

# Registering to Vote: The Basics

## To register to vote you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be 18 on or by the next general election.
- Live in your election precinct for at least 30 days prior to election day.
- Not claim the right to vote anywhere else.

## ID needed to register:

- In person two forms of ID must be shown to register. One must have your current address. **Neither needs to be a photo ID.**
- If you register online or by mail you may be asked show ID at the polls.
- Examples of acceptable ID: passport, driver's license, utility bill, FOID card, school/work ID, social security card, pay stub.

You can register to vote online, by mail, or in person:

**Online:** [Ova.elections.il.gov](http://Ova.elections.il.gov). Register by October 18, 2020. You will need either your IL driver's license or State ID.

**By Mail:** Print forms at [cookcountyclerk.com/RTV](http://cookcountyclerk.com/RTV). Fill it out and deliver/mail it in by October 6, 2020. Your signature on this form will be used to identify you when you vote.

**In person:** With a deputy registrar by October 6, 2020, at a city clerk, county clerk, or Secretary of State's office, at an early voting site from October 19 to November 2, 2020, or at your polling place on election day. You will need two forms of ID.

## Registering to Vote: Frequently Asked Questions

### What ID do I need to register to vote?

- You'll need two pieces of ID. One must have your current address. Neither needs to be a photo ID. A list of acceptable IDs can be found at [cookcountyclerk.com/service/when-voters-do-and-dont-need-identification-id](http://cookcountyclerk.com/service/when-voters-do-and-dont-need-identification-id).

### How do I know if I'm registered to vote?

- After registering to vote a voter identification card will be sent to your registered address. Suburban cook county voters can check their registration status at [cookcountyclerk.com/service/your-voter-information](http://cookcountyclerk.com/service/your-voter-information).

### What if I've moved or changed my name since I registered?

- If you have moved within 30 days of the election, you will need to vote at your old polling place.
- If you moved or changed your name more than 30 days before election day, you will need to complete a new registration form.

### I'm a college student from another state. Can I register to vote here?

- Yes. College students may use their dorm address or school address to register to vote.

### Can I use a PO Box as my address when I register to vote?

- No. You must provide a physical address as it is used to determine your polling place.

### I'm currently on probation/ I have a criminal record. Can I register to vote?

- Yes.

### Can I register to vote if I'm homeless?

- Yes. A mailing address where mail can be received should be provided and will determine your polling place. A shelter or drop-in center's address is permissible.