Panel 1 – Academic and Legal Research

1. **Ruth Greenwood, Deputy Director of Redistricting**
   Campaign Legal Center

My name is Ruth Greenwood, and I am the Deputy Director of Redistricting at the Campaign Legal Center. The Campaign Legal Center is a national nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that defends and protects our democracy in the areas of campaign finance, voting rights, redistricting, and government ethics.

Today I will outline two areas of reform that I believe are needed in Illinois redistricting: state level reform and local level reform:

- At the state level, partisan interests have entirely hijacked the redistricting process, such that every decade since 1980, one party or the other has been able to enact its preferred plan and as a result the state has suffered constant partisan gerrymanders instead of fair district plans. These gerrymanders result in unresponsive and unaccountable legislators. A preferred method of redistricting would be to use an independent commission which would improve partisan fairness, competitiveness, and responsiveness. Three efforts to introduce an independent commission have been thwarted by the state courts in recent years.

At the local level, many counties, cities, towns, villages, and school boards still use entirely or partially at-large elections which dilute the vote of the minority community. Illinois suburbs and exurbs, outside of Chicago in particular, have growing populations of black, Latino, and Asian Americans, yet most of the local representative governments are composed of a majority of white members. For this to change, I recommend the adoption of ranked choice voting with the at-large elections, so that communities of color can join their votes to elect their candidates of choice.

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2. **Ami Gandhi, Director of Voting Rights and Civic Engagement**
   Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc.

Ami Gandhi, the Director of Voting Rights and Civic Empowerment at Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (CLC), will discuss barriers to voting for communities of color and low-income communities and recommendations for improving fair access to the polls. Ami is an attorney whose experience includes leading statewide voter protection for the 2016 election, advocating for communities of color during Illinois redistricting, advising local election boards as they implemented the first Hindi ballots in the country, and leading exit poll studies.

Pulling from her experience leading 300 legal volunteers who served as nonpartisan Election Protection poll watchers and who answered more than 1,000 calls to the 866-OUR-VOTE hotline on election day from across Illinois and Indiana, Ami will discuss how far too many voters experience disenfranchisement by election judges, equipment failure, receipt of incorrect ballots, and voter intimidation. Numerous issues can be resolved when lines of communication are open between advocates, voters, and election officials, and such problem solving often occurs in both Democratic- and Republican-leaning counties in Illinois. In order to improve election administration, it is essential for voters to trust their election officials, and recent renewed rhetoric about widespread voter fraud threatens to weaken such trust and intimidate voters.

Many voter access problems point to the need for systemic reforms that Ami will describe, including robust election judge training, voting modernization, improved protocols for mail-in ballots, access for voters with disabilities and limited English proficiency, redistricting reform, and fairness for voters interfacing with the criminal justice system. Ami will also compare and contrast voting rights in Illinois and Indiana and how different laws such as Election Day Registration and Automatic Voter Registration can prevent systemic disenfranchisement of eligible voters.

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3. **Jacob H. Huebert, Senior Attorney**
   Liberty Justice Center

The Supreme Court has stated that "a citizen has a constitutionally protected right to participate in elections on an equal basis with other citizens in the [same] jurisdiction." Illinois, however, has adopted a system for Election Day voter registration ("EDR") that does not allow all of the state's citizens to participate in elections on an equal basis with each other. Legislation passed in 2014 guarantees citizens in the 20 Illinois counties with a population of 100,000 or more the right to register and vote at their local precinct polling places on Election Day. But the legislation does not guarantee that right to citizens in lower-population counties that do not have electronic polling books; an election authority in one of those counties is not required to provide in-precinct EDR, as long as it offers EDR at the election authority's main office and at a single location in each municipality where 20% or more of the county's residents reside.

