

## What's on the ballot? April 6 Consolidated General Election

### How can I check if I'm registered to vote in this election?

Use the [Cook County Clerk's Office's "Your Voter Information" tool](#) to check your registration status, your polling place, your sample ballot, and more.

### I'm not registered, but I want to. How can I register to vote for the April 6 election?

Eligible voters have three options to register for the April 6 election.

First, there is the option to register online. If you have an Illinois driver's license or state ID, you may register online through the [Illinois State Board of Elections website](#). The deadline to register online for the April 6 consolidated general election is Sunday, March 21.

Second, you can register at Early Voting. During the Early Voting period, you can register and vote in person at one of the Cook County Clerk's designated Early Voting locations. In Skokie, that's either at the Oakton Community College Skokie Campus or Skokie Courthouse. Individuals wishing to register and vote during Early Voting must bring two pieces of identification to register, one with a current address. Registrants must immediately cast their ballot after registering to vote.

Third, you can register on Election Day. On Election Day, voters who are not yet registered to vote can register and vote at their home precinct only. You can utilize the [Clerk's online "Your Voter Information" tool](#) to find your proper polling place by using your address. Voters planning on registering to vote or updating their address on Election Day must bring two pieces of identification to register, one with a current address.

### What are the ways I can vote in the April 6 election?

For the April 6 election, you have the option to vote by mail, early in person, or on Election Day in person.

**Vote by mail:** Any registered suburban Cook County voter with a driver's license, state ID, or social security number on file may request a mail ballot using an online or paper application. You can apply online now from the Cook County Clerk's election website to receive your mail ballot for the April 6, 2021 Consolidated Election. Mail ballots must be postmarked by Election Day in order to be counted.

**Early in person:** For the April 6, 2021 Consolidated Election, Early Voting will take place March 22 – April 5. There are two early voting locations in Skokie: Oakton Community College Skokie Campus at 7701 Lincoln Avenue, or the Skokie Courthouse, room 149, at 5600 Old Orchard Road. Both Skokie early voting sites are open 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Saturday, and 10 am to 4 pm on Sundays.

**On Election Day in person:** Vote at your home precinct on Election Day; you can use the [Cook County Clerk's Office's "Your Voter Information" tool](#) to identify your home precinct; also check your mail for a voter notification card that will list your polling place. Voting on Election Day takes place between 6 am and 7 pm.

**What if I was formerly incarcerated? Can I vote?**

As long as you register, yes! In Illinois, formerly incarcerated citizens who have served their time are eligible to register and vote; there is no distinction between formerly incarcerated community members (regardless of their crime) and their fellow citizens. The Clerk's office encourages every eligible citizen to register at their current address and take an active role in our democratic process.

**Do I need to bring my ID with me to vote?**

If you're already registered, your voting address is correct, and your signature appears to match your voter signature on file, you do not need any ID to vote.

If the Election Judge challenges your right to vote, or if you submitted a mail-in registration form that did not have an Illinois identification/driver's license number or Social Security number, you will be asked to provide one form of ID. It does not need to have your current address.

Two forms of ID are needed when you are registering to vote in person or are filing an address change at the time of voting. One of these two IDs must list the voter's current address.

**So what's on the ballot in Skokie for the April 6 Consolidated General Election?**

Most of the races and questions on the ballot will appear on the ballot for every Skokie voter, although some races are dependent upon your specific precinct—school district, for example.

**Candidates****Mayor, Village of Skokie**

At the top of the ballot is the election for Mayor of the Village of Skokie. George Van Dusen, the current mayor, is running unopposed. Van Dusen has been mayor of the Village since 1999, when he was first appointed to the position. The mayor is elected for a four-year term.

**Clerk, Village of Skokie**

Next is the position of the Village Clerk. The current clerk, Pramod Shah, is running unopposed. The village clerk is the custodian of Village records. The village clerk is elected for a four-year term.

**Trustee, Village of Skokie**

In the race for Trustees for the Village of Skokie, there are currently seven candidates. Voters will vote for six. The six elected trustees serve "at large," which means they do not represent any single geographical area of the community. The trustees, working with the mayor, serve as the Village Board, which is the legislative and policy-making body of the Village. All ordinances must be passed by a majority vote of the board. The board is also responsible for adopting a Village budget, undertaking an annual audit, confirming all appointments by the mayor and approving all legal contracts that include the Village.

**Library Trustee, Village of Skokie**

In the library trustee race for this election, voters will vote for two trustees. There are two ballot options in this category. The library Board of Trustees includes a total of 7 elected members of the community. Board members are elected for six-year terms in consolidated April elections.

**Supervisor, Niles Township**

On the ballot for Supervisor of Niles Township, current supervisor Bonnie Ognisanti is running unopposed. The township supervisor serves as Chief Executive Officer of the township. The supervisor serves as Chairman of the Township Board of Trustees, supervisor of the general assistance program, and treasurer of all township funds, which includes general assistance and road and bridge funds. The township supervisor serves a four-year term.

**Clerk, Niles Township**

Next is the position of the Niles Township Clerk. The current clerk, Charles Levy, is running unopposed. The township clerk is the custodian of Township records. The township clerk serves a four-year term.

**Assessor, Niles Township**

On the ballot for the four-year term of Niles Township Assessor is incumbent Scott Bagnall, who is running unopposed. The township assessor works with the Cook County Assessor to set property values, work with other government agencies to stimulate economic development, job creation and the construction of affordable housing, and help residents better understand the assessment process and take advantage of money-saving exemptions the office provides.

