



Voter Assistance

10 ILCS 5/7-47.1, 7-48, 11-7, 17-13, 17-13.5, 17-14, 24-9

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

WHAT IS VOTER "ASSISTANCE?"

"Assistance" is aiding a specified voter, up to and including marking and casting a vote, in the privacy of a voting booth during in-person early voting or on Election Day. Those giving assistance must vote as directed by the voter.

WHO MAY BE GIVEN ASSISTANCE?

Only those voters who genuinely need assistance may be given assistance. Illinois law provides that the following persons may receive assistance:

- Blind voters
- Voters with physical disabilities
- Voters with an inability to read, write, or speak the English language

Intoxicated voters do not qualify as being disabled and may not be given assistance.

All voters needing assistance must be registered to vote and may receive assistance in registering to vote if they so request.

WHO CAN PROVIDE ASSISTANCE?

If the voter who needs assistance does not specify person to assist them in voting, then the voter can be assisted by two election judges, one from each political party.

An officer or agent of the voter's employer or officer or agent of the voter's union may **not** assist a voter who requests assistance.

WHAT IF A VOTER NEEDS INSTRUCTION?

"Instruction" is explaining how to use the voting equipment. "Assistance," however, is actually marking a ballot for a voter as directed by the voter.

Any instruction that might be required should be given before the voter enters the booth and in view of the entire polling place. A specimen ballot, not the voter's official ballot, must be used during instruction. An affidavit is required for assistance but it is not required for instruction.

HOW IS ASSISTANCE GIVEN?

Assistance can only be given upon the voter's request and only after the voter completes the appropriate affidavit.

In every instance of assistance, both the voter receiving the assistance and the person(s) giving the assistance must sign the affidavit. Also, the voter's Application for Ballot must be marked by an election judge to show that the voter requested assistance.

Assistance is always given in the privacy of the voting booth. Anyone giving assistance must cast the vote as directed by the voter and must not give anyone information as to how the vote was cast.

INACCESSIBLE POLLING PLACES

Any disabled or elderly voter who cannot enter a polling place due to the structural features of the building may request to curbside vote. Any voter who cannot enter a polling place due to the structural features of the building may request to vote curbside or to have their ballot delivered to them at the point where the polling place becomes inaccessible. In no case may this location be further than 50 feet from the entrance of the polling place.

The voter shall complete the entire voting process outside the polling place as follows: Two judges of opposite party affiliation deliver an application to the voter. The completed application is brought back into the polling place to the verification judges. After the signature and address are checked and it is determined that the individual is qualified to vote, a ballot, a marking device, and a portable voting booth or enclosure is provided to allow the voter to mark their ballot in complete secrecy. In no case can a ballot be delivered to a voter beyond 50 feet of the entrance to the building in which the polling place is located. After the voter completes voting, the two election judges take the ballot (covered by the secrecy sleeve) back into the polling place for deposit into the ballot box.

Note: If a voter has not notified the election authority and is requesting to curbside vote on Election Day, when time allows, you can still assist that voter.

