court News

CIVIL JUDGMENTS

Hearthside Food Solutions, LLC, (D). Amy Davis (P) 1/30/26 Judgment (P) \$200,000.

FINES LEVIED

Martice M. Vernon 9/24/25 by County Traffic "driving 15-20 mph above limit 7/8/25 fine \$360.

Joseph L. Johnson 2/2/26 by County Traffic "change lanes without signal." 7/2/24 Outstd Warrant >60 (inactive). 2/2/26 Warrant Quashed/Wthdrwn/srvd. Return to active, Fine. "Improper passing on shoulder" 7/2/24 Outstd Warrant >60 (inactive). 2/2/26 Warrant Quashed/Wthdrwn/srvd. Return to active, Fine. "Following too closely" 7/2/24 Outstd Warrant >60 (inactive). 2/2/26 Warrant Quashed/Wthdrwn/srvd. Return to active, Fine. "Fail to reduce speed" 7/2/24 Outstd Warrant >60 (inactive). 2/2/26 Warrant Quashed/Wthdrwn/srvd. Return to active, Fine. "Improper traffic lane usage" 7/2/24 Outstd Warrant >60 (inactive). 2/2/26 Warrant Quashed/Wthdrwn/srvd. Return to active, Fine. "Driving 1-10 mph above limit" 7/2/24 Outstd Warrant >60 (inactive). 2/2/26 Warrant Quashed/Wthdrwn/srvd. Return to active, Fine. (Fine \$76).

Raynard D. Elloi 1/16/25 by County Traffic "Operate uninsured mtr vehicle; Fail to reduce speed; Improper traffic lane usage" 2/2/26 fine \$301.

David J. Haefelin 8/6/25 by County traffic "driving 21-25 mph above limit" fine \$250.

David A. Griffin 10/27/25 by County Traffic "avoid traffic control signal" 1/30/26 fine \$251.

Erynn A. Bradshaw 11/1/25 by County Traffic "avoid traffic control signal" 1/30/26 fine \$251.

Trace E. Maltas 11/7/25 by Henry "improper traffic lane usage" 1/30/26 fine \$251.

Brad L. Adams 11/11/25 by County Traffic "driving 21-25 mph above limit" 1/30/26 fine \$251.

Sandipkumar V. Patel 11/5/25 by County Traffic "driving 15-20 mph above limit" 1/30/26 fine \$251.

Jarold C. Williams 11/30/25 by Henry "driving 1-10 mph above limit" 1/30/26 fine \$251.

Mercedes L. Lasley 12/5/25 by State Police "electronic commu device" 1/30/26 fine \$251.

Tyler S. Mansfield 12/5/25 by State Police "driving 21-25 mph above limit" 1/30/26 fine \$164.

Amber L. Swanson 12/22/25 by County traffic "expiration of registration" 1/30/26 fine \$251.

Kristopher A. Earl 1/1/26 by County Traffic "driving 21-25 mph above limit" 2/2/26 fine \$164.

Jaclyn A. Koehler 1/12/26 by County Traffic "fail to reduce speed" 2/3/26 fine \$425.

LAND TRANSFERS

Grantor: Joe D. Barth. Grantee: Terri D. Barth. Section 1, Township 29N, Range 1W, Govt Lot --SW, Notes Pt. Section 1, 29N, 1W, --SE, Notes S 1/2 of S 1/2. Quit Claim Deed.

Grantor: Paul Nauyalis. Grantee: Bruce Willis, Connie Willis, Madison Willis, Marshall Willis. Lake Wildwood Development Lot 672. Quit Claim Deed.

Grantor: Patsy R. Turnbull, William F. Turnbull Tr., William F. Turn-

bull Tr. Section 29, Township 12N, Range 8E, Govt Lot --SE, Notes E 1/2, Ex Pt. ,3.68A. Section 29, 12N, 8E, Govt Lot --NE, Notes S 1/2, 80A. Section 28, 12N, 8E, --NW, Notes S 1/2, 78.92A. Section 28, 12N, 8E, --SW, Notes S 1/2, 80A, N 1/2, 80A. Section 28, 12N, 8E, --SE, Notes W 1/2, Ex Pt, 72.32A. Section 27, 12N, 8E, Govt Lot: --SE, Notes Undiv 1/2 int, N 1/2, 80A. Section 27, 12N, 8E, --SW, Notes Undiv 1/2 int, S 1/2, 80A. Section 28, 12N, 8E, --NE, Notes undiv. 1/2 int., Pt. School LT, .75A. Deed Trust

Grantor: Jacqueline T. Girard, Timothy A. Girard. Grantee: Gloria Acquire Mayra. Wenona (Original Town) Block 3, Lot 11. Block 3, Lot 12, Notes S30'. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Brittany Crow, Roger Crow. Grantee: Kaitlyn McBride, Robert McBrideIII. Outlots City of Henry, Lot 6, Notes Lt. 5 & S10' Lt 4, S 1/2. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Rachel L. Eidson-Waldron. Grantee: Alpha & Omega Holding co LLC. Section 26, Township 30N, Range 2W, Govt Lot --NW, Notes Pt E 1/2. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Colton J. Poignant. Grantee: Courtney Michels. Section 19, Township 29N, Range 2W, Govt Lot --NE-SW, Notes N 1/2 of NE 1/4, 1.50A. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Judicial Sales Corp. Grantee: Fifth Third bank NA. Subdivision Allen Sub. Lot 5. Judicial Deed.

Grantor: Ronald J. Morgan Tr. Grantee: Paula A. Nenne. Santa Fe the 1st Add. Block 63, Lot 21. Lot 22. Lot 23. Lot 24. Trust Deed.

Grantor: Rhonda Lee Brown, (Continued On Page 4)