The Liberty Justice Center has filed a federal lawsuit challenging Illinois' EDR system for violating the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. We argue that the state cannot justify denying voters in low-population counties the same voting opportunities that citizens in high-population counties receive; the cost and administrative burden that in-precinct EDR would impose on election authorities in low-population counties is not a sufficient reason to deny citizens in those counties equal rights. The lawsuit seeks to have the provisions of Illinois law authorizing in-precinct EDR struck down because that is the only way a court can undo the law's unconstitutional discrimination. But the Illinois General Assembly could and should resolve the problem immediately by amending the law to guarantee citizens statewide the right to register at their local precinct polling places on Election Day.

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4. **Rebecca Glenberg, Senior Staff Attorney**
   ACLU of Illinois

Rebecca Glenberg, Senior Attorney at the ACLU of Illinois, will be addressing the topic of Voter Identification laws. She will describe how other states have implemented such laws and what direction these policies are likely to take under the auspices of Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Ms. Glenberg will provide insight on whether Illinois is likely to follow suit or not regarding the implementation of Voter ID laws.

Panel 2 – Voting and Incarceration

1. **Christina R. Rivers, PhD, Associate Professor**
   DePaul University Political Science Department

Dr. Rivers' current work explores the political implications of mass incarceration on representation, and particularly African American electoral power. Approximately 1.17 million offenders were disenfranchised in 1976. That number nearly tripled to 3.34 million in 1996, and nearly doubled to approximately 6.1 million by 2016. Overall, approximately 1 in 40 Americans is disenfranchised due to felony conviction; for African Americans the ratio is 1 in 13. As of 2016 six states—Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wyoming—disenfranchised up to 9% of their adult population; Florida disenfranchised in excess of 10%. Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, and Mississippi disenfranchised up to 20% of their African-American population, and Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia disenfranchised more than 20% of their black population. By contrast, in 1980 state felon disenfranchisement rates did not exceed 5% of the general population, or 7% of the African-American population. Here in Illinois as of 2016, 27,500 African Americans are disenfranchised due to felony convictions, equating to approximately 2% of the state's black voting age population. In comparison, 0.5% of Illinois' overall voting-age population is disenfranchised for this reason.

Another political implication of mass incarceration is prison gerrymandering: the practice of counting inmates at their prison address when apportioning and drawing electoral districts. A disproportionate number of prisoners are black and Latino, and tend to come from urban communities, while prisons tend to be located in rural, largely white communities. Prison gerrymandering tends to enhance the representation of communities that house prisons, and to dilute: a) the representation of urban communities of color, and b) neighboring communities without prisons. It thus conflicts with the principle of "one-person-one-vote", and with the Equal Protection clause of the 14th Amendment. In this context, it also revives Three-Fifths clause—this time at a ratio of one-to-one. Overall, these practices seriously constrain democracy and representation in the U.S.

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2. **Michelle Mbekeani-Wiley, Community Justice Staff Attorney**
   Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

Michelle Mbekeani-Wiley is an attorney with the Sargent Shriver National Center On Poverty Law. Ms. Mbekeani-Wiley will discuss the voting rights of the incarcerated and the

barriers to voting while incarcerated and immediately thereafter. Ms Mbekeani-Wiley will address the challenges she encountered while registering pre-trial detainees to vote at Cook County Jail this past year. The barriers addressed will include access to personal information, establishing residency, navigating conflicting state laws for prior felony convictions, debunking myths to voter eligibility, and costs associated with absentee ballot process.

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3. **Cara Smith, Policy Chief for Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart**

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4. **Nasir Blackwell, Green ReEntry Program Coordinator**
   Inner-City Muslim Action Network

IMAN is a community organization that fosters health, wellness and healing in the inner-city by organizing for social change, cultivating the arts and operating a holistic health center. As a returning citizen, having served 24 ½ years of imprisonment, IMAN has provided me with a platform to continue working with men and women returning home from prison. I was automatically eligible to vote after 30 days of release and voted in the primaries and the presidential election.

IMAN lead volunteers of a voter registration campaign, many of whom were returning citizens. Yet, there continue to exist voter disenfranchisement within the state of Illinois. Men and women confined within county jails across the state of Illinois are not allowed to participate within the electoral process. A process that has become common practice for decades. A citizens' inability to post bond should not be defined as a prohibition from voting. From my research of this common form of disenfranchisement through policy within county jails, I narrowed my study down to the top five counties of jail populations, Cook, DuPage, Lake, Will, and Kane.

