



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

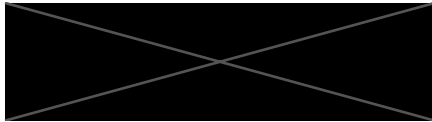
Voting Section



July 28, 2025

Via Mail and Email

The Honorable Bernadette Matthews
Executive Director
State Board of Elections



Dear Executive Director Matthews:

We write to you as the chief election official for the State of Illinois to request information regarding the State's procedures for complying with the statewide voter registration list maintenance provisions of the National Voter Registration Act ("NVRA"), 52 U.S.C. § 20501 et seq.

Please provide a list of the election officials who are responsible for implementing Illinois' general program of voter registration list maintenance from November 2022 through receipt of this letter, including those responsible officials not employed by your office (such as local election officials) who are also involved in that effort. Please also provide a description of the steps that you have taken to ensure that the State's list maintenance program has been properly carried out in full compliance with the NVRA. Please include both the actions taken by State officials as well as county officials.

The NVRA requires each state and the District of Columbia to make available for inspection "all records concerning the implementation of programs and activities conducted for the purpose of ensuring the accuracy and currency of official lists of eligible voters." 52 U.S.C. § 20507(i)(1). Section 11 of the NVRA authorizes the Attorney General to bring NVRA enforcement actions.

Pursuant to Section 20507(i) of the NVRA, the Attorney General requests that you produce for inspection the following records:

1. The current electronic copy of the State of Illinois' computerized statewide voter registration list ("statewide voter registration list") as required by Section 303(a) of the Help America Vote Act. Please include all fields contained within the list. Please produce each list in a .xls, .csv, or delimited-text file format. Please specify what delimiter is used, if applicable, or provide a file layout.

Additionally, please provide the following information in electronic form. The time period for these requests is close of registration for the November 2022 general election through the close of registration for the November 2024 general election, the same time period as the most recent report from the Election Assistance Commission's Election Administration and Voting Survey ("EAVS"). If you are unable to provide the data, please explain why the data is not available.

1. In response to EAVS Question A10a, nearly one-third of Illinois' counties (32 out of 102) reported that they did not send out any confirmation notices: Bond County; Boone County; Brown County; Bureau County; Clay County; DeWitt County; Fulton County; Gallatin County; Greene County; Grundy County; Jasper County; Johnson County; Lawrence County; Livingston County; Logan County; Macoupin County; Mason County; McDonough County; Mclean County; Menard County; Monroe County; Montgomery County; Morgan County; Pope County; Putnam County; Richland County; Schuyler County; Scott County; Stark County; Stephenson County; Wabash County; and Warren County. Please explain why each of these 32 counties reported they did not send out any confirmation notices. For each of the 32 counties that have not sent confirmation notices, please explain why they did not send confirmation notices. Please explain what steps Illinois is taking to ensure that these counties are conducting list maintenance including when those steps were taken.
2. Despite the fact that nearly one-third of counties did not respond to Question A10a, Illinois reported that it sent out over 3.8 million confirmation notices, which comprised 46.9 percent of all registered voters. The national average was 19.5 percent. Please explain why the number of confirmation notices and percentage sent to all registered voters was so high. Please explain how it is determined who receives a confirmation notice.
3. A review of the county-level data accompanying the most recent EAVS report indicates that in response to Question A10a, sixteen counties in Illinois reported that the number of confirmation notices they sent was more than one hundred percent of all registered voters: Alexander County (239.3 percent); Carroll County (123.2 percent); Christian County (265 percent); Crawford County (127 percent); Edwards County (244.5 percent); Jackson County (208.2 percent); Jefferson County (143.2 percent); Jo Daviess County (678.6 percent); Lee County (131.7 percent); Macon County (139.7 percent); Massac County (128.2 percent); Mercer County (120.5 percent); Perry County (123.5 percent); Saline County (220.1 percent); Tazewell County (144.2 percent); and Washington County (232.7 percent). Please explain why the percentage of confirmation notices that these counties sent to all registered voters was so high.
4. In response to Questions A10a through Question A10i, Illinois reported that it had over 2.3 million results of confirmation notices that were "not categorized," which was 62.3 percent of all confirmation notices sent. The national average was 17.8 percent. Please explain why the number and percentage of results of confirmation notices that were "not categorized" was so high. Furthermore, of the results of confirmation notices included as "not categorized," please provide the number for each category (e.g., "valid with no

address update,” “valid with address update,” “invalid,” “confirmation notices returned [REDACTED] turned confirmation notices”).

5. In response to Questions A12i through Question A12k, Illinois reported that it had 258,976 voters removed for a reason described as “other,” comprising 25.8 percent of all confirmation notices sent. The national average was 3.7 percent. Please explain why the number and percentage of voters removed for the “other” reason was so high. Furthermore, of the voters removed for “other” reasons, please provide the number of voters removed for each reason that Illinois included in the “other” category.
6. A review of the county-level data accompanying the most recent EAVS report indicates that in response to Question A12i through Question A12k, eighteen counties reported more than a quarter of voters listed as being removed were removed for a reason described as “other”: Clay County (30.8 percent); Cook County (67.5 percent); DeWitt County (41.7 percent); Edgar County (36.5 percent); Fulton County (71.2 percent); Greene County (50.4 percent); Grundy County (26 percent); Jefferson County (99.4 percent); Jersey County (42.2 percent); Kendall County (47.5 percent); Knox County (30.7 percent); Logan County (25.2 percent); McDonough County (39.1 percent); McHenry County (65 percent); McLean County (68.2 percent); Morgan County (51.5 percent); Washington County (51 percent); and Winnebago County (87.3 percent). Illinois’ two most populous counties, Cook County and DuPage County, together accounted for 63.4 percent of the 258,976 voters Illinois reported were removed for a reason described as “other.” For each of these eighteen counties, please explain why the number and percentage of voters removed for the “other” reason was so high. Furthermore, of the voters removed for “other” reasons in each county, please provide the number of voters removed for each reason that the county included in the “other” category.

Please provide a description of the steps that Illinois has taken, and when those steps were taken, to identify registered voters who are ineligible to vote as well as the procedures that Illinois used to remove those ineligible voters from the registration list. Please identify the number of registered voters identified as ineligible to vote for the time period of the close of registration for the November 2022 general election through present for each of the following reasons:

1. Non-citizen
2. Adjudicated incompetent
3. Felony conviction

For each of those voters identified in categories 1-3 above, provide their registration information on the statewide voter registration list, including their vote history.

Please provide this information within 14 days of the date of this letter. The information and materials may be sent by encrypted email to [REDACTED] or via the Department’s secure file-sharing system, Justice Enterprise File Sharing (JEFS).

Should further clarification be required, please contact Maureen Riordan at
 We look forward to your assistance in advance.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Gates
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Maureen Riordan
Acting Chief, Voting Section
Civil Rights Division

cc: Laura K. Donahue

