

Commissioners

MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ, *Chair*
WILLIAM J. KRESSE, *Commissioner/Secretary*
JONATHAN T. SWAIN, *Commissioner*
LANCE GOUGH, *Executive Director*



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Pat Dowell
Chairman, Committee on the Budget and Government Operations

From: Lance Gough
Executive Director
Board of Election Commissioners

CC: Tiffany Sostrin
Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Date: November 13, 2019

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 39-01 Early Voting

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2019 to discuss the proposed 2020 budget.

Alderman Thompson asked for details on the cost and participation numbers from Early Voting from the most recent elections.

The cost of Early Voting has been approximately \$1 million per election. The number of voters who utilize Early Voting reflects a combination of the overall turnout and how many voters "have their minds made up" before Election Day. Thus, Early Voting is stronger in a November election than it is in a Primary Election, where voters are selecting between two or more candidates within the same political party.

Election	Early Voting Ballots
Nov. 2018	223,646
Feb. 2019	125,618
April 2019	122,827

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.

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To: The Honorable Pat Dowell
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Executive Director
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Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Date: November 13, 2019

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 39-02 Touchscreen

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2019 to discuss the proposed 2020 budget.

Alderman Hairston and Chairman Dowell asked for cost estimates for placing more touch screen voting equipment in senior centers.

The cost of the additional touch screen(s) would involve the following items:

- The cost of purchasing additional touch-screen balloting equipment.
- The cost of preparing additional precinct "equipment supply carriers" and related trucking costs for making deliveries to the precinct – and then from the precinct to the warehouse.

The Board anticipates that the cost would be approximately \$4,000 per precinct for the first election, and then the price of the additional cartage (approximately \$400 per precinct) in subsequent elections.

Factors beyond the Board's control, however, include the availability of additional space in the polling place for more voting equipment, and the amperage to accommodate an additional touch-screen balloting system. Two touch-screens, for example, would require a minimum of 30-amp electrical service at the polling place.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.

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MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Pat Dowell
Chairman, Committee on the Budget and Government Operations

From: Lance Gough
Executive Director
Board of Election Commissioners

CC: Tiffany Sostrin
Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Date: November 13, 2019

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 39-03 Hearing Officers

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2019 to discuss the proposed 2020 budget.

Alderman Hairston requested an analysis of the minority and gender representation of hearing officers that the Board hires to hear objections to nominating papers.

Hearing Officers	Female	Male	Total	Percentage
African-American	5	7	12	29.27%
Hispanic	4	5	9	21.95%
Caucasian	6	13	19	46.34%
Other	1	0	1	2.44%
Total	16	25	41	

In terms of expenditures, \$207,620.40 (58.4%) was paid to MBE/WBE hearing officers of the total of \$355,489.10 expended for hearing officers for the 2019 Municipal Election cycle. (See chart on next page.)

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African-American Male	\$ 56,590.00
<u>Hispanic Male</u>	<u>12,680.00</u>
MBE	\$ 69,370.00
African-American Female	37,966.00
Hispanic Female	38,614.40
<u>Caucasian Female</u>	<u>61,670.00</u>
WBE	\$138,250.40
Non-MBE/WBE	\$147,868.70

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.

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MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Pat Dowell
Chairman, Committee on the Budget and Government Operations

From: Lance Gough
Executive Director
Board of Election Commissioners

CC: Tiffany Sostrin
Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Date: November 13, 2019

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 39-04 Appeals

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2019 to discuss the proposed 2020 budget.

Alderman Hairston requested information on the costs and number of appeals and recounts related to objection cases and election results from the 2019 Municipal Election.

Of the 181 nomination-paper objection cases that were decided by the Chicago Electoral Board, only four rose to the Appellate Court level at a cost of approximately \$6,000 total, or roughly \$1,500 per case, plus \$638 in court-reporter fees.

From the 2019 election contests over the results, only one of the four cases where candidates examined the counts has gone to the Circuit Court and now the Illinois Appellate Court. That case is still pending before the Appellate Court, and the Board has an estimated expense of \$2,000 for this Appellate Court case.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.