Illinois voting by mail statutory code is vague as to Illinois citizens detained within an Illinois county jail, as it does not mention those detained within a county jail. (VOTING BY MAIL IN ILLINOIS 10 ILCS 5/19) During my stay within Will County Jail 1990-92, and 1996-1997 I was told I did not have a right to vote by various jail officials. The Voting Rights Act and Illinois Constitution secure Illinois citizens a right to vote. Illinois voting Codes need to spell out citizens confined within a county jail is entitled to register to vote and cast an absentee ballot. Illinois County jail need to implement policies and protocols providing detainees access to the electoral process by providing access to online registration and casting ballots, or providing copies of registration forms, and ballot entry.

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5. **Marlon Chamberlain, FORCE Organizer**
   Community Renewal Society

I am an organizer with Community Renewal Society, and I lead the FORCE project (Fighting to Overcome Records & Create Equality). FORCE is led by formerly incarcerated people organizing to destroy barriers that prevent them from successfully re-entering into society.After being sentenced to 20 years in prison for a drug related crime, and receiving an early release because people advocated for the sentencing laws to be changed, I made a commitment to fight to address discriminatory policies that impact people with records

Two years ago, FORCE led a campaign to register 2,000 people with records to vote. The reason we initiated this campaign was to educate people with records about their ability to vote in the state of Illinois. There is a myth that people returning from prison are not allowed to vote. FORCE also trains formerly incarcerated individuals to developed legislative campaigns to address policy that directly effects them. We do this by not only encouraging individuals to vote but we encourage leaders to engage in the political process. Engagement consist of meeting with our elected officials in district, and taking trips to Springfield

Since the conception of FORCE, we have passed 5 bills. In 2014, we passed a bill that expanded the number of offenses that could be sealed. Last year we passed 4 bills to remove lifetime barriers to employment in public schools, park districts, and the healthcare field. FORCE will continue to educate people through know your right workshops, recruiting new leaders and developing new leaders to engage in the political process, developed campaigns to address barriers, and hold our elected officials accountable.

Panel 3 – Language Access

1. **Ryan Cortazar, Legal Fellow**
   Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc.

Ryan Cortazar, an attorney in the Voting Rights and Civic Empowerment Project at the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (CLC) will discuss challenges for implementing the Voting Rights Act's language-access provisions in Illinois, which is of increasing relevance as the number and diversity of immigrant voters grows in cities and suburbs. The presentation will begin with an overview of the history and requirements of the language-access provisions, including the methodology by which the federal government determines where oral and written access is required. This portion will also reinforce the continuing need for language assistance even though most voters speak some English, due to complicated ballot questions and other factors. In parts of Illinois, language access is available in Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Gujarati, Urdu, Korean, and Polish.

After laying out this framework, the presentation will address ways to improve language access in Illinois. In addition to considering Census Bureau data, election authorities should work with community groups and civil rights advocates to assess language-access needs beyond federal requirements, and the presentation will discuss best practices for community engagement. It will also discuss how changing immigration and migration patterns have changed the demographics in the suburbs of Chicago, leading to a wider area of coverage, including jurisdictions that have not provided language access previously.

In addition to presenting logistical language-access challenges, these suburban demographic changes require greater engagement with longtime poll workers and residents. In previous elections, our nonpartisan legal volunteers and community partners observed poll workers and voters intimidate bilingual voters by stating that everyone should have to vote in English and by denying them the right to have a friend or family member assist them. To minimize these problems, public education efforts and poll worker training must emphasize the legal requirements and policy justification of language access.

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2. **Shobhana Verma, Director of South Asian Outreach Program**
   Chicago Board of Election Commissioners

Asian Indians are a rapidly growing community as evident from the fact that based on the data from the 2010 United States Census, the Census Bureau indicated that Chicago, Los Angeles and New York needed to begin offering language assistance at the polls to U.S. citizens from India who may have limited English proficiency.

