



Debbie Gillette

Kendall County Clerk & Recorder

VOTING BY MAIL

STRONGLY ENCOURAGED FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT CORONAVIRUS

With coronavirus a continuing concern as the 2020 General Election approaches, County Clerk Debbie Gillette encourages voters to consider voting by mail as a safe, secure and convenient option to in-person voting.

The Illinois General Assembly this year passed an election bill that provides many safeguards against the spread of coronavirus in the voting process for the November 3, 2020 General Election. Among the safeguards are provisions to increase voting by mail throughout the State of Illinois.

Among the special vote-by-mail provisions for the 2020 General Election are:

- All voters who voted in either the March 2020 General Primary, April 2019 Consolidated or November 2018 General Election will receive by mail an application for a vote-by-mail ballot
- Those who registered to vote or updated their registration between March 18, 2020 and July 31, 2020 will be mailed an application for vote-by-mail ballot
- The state's online voter registration site now allows users to request a mail ballot when they register
- Kendall County has an online application at <https://www.co.kendall.il.us/VBMAApplication>

Ballots will be mailed to applicants beginning September 24, 2020 which is also the first day of early voting. The deadline for applying for a mail ballot is 4:30 pm on October 29, 2020. After October 29, 2020 voters can still receive a mail ballot by applying in person at 111 W Fox St, Yorkville IL 60560. Ballots must be postmarked no later than November 3, 2020 to be accepted, and properly postmarked ballots will be accepted through November 17, 2020.

Ballot drop box for vote by mail ballots is located at 111 W Fox St, Yorkville IL 60560.

The new law also establishes protocols to ensure proper verification of ballots before they are accepted and to inform voters in a timely manner if their ballot is rejected. This begins with a review of the voter's signature by a panel of three Election Judges within two days of receipt of the ballot. A ballot may be rejected for an invalid signature only by unanimous decision of the judges.

The ballot may be rejected if two of the three judges agree that:

- The ballot envelope was delivered opened
- The certification envelope contains no signature
- The voter has already cast a ballot
- The voter voted in person on Election Day
- The voter is not a duly registered voter

If a ballot is rejected based on a signature or lack of signature or because the ballot envelope was delivered opened, the voter must be notified within two days or within one day if the rejection occurs after Election Day. The new law contains provisions for the voter to address these problems.