Commissioners

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MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Pat Dowell
Chairman, Committee on the Budget and Government Operations

From: Lance Gough
Executive Director
Board of Election Commissioners

CC: Tiffany Sostrin
Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Date: November 13, 2019

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 39-05 Costs

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2019 to discuss the proposed 2020 budget.

Alderman Thompson asked for a cost breakdown of the election by ward.

Certain variables make it impossible to breakdown a ward-by-ward estimate. Cartage and courier costs vary between the wards very near downtown and the warehouse, versus the wards closer to or along the city limits. Other expenses include additional costs that vary by ward based on the number of precincts, how many registered voters there are, how many language-assistance judges are needed in the ward, as well as the usage of Early Voting and Vote By Mail that changes from ward to ward.

However, overall, the cost of the Municipal Election in February and the Run-Off Election in April averaged \$169,000 per election event per ward, or \$338,000 per ward for both the Municipal Election and the Run-Off.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.

Commissioners

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MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Pat Dowell
Chairman, Committee on the Budget and Government Operations

From: Lance Gough
Executive Director
Board of Election Commissioners

CC: Tiffany Sostrin
Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Date: November 13, 2019

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 39-06 Vote By Mail

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2019 to discuss the proposed 2020 budget.

Alderman Lopez asked for a breakdown of Vote By Mail requests by ward from the most recent elections. Those data are presented on the following page.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.

Commissioners

MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ, Chair
WILLIAM J. KRESSE, Commissioner/Secretary
JONATHAN T. SWAIN, Commissioner
LANCE GOUGH, Executive Director



Vote By Mail Applications By Ward & Election - City of Chicago

Ward	Nov 2018	Feb 2019	Apr 2019	Ward	Nov 2018	Feb 2019	Apr 2019
1	3,467	1,840	1,787	26	1,617	1,150	722
2	4,634	2,706	2,416	27	2,852	1,232	1,331
3	3,117	1,584	1,504	28	1,835	753	814
4	2,920	1,486	1,535	29	2,196	901	941
5	2,702	1,373	1,329	30	1,451	850	848
6	1,776	725	828	31	1,245	605	702
7	1,791	691	815	32	4,309	2,192	2,333
8	2,310	910	1,069	33	2,344	1,345	1,451
9	1,980	807	865	34	2,042	710	741
10	1,126	498	421	35	1,856	906	848
11	1,793	1,254	903	36	1,307	528	502
12	845	709	327	37	1,579	567	612
13	2,203	2,070	1,083	38	2,304	1,165	1,178
14	1,388	1,114	332	39	2,559	1,443	1,454
15	656	592	1,309	40	2,822	1,564	1,745
16	995	334	480	41	2,874	1,876	1,654
17	1,453	479	569	42	5,416	2,811	2,734
18	1,815	685	726	43	4,622	2,942	2,543
19	2,316	1,587	1,348	44	4,892	3,034	2,617
20	1,163	470	553	45	2,668	1,650	1,425
21	2,373	856	1,042	46	3,561	2,179	2,093
22	636	234	245	47	4,737	2,926	2,921
23	1,272	599	516	48	3,297	1,645	1,631
24	1,148	503	473	49	2,504	1,438	1,138
25	2,127	1,215	1,195	50	1,655	881	700
				Total	116,550	62,614	59,348

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MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Pat Dowell
Chairman, Committee on the Budget and Government Operations

From: Lance Gough
Executive Director
Board of Election Commissioners

CC: Tiffany Sostrin
Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Date: November 13, 2019

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 39-07 Vote By Mail

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2019 to discuss the proposed 2020 budget.

Alderman Lopez asked for a cost estimate for Universal Vote By Mail.

Ballot-printing costs would remain comparable to the current ballot-printing costs. Postage would increase by \$3.5 million, and there would be additional outbound mailing-preparation and return-mail processing costs of approximately \$4 million; however, those costs would be more than offset by the reductions in costs related to:

- Introducing a lower number of universal vote centers to replace precinct polling places for the relative few who will need Election Day voting,
- Needing fewer Election Day poll worker recruitment/training/pay,
- Needing less part-time/temporary staff in the warehouse for preparation of voting equipment,
- Reduced cartage costs for the deliveries of supplies to the precincts and the pick-up of equipment and supplies afterward, and,
- Fewer roving investigators, technicians, electronic poll books and other costs related to Election Day activities.