I would like to discuss Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act which led to language assistance for minority populations including Asian Indians in 2011 and the challenges as well as strategies involved in bringing such policy to life. In 2011, the Chicago Election Board took advice from a variety of community groups and our many partners in the local media and the determination was made that we should move forward with balloting, signage and other voter materials in the Hindi language.

Outreach to a diverse community can be very challenging, however, my extensive field and policy experience helps me lead Election Board's voter outreach work in the Asian Indian community by engaging with and serving across intersecti! ons of age, class and gender along with other representations of diversity among voters. Over the past few years of my voter education and voter engagement work, I have developed a sound understanding of the complexity of an immigrant community's participation in the electoral process. At the Election Board, we work very diligently to mobilize immigrant communities to participate in the electoral process by building trust though constant communication and through organizing, attending and presenting at community events, through building community partnerships with active community leaders as well as ethnic and mainstream media. We also put a lot of effort in

engaging youth who can take the message home and work as ambassadors of community participation within their own families.

I look forward to the opportunity to share more about Chicago Election Board's language access and voter outreach work in the Asian Indian community.

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3. **Verónica Cortez, Staff Attorney**
   MALDEF

United States Citizens cannot vote effectively if they do not understand their ballot or the current voting procedures. The right to vote is granted to those people that are United States citizens either through birth or naturalization. Citizens that do not speak English fluently should still be able to exercise their right to vote. Providing U.S. Citizens equal access to the ballot includes providing them with the tools necessary to understand their ballot. Under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act ("VRA") counties and states are required to provide access to the ballot in the form of bilingual election judges and translated materials. These protections tend to increase access to voting among immigrant populations.

Neglect or inefficient enforcement of Section 203 has resulted in confusion and restriction of voting rights among foreign-born U.S. voters in previous elections. Some studies suggest that naturalized citizens are not affected by increased language access as much, given that their ability to become a U.S. citizen demonstrates desire and commitment to becoming informed and learning English. However, most language access reports--particularly those regarding Latino communities in the United States--reveal that increased and efficient language access increases voter turnout and access to voting in areas where there is a significant Latino community presence. MALDEF attorneys were present at polling places in three different counties in Illinois during the last election and saw that people clearly require language assistance at the polls. There is still work to be done in this area.

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4. **Andy Kang, Legal Director**
   Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Chicago

In the March 2016 primary, Advancing Justice-Chicago deployed 40 poll monitors at 90 precincts, including 25 poll monitors deployed to Chinatown precincts designated for Chinese language assistance under Section 203. The 2nd State House District, which includes the greater Chinatown community, was holding a hotly-contested Democratic primary race with heightened interest from Chinese American voters due to one of the candidates being Chinese American, Theresa Mah. Advancing Justice-Chicago's poll monitors were also able to witness the usage of Election Day Registration, which likely played a pivotal role in that primary election. For the

November 2016 election, Advancing Justice-Chicago deployed 48 poll monitors to 124 precincts throughout Chicago and the surrounding suburban Cook County. This was the largest number of precincts Advancing Justice-Chicago has ever been able to poll monitor in a single election. Our analysis of the incident reports and completed poll monitor survey forms from these elections confirm that there is still much work to be done to ensure that election judges – particularly in the suburbs – understand their duties under Section 203 with respect to displaying translated written materials in polling places and in making voters fully aware of their language options.

Prior to the November 2016 election, Advancing Justice-Chicago worked with the Chicago Board of Elections to pilot a short training for a select number of bilingual election judges for Asian Indian language assistance. It is our hope to build off this experience in order to improve the voluntary supplemental training and possibly expand it to more bilingual election judges for Section 203-covered Asian languages. To this point, Advancing Justice-Chicago believes that all efforts to collect, identify, and share best practices in language assistance for voters should be encouraged and protected. For this reason, Advancing Justice-Chicago joined its other affiliates in a joint letter to Congress expressing its strong opposition to HR 634, the "Election Assistance Commission Termination Act." Advancing Justice-Chicago views the EAC and efforts to improve the quality of federally required language assistance as a necessary component to strengthening the voting rights of new Americans.