**Trustee, Niles Township**

There are four candidates for four positions as Niles Township Trustee. The township board, which includes the trustees and the township supervisor, is the legislative arm of the township. Trustees, with the township supervisor, oversee the Township budget.

**Commissioner, Skokie Park District**

In the race for Commissioner for the Skokie Park District, voters will elect one of four candidates to serve a 6-year term. Park district commissioners are the governing body of the Skokie Park District, with responsibilities including setting the strategic direction for the district, monitoring finances, and overseeing policies.

**Board Member, Skokie School District**

The race and candidates on your ballot for Skokie School District will depend on the school district in which you live. School board members are elected to a four-year term. The school board is the governing body of the school district, and is required to adopt and enforce all policies necessary for the management and government of the public schools of their district.

### **Board Member, Niles Township High School District 219**

There are currently seven candidates for three Niles Township High School District 219 Board Member positions. High school board members are elected to a four-year term. School board members are responsible for school district governance, including adopting and enforcing policies for managing and governing the schools in the district.

### **Trustee, Oakton Community College District 535**

On the ballot for Trustee of Oakton Community College District are two candidates for two trustee positions, each serving a six-year term. The community college trustees make up the district board, which is responsible for the governance of the community college.

### **Trustee, Niles Township Trustee of Schools**

There is no named candidate on the ballot for the six-year term of Trustee of the Niles Township Trustees of Schools. The township school trustees appoint the township school treasurer and oversee the funding and assets of schools.

## **Niles Township Advisory Question on the Carbon Fee**

### **What is an advisory question?**

An advisory question is a type of ballot measure in which citizens vote on a non-binding question. The difference between an advisory vote and any other type of ballot measure is that the outcome of the ballot question will not result in a new, changed, or rejected law or constitutional amendment. Rather, the advisory question symbolically makes heard the general opinion of voters with regard to the issue at hand. That [definition is from Ballotpedia](#).

### **What does this question ask?**

This Carbon Fee advisory question asks: "Shall the U.S. Congress pass legislation to place a carbon fee on fossil fuel producers, where the collected revenue is given equitably to American households, incentivizing businesses and consumers to reduce climate disrupting emissions, transition to clean energy, and protect our economic well-being?"

### **What does my vote on this advisory question mean?**

If you vote YES on this advisory question, you are indicating that you would support federal legislation that would include a carbon fee assessed to producers of fossil fuels, with a plan to distribute the revenue from the fee to households.

If you vote NO on this advisory question, you are indicating that you would not support this type of federal legislation.

Legislators and lobbyists may use the results from this advisory question to inform their understanding of the local public opinion on carbon fee legislation.

**What is a carbon fee?**

A carbon fee, sometimes also called a carbon tax, is a charge levied on fuels based upon the amount of carbon emitted by that fuel when it is burned, with the intent to de-incentivize use of high carbon-emissions fuels and thus incentivize use of lower carbon-emission fuels. Many carbon fee models use a fee-and-dividend model, in which the monies collected from the carbon fee are distributed in a manner that further incentivizes use of low-emissions energies while addressing the financial impact of climate change on households

**Where can I get more information on carbon fees so I can make up my mind how I want to answer the advisory question?**

We've put together [resources with more information concerning this issue](#) below. This includes legislation proposed in the past few years in both the House and the Senate, as well as analysis of those proposed carbon fee models.

For additional questions about upcoming elections, contact the League of Women Voters of Evanston Voter Hotline at 224-297-5052. If no one answers, leave a message and your call will be returned shortly.

And don't forget, you can always look to the [Voter Information page on the library's website](#) for information and resources about upcoming elections. Just go to [skoki.library.info](http://skoki.library.info), select "Resources" from the top menu, and click on "Voter Information."

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# Information on Carbon Fees

## Past Proposed Legislation and Analysis

### Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R.763, 116th Congress. (2019-2020).

- Bill: <https://bit.ly/3eJ6Rf5>
- Analysis from the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs: <https://bit.ly/2P09gHq>

### America's Clean Future Fund Act, S.4484, 116th Congress. (2019-2020).

- Bill: <https://bit.ly/3lIW6AF>
- Note: A revised version of this bill was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Durbin (D-IL) on March 10, 2021. The revised bill is "S.685 - A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a carbon fee to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes." <https://bit.ly/3vEyMmv>

## Further Reading

**"Carbon Tax," by Julia Kagan for Investopedia, <https://bit.ly/3qSjvUR>**

This finance and economics website provides an overview of a carbon tax, including this definition: "A carbon tax is paid by businesses and industries that produce carbon dioxide through their operations. The tax is designed to reduce the output of greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide, a colorless and odorless incombustible gas, into the atmosphere. The tax is imposed with the goal of environmental protection."

**The Citizens' Climate Lobby, <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>**

This grassroots nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization is a prominent proponent of carbon fee and dividend legislation, and has information on their website about climate change legislation, as well as their group's work. They administer a site with more information on the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (<https://energyinnovationact.org/>).

**The Climate Leadership Council, <https://clcouncil.org/>**

This policy institute includes an international roster of business and environmental leaders and thinkers with a mission to "promote a carbon dividends framework." They have a variety of resources, research, and reports available on their website.

**"Wall Street watchdog calls for carbon pricing, better prep for climate change," by Rebecca Beitsch for The Hill, <https://bit.ly/3cDJ11E>**

This 2020 news article covers a report from the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission that calls for a carbon fee.