States and local jurisdictions that have adopted the model of expanded Vote By Mail with the utilization of Universal Vote Centers report higher turnouts, lower costs and higher voter satisfaction.

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MEMORANDUM

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Executive Director
Board of Election Commissioners

CC: Tiffany Sostrin
Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Date: November 13, 2019

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 39-08 Legislation

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2019 to discuss the proposed 2020 budget.

Alderman Reilly asked for draft legislation that the Board had prepared related to Universal Vote Centers. The text of the draft legislation is provided on the subsequent pages.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.



AN ACT concerning elections

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 1. The Election Code is amended by amending
Section 1-3 as follows:

(10 ILCS 5/1-3) (from Ch. 46, par. 1-3)

Sec. 1-3. As used in this Act, unless the context
otherwise requires:

1. "Election" includes the submission of all questions of public policy, propositions, and all measures submitted to popular vote, and includes primary elections when so indicated by the context.
2. "Regular election" means the general, general primary, consolidated and consolidated primary elections regularly scheduled in Article 2A. The even numbered year municipal primary established in Article 2A is a regular election only with respect to those municipalities in which a primary is required to be held on such date.
3. "Special election" means an election not regularly recurring at fixed intervals, irrespective of whether it is held at the same time and place and by the same election officers as a regular election.
4. "General election" means the biennial election at which members of the General Assembly are elected. "General primary election", "consolidated election" and "consolidated primary election" mean the respective elections or the election dates designated and established in Article 2A of this Code.
5. "Municipal election" means an election or primary, either regular or special, in cities, villages, and incorporated towns; and "municipality" means any such city, village or incorporated town.
6. "Political or governmental subdivision" means any unit of local government, or school district in which elections are or may be held. "Political or governmental subdivision" also includes, for election purposes, Regional Boards of School Trustees, and Township Boards of School Trustees.
7. The word "township" and the word "town" shall apply interchangeably to the type of governmental organization established in accordance with the provisions of the Township Code. The term "incorporated town" shall mean a municipality referred to as an incorporated town in the Illinois Municipal Code, as now or hereafter amended.



8. "Election authority" means a county clerk or a Board of Election Commissioners.
9. "Election Jurisdiction" means (a) an entire county, in the case of a county in which no city board of election commissioners is located or which is under the jurisdiction of a county board of election commissioners; (b) the territorial jurisdiction of a city board of election commissioners; and (c) the territory in a county outside of the jurisdiction of a city board of election commissioners. In each instance election jurisdiction shall be determined according to which election authority maintains the permanent registration records of qualified electors.
10. "Local election official" means the clerk or secretary of a unit of local government or school district, as the case may be, the treasurer of a township board of "school trustees, and the regional superintendent of schools with respect to the various school officer elections and school referenda for which the regional superintendent is assigned election duties by The School Code, as now or hereafter amended.
11. "Judges of election", "primary judges" and similar terms, as applied to cases where there are 2 sets of judges, when used in connection with duties at an election during the hours the polls are open, refer to the team of judges of election on duty during such hours; and, when used with reference to duties after the closing of the polls, refer to the team of tally judges designated to count the vote after the closing of the polls and the holdover judges designated pursuant to Section 13-6.2 or 14-5.2. In such case, where, after the closing of the polls, any act is required to be performed by each of the judges of election, it shall be performed by each of the tally judges and by each of the holdover judges.
12. "Petition" of candidacy as used in Sections 7-10 and 7-10.1 shall consist of a statement of candidacy, candidate's statement containing oath, and sheets 20 containing signatures of qualified primary electors bound together.
13. "Election district" and "precinct", when used with reference to a 30-day residence requirement, means the smallest constituent territory in which electors vote as a unit at the same polling place in any election governed by this Act.
14. "District" means any area which votes as a unit for the election of any officer, other than the State or a unit of local government or school district, and includes,



but is not limited to, legislative, congressional and judicial districts, judicial circuits, county board districts, municipal and sanitary district wards, school board districts, and precincts.

15. "Question of public policy" or "public question" means any question, proposition or measure submitted to the voters at an election dealing with subject matter other than the nomination or election of candidates and shall include, but is not limited to, any bond or tax referendum, and questions relating to the Constitution.

16. "Ordinance providing the form of government of a municipality or county pursuant to Article VII of the Constitution" includes ordinances, resolutions and petitions adopted by referendum which provide for the form of government, the officers or the manner of selection or terms of office of officers of such municipality or county, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 4, 6 or 7 of Article VII of the Constitution.

17. "List" as used in Sections 4-11, 4-22, 5-14, 5-29, 6-60, and 6-66 shall include a computer tape or computer disc or other electronic data processing information containing voter information.

18. "Accessible" means accessible to persons with disabilities and elderly individuals for the purpose of voting or registration, as determined by rule of the State Board of Elections.

19. "Elderly" means 65 years of age or older.

20. "Person with a disability" means a person having a temporary or permanent physical disability.

21. "Leading political party" means one of the two political parties whose candidates for governor at the most recent three gubernatorial elections received either the highest or second highest average number of votes. The political party whose candidates for governor received the highest average number of votes shall be known as the first leading political party and the political party whose candidates for governor received the second highest average number of votes shall be known as the second leading political party.

22. "Business day" means any day in which the office of an election authority, local election official or the State Board of Elections is open to the public for a minimum of 7 hours.

23. "Homeless individual" means any person who has a nontraditional residence, including, but not limited to, a



shelter, day shelter, park bench, street corner, or space under a bridge.

24. "Vote center" means a polling place where a voter who resides in the election jurisdiction in which the vote center is located may vote regardless of the precinct in which the voter resides.

Section 2. The Election Code is amended by adding Section 11-8 as follows:

(10 ILCS 5/11-8) (New) 22

Sec. 11-8 Vote centers 23

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a County Board or board of election commissioners, as the case may be, may establish one or more vote centers in an election jurisdiction in lieu of or in addition to precinct polling locations and may impose reasonable requirements and guidelines for the establishment and use of vote centers. If established, a voter who resides in the election jurisdiction shall be entitled to cast a ballot on election day at any vote center within the election jurisdiction without regard to the precinct in which the voter resides.

(b) Vote centers shall have available a sufficient amount of ballots for each ballot style for each precinct in the election jurisdiction. If an election jurisdiction is a covered jurisdiction under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1963, as amended, ballots, election materials and assistance shall be provided to voters in the applicable minority language or languages.

(c) Each voter center and each precinct polling place in an election jurisdiction establish vote centers shall have a secure electronic connection to provide voting information to and receive voting information from a computerized registration book maintained by the election authority for such election jurisdiction.

(d) Each vote center shall meet all requirements of federal and state law applicable to polling places, including the requirement that it be accessible to voters with disabilities, as determined by rule of the State Board of Elections.

(e) The election authority shall publish the location of vote centers in the manner prescribed for the publication of other polling places under Article 12 of this Code. In addition, if an election authority has a website, it shall also publish on its website the location of vote centers and notice that a voter may vote in person on election day at any vote center established within the

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election jurisdiction.

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MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Pat Dowell
Chairman, Committee on the Budget and Government Operations

From: Lance Gough
Executive Director
Board of Election Commissioners

CC: Tiffany Sostrin
Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Date: November 13, 2019

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 39-09 Voter Turnout

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2019 to discuss the proposed 2020 budget.

Alderman La Spata asked for voter turnouts in municipal elections in different cities, as well as the dates of those elections.

The chart on the next page compares/contrasts turnouts in municipal elections. As mentioned at the hearing, Milwaukee has a slight advantage in that the municipal election occurs on the same dates as the Presidential Primary in that state.

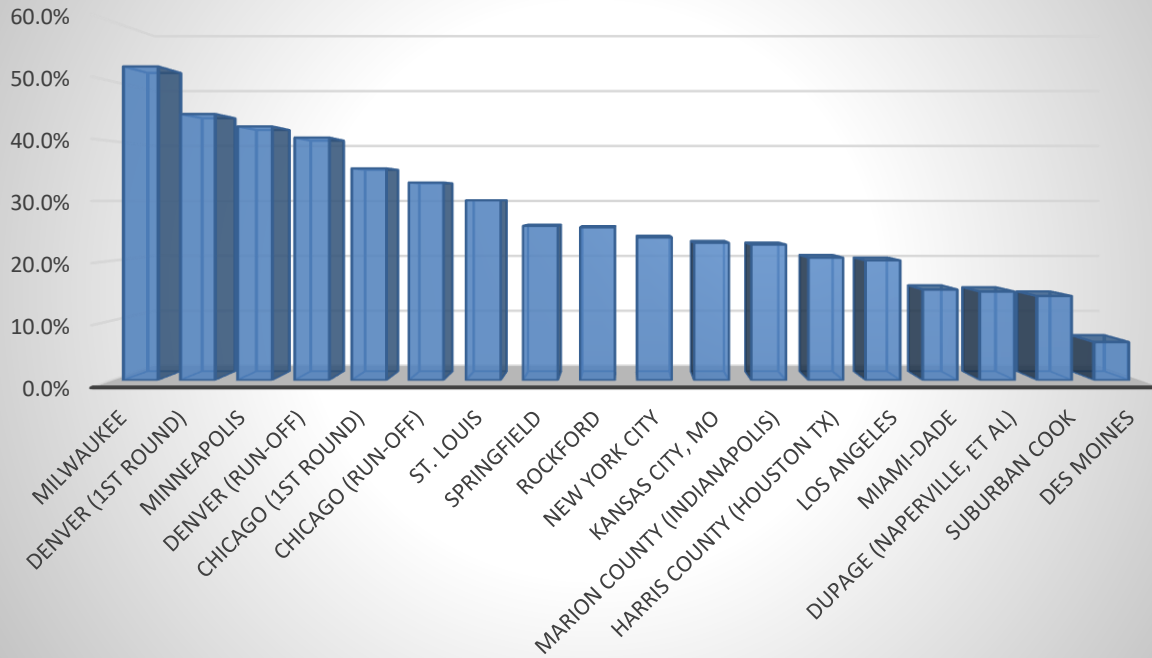
As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.

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Mayoral Election Turnouts





Comparing Municipal Elections, Turnouts and Calendar Dates
Larger Midwestern Jurisdictions & Largest Cities in the United States

Of note: Milwaukee conducts mayoral election on same day as Presidential Primary.
Also of note: Denver mails ballots to all voters.

Mayoral Elections	Turnout	Date
Milwaukee	52.5%	April 5, 2016
Denver (1st Round)	44.5%	May 7, 2019
Minneapolis	42.5%	Nov. 7, 2017
Denver (Run-Off)	40.6%	June 4, 2019
Chicago (1st Round)	35.4%	Feb. 26, 2019
Chicago (Run-Off)	33.1%	April 2, 2019
St. Louis	30.1%	April 4, 2017
Springfield	25.8%	April 2, 2019
Rockford	25.6%	April 4, 2017
New York City	23.9%	Nov. 7, 2017
Kansas City, MO	23.0%	June 18, 2019
Marion County (Indianapolis)	22.7%	Nov. 3, 2015
Harris County (Houston TX)	20.5%	Nov. 3, 2015
Los Angeles	20.1%	March 7, 2017
Miami-Dade	15.2%	Nov. 7, 2017
DuPage (Naperville, et al)	14.8%	April 2, 2019
Suburban Cook	14.1%	April 2, 2019
Des Moines	6.4%	Nov. 3, 2015

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MEMORANDUM

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From: Lance Gough
Executive Director
Board of Election Commissioners

CC: Tiffany Sostrin
Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Date: November 13, 2019

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 39-10 Provisional Ballots

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2019 to discuss the proposed 2020 budget.

Chairman Dowell asked for provisional ballot counts by ward from the November 2018 election.

Those data points are presented in the chart on the subsequent page.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.

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MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ, Chair
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LANCE GOUGH, Executive Director



Provisional Ballots – 2019 Municipal Election – City of Chicago

Ward	Provisional Ballots	Ward	Provisional Ballots
1	68	26	56
2	69	27	76
3	81	28	68
4	54	29	61
5	77	30	17
6	76	31	28
7	80	32	59
8	61	33	38
9	62	34	51
10	24	35	25
11	39	36	23
12	40	37	39
13	42	38	24
14	22	39	34
15	28	40	45
16	53	41	37
17	39	42	59
18	37	43	60
19	39	44	65
20	64	45	34
21	55	46	67
22	26	47	73
23	18	48	67
24	55	49	63
25	36	50	24

Total: 2,438

Average per ward: 48.76

Most: 3rd Ward – 81

Fewest: 30th Ward – 17

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MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Pat Dowell
Chairman, Committee on the Budget and Government Operations

From: Lance Gough
Executive Director
Board of Election Commissioners

CC: Tiffany Sostrin
Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Date: November 20, 2019

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 39-11 Requests

Alderman Reilly asked whether there may be draft legislation on Universal Vote Centers and/or creating a Permanent Roster for Vote By Mail, which would mean that after a voter applied to vote by mail, the voter would automatically receive a ballot by mail in elections that followed.

Legislative drafts (Part 1. Vote Centers and Part 2. Permanent Roster for Vote By Mail) are on the subsequent pages of this document.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.



Part 1. Vote Centers

AN ACT concerning elections

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 1. The Election Code is amended by amending
Section 1-3 as follows:

(10 ILCS 5/1-3) (from Ch. 46, par. 1-3

Sec. 1-3. As used in this Act, unless the context
otherwise requires:

1. "Election" includes the submission of all questions of public policy, propositions, and all measures submitted to popular vote, and includes primary elections when so indicated by the context.
2. "Regular election" means the general, general primary, consolidated and consolidated primary elections regularly scheduled in Article 2A. The even numbered year municipal primary established in Article 2A is a regular election only with respect to those municipalities in which a primary is required to be held on such date.
3. "Special election" means an election not regularly recurring at fixed intervals, irrespective of whether it is held at the same time and place and by the same election officers as a regular election.
4. "General election" means the biennial election at which members of the General Assembly are elected. "General primary election", "consolidated election" and "consolidated primary election" mean the respective elections or the election dates designated and established in Article 2A of this Code.
5. "Municipal election" means an election or primary, either regular or special, in cities, villages, and incorporated towns; and "municipality" means any such city, village or incorporated town.
6. "Political or governmental subdivision" means any unit of local government, or school district in which elections are or may be held. "Political or governmental subdivision" also includes, for election purposes, Regional Boards of School Trustees, and Township Boards of School Trustees.
7. The word "township" and the word "town" shall apply interchangeably to the type of governmental organization established in accordance with the provisions of the



Township Code. The term "incorporated town" shall mean a

Part 1. Vote Centers (continued)

municipality referred to as an incorporated town in the Illinois Municipal Code, as now or hereafter amended.

8. "Election authority" means a county clerk or a Board of Election Commissioners.

9. "Election Jurisdiction" means (a) an entire county, in the case of a county in which no city board of election commissioners is located or which is under the jurisdiction of a county board of election commissioners; (b) the territorial jurisdiction of a city board of election commissioners; and (c) the territory in a county outside of the jurisdiction of a city board of election commissioners. In each instance election jurisdiction shall be determined according to which election authority maintains the permanent registration records of qualified electors.

10. "Local election official" means the clerk or secretary of a unit of local government or school district, as the case may be, the treasurer of a township board of "school trustees, and the regional superintendent of schools with respect to the various school officer elections and school referenda for which the regional superintendent is assigned election duties by The School Code, as now or hereafter amended.

11. "Judges of election", "primary judges" and similar terms, as applied to cases where there are 2 sets of judges, when used in connection with duties at an election during the hours the polls are open, refer to the team of judges of election on duty during such hours; and, when used with reference to duties after the closing of the polls, refer to the team of tally judges designated to count the vote after the closing of the polls and the holdover judges designated pursuant to Section 13-6.2 or 14-5.2. In such case, where, after the closing of the polls, any act is required to be performed by each of the judges of election, it shall be performed by each of the tally judges and by each of the holdover judges.

12. "Petition" of candidacy as used in Sections 7-10 and 7-10.1 shall consist of a statement of candidacy, candidate's statement containing oath, and sheets 20 containing signatures of qualified primary electors bound together.

13. "Election district" and "precinct", when used with reference to a 30-day residence requirement, means the



smallest constituent territory in which electors vote as a unit at the same polling place in any election governed by this Act.

Part 1. Vote Centers (continued)

14. "District" means any area which votes as a unit for the election of any officer, other than the State or a unit of local government or school district, and includes, but is not limited to, legislative, congressional and judicial districts, judicial circuits, county board districts, municipal and sanitary district wards, school board districts, and precincts.

15. "Question of public policy" or "public question" means any question, proposition or measure submitted to the voters at an election dealing with subject matter other than the nomination or election of candidates and shall include, but is not limited to, any bond or tax referendum, and questions relating to the Constitution.

16. "Ordinance providing the form of government of a municipality or county pursuant to Article VII of the Constitution" includes ordinances, resolutions and petitions adopted by referendum which provide for the form of government, the officers or the manner of selection or terms of office of officers of such municipality or county, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 4, 6 or 7 of Article VII of the Constitution.

17. "List" as used in Sections 4-11, 4-22, 5-14, 5-29, 6-60, and 6-66 shall include a computer tape or computer disc or other electronic data processing information containing voter information.

18. "Accessible" means accessible to persons with disabilities and elderly individuals for the purpose of voting or registration, as determined by rule of the State Board of Elections.

19. "Elderly" means 65 years of age or older.

20. "Person with a disability" means a person having a temporary or permanent physical disability.

21. "Leading political party" means one of the two political parties whose candidates for governor at the most recent three gubernatorial elections received either the highest or second highest average number of votes. The political party whose candidates for governor received the highest average number of votes shall be known as the first leading political party and the political party whose candidates for governor received the second highest average



number of votes shall be known as the second leading political party.

Part 1. Vote Centers (continued)

22. "Business day" means any day in which the office of an election authority, local election official or the State Board of Elections is open to the public for a minimum of 7 hours.

23. "Homeless individual" means any person who has a nontraditional residence, including, but not limited to, a shelter, day shelter, park bench, street corner, or space under a bridge.

24. "Vote center" means a polling place where a voter who resides in the election jurisdiction in which the vote center is located may vote regardless of the precinct in which the voter resides.

Section 2. The Election Code is amended by adding Section 11-8 as follows:

(10 ILCS 5/11-8) (New) 22

Sec. 11-8 Vote centers 23

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a County Board or board of election commissioners, as the case may be, may establish one or more vote centers in an election jurisdiction in lieu of or in addition to precinct polling locations and may impose reasonable requirements and guidelines for the establishment and use of vote centers. If established, a voter who resides in the election jurisdiction shall be entitled to cast a ballot on election day at any vote center within the election jurisdiction without regard to the precinct in which the voter resides.

(b) Vote centers shall have available a sufficient amount of ballots for each ballot style for each precinct in the election jurisdiction. If an election jurisdiction is a covered jurisdiction under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1963, as amended, ballots, election materials and assistance shall be provided to voters in the applicable minority language or languages.

(c) Each voter center and each precinct polling place in an election jurisdiction establish vote centers shall have a secure electronic connection to provide voting information to and receive voting information from a



computerized registration book maintained by the election authority for such election jurisdiction.

Part 1. Vote Centers (continued)

(d) Each vote center shall meet all requirements of federal and state law applicable to polling places, including the requirement that it be accessible to voters with disabilities, as determined by rule of the State Board of Elections.

(e) The election authority shall publish the location of vote centers in the manner prescribed for the publication of other polling places under Article 12 of this Code. In addition, if an election authority has a website, it shall also publish on its website the location of vote centers and notice that a voter may vote in person on election day at any vote center established within the election jurisdiction.

Part 1. Vote Centers (end)

Part 2. Permanent Roster for Vote By Mail

Proposed Legislation:
Permanent Roster Vote-By-Mail
Draft Version 1.0

(10 ILCS 5/19-21) (NEW)

Sec. 19-21. (a) In addition to all foregoing sections of this Article, and in compliance with all relevant provisions of this Code, an election authority may implement and maintain a permanent roster of registered voters within its jurisdiction who have applied for a vote by mail ballot and may adopt policies and procedures for the fair, equal and transparent administration of automatic mail-in voting. If an election authority maintains such a permanent roster, it shall add new voters to the roster when each qualified voter applies for a vote by mail ballot. For all subsequent elections, the election authority shall automatically mail a ballot to each voter on the permanent roster without the need for those voters to submit a new application for a vote by mail ballot. A voter on this



permanent roster may designate his or her political party affiliation for partisan primaries. For all subsequent primary elections, the election authority shall provide each voter with the ballot for the same political party for which each voter previously applied for a vote by mail ballot, unless the voter has contacted the election authority in the same manner allowed for changes of registration address to inform the election authority that the voter intends to change his or her political party affiliation for the next primary election. The election authority shall promptly record any such change of party affiliation in the voter's official registration records and, thereafter, shall provide the voter with the applicable political party ballot.

(b) If a vote by mail ballot sent to a voter on the permanent roster is returned by the United States postal service as undeliverable, the election authority shall mark that voter's registration record with the word "Inactive" and shall, within three business days of receiving the returned ballot, mail a notice to the voter at his or her registration address stating that the ballot was returned as undeliverable, providing the voter with information about how to correct his or her address in the official registration records and informing the voter of the remaining options for how the person may cast a ballot by mail or in person for the ensuing election or primary. Said notice shall also be sent to the voter's last known email address, if the election authority has an email address on file for that voter. Whenever a voter contacts the election authority and confirms his or her registration address, or corrects the address in his or her records, or if the voter casts a ballot in person during early, grace period or election day voting, the "Inactive" designation shall be removed from the registration record of that voter.

Part 2. Permanent Roster for Vote By Mail (continued)

(c) Election authorities that maintain a permanent roster of vote by mail voters may also utilize secure drop boxes at which voters may deposit their vote by mail ballots inside their official envelopes in lieu of personal delivery or mailing to the election authority. A vote by mail ballot deposited into an election authority's secure drop box shall not be counted unless

Commissioners

MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ, *Chair*
WILLIAM J. KRESSE, *Commissioner/Secretary*
JONATHAN T. SWAIN, *Commissioner*
LANCE GOUGH, *Executive Director*



it was deposited on or before election day and otherwise fulfills the vote by mail requirements of this Article and this Code. An election authority that utilizes secure drop boxes for vote by mail ballots shall publish the locations of said drop boxes in the same manner that it publishes the locations of early voting sites and election precincts. The drop boxes shall be capable of receiving ballot deposits at all hours during the period in which early and grace period voting is being conducted for an election or primary, and until the last polls close on election day.

(d) An election authority that maintains a permanent roster of vote by mail voters shall remove a voter from the permanent roster upon the voter's written request, or any time that a voter has otherwise lost eligibility to vote within the election authority's jurisdiction. An election authority that implements and maintains a permanent roster of vote by mail voters shall not cease the practice of automatic mail-in voting less than 180 days prior to a primary or election, nor without public notice published at least twice in a newspaper of record within the jurisdiction and continuously on the election authority's website, if it has one, through and including the next election day. Nothing in this section shall be construed as allowing an election authority to conduct an all-mail election, nor to disregard its duties under this Code to provide all other forms of early, grace period and election day in-person voting.

Part 2. Permanent Roster for Vote By Mail (end)