Panel 4 – Voting Across Social Groups

1. **Cheryl Jansen, Public Policy Director**
   Equip for Equality

As the Protection and Advocacy organization for people with disabilities in Illinois, Equip for Equality has a role under the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to help ensure that people with disabilities have full and equal access to the electoral process. Our efforts to fulfill that role are carried out through training and education of voters with disabilities, election and other public officials, service provider agencies—both public and private—and family members regarding voting rights, voter registration, poll watching, conducting polling place accessibility surveys, operating an Election Day Helpline for voters with disabilities and assisting them in enforcing their voting rights under HAVA, the Americans with Disabilities Act and state law. While strides have certainly been made, people with disabilities continue to face barriers in exercising their right to vote.

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2. **Sharon Legenza, Executive Director**
   Housing Action Illinois

Sharon K. Legenza, J.D., Executive Director of Housing Action Illinois, will discuss the voting rights and challenges of people experiencing homelessness in Illinois. Her presentation will cover: (1)

demographic information for this population, including race/ethnicity, gender, veteran status, and those formerly incarcerated; (2) the Illinois laws that provide for the voting rights of those experiencing homelessness; (3) challenges to exercising these rights as experienced by those who are homeless and as observed by homeless service providers; and (4) potential solutions to address these challenges.

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3. **Christian Diaz, Former Executive Director**
   Chicago Votes

Christian Diaz, ex-Director of Chicago Votes, will address successes made in increasing voting rates among young people as well as recommendations to continue improving in this area. Mr. Diaz will address how the mobilization of young people and coalitions across a variety of agencies are critical in expanding the conversations and social issues that are highlighted during electoral campaigns.

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4. **Juan Thomas, Esq., Chair, Legal Redress Committee**
   NAACP, Illinois State Conference

In recent years, the NAACP has registered hundreds of thousands of Americans to vote and equip vulnerable communities with the resources to fight back against attacks on fundamental voting rights through our nationwide campaign, This is My Vote www.thisismyvote.org or by calling an 800 number. Through continued voter registration, education, and mobilization, the Illinois Conference of the NAACP seeks to increase registration and voting in Illinois; will work for the enactment of municipal and state legislation designed to improve the educational, political and economic status of minority communities and will oppose efforts to roll back the gains won by African-Americans and others to ensure full and equal access to voting rights for all Illinois citizens. The Illinois Conference of the NAACP will also work to repeal and/or oppose any legislation that is racially discriminatory and threatens African-American's access to the ballot booth.

Specifically, the Illinois Conference of the NAACP supports bipartisan legislation that would establish a system of Automatic Voter Registration and make it easier for millions of Illinois residents to exercise their right to vote. Governor Rauner vetoed this legislation during the 99th Illinois General Assembly in August of 2016. The Illinois Conference of the NAACP will remain vigilant in advocating in support of this type of legislation because we believe it is necessary to protect voting rights in Illinois.

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5. **Mary Schaafsma, Executive Director**
   League of Women Voters of Illinois

The League of Women Voters was founded on the principle that voting is bedrock to democracy and that all eligible voters should have unencumbered access to the voting booth.

The League of Women Voters of Illinois (LWVIL) supports uniformity of election laws and procedures throughout the state. Registration and voting methods should ensure the integrity of the election system, maximize voters' unencumbered access to the ballot, preserve the secrecy of the ballot and ensure accurate and timely vote tabulation. Citizens should have the right to file complaints and writs of mandamus to force compliance with election laws.

The League supports an efficient, practical and regular election schedule. At each polling place there should be election judges from more than one of the major political parties. The League supports mandatory training and periodic retraining of all election judges. In tabulating votes, any mark or other indication that clearly shows the intent of the voter should be counted. Additional election officials for tallying ballots should be used when conditions necessitate.

As an example of the League of Women Voters of Illinois' commitment to maximizing accessibility occurred after the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) was signed into law in 1993, the Illinois General Assembly would not pass the necessary implementing legislation which meant that when the NVRA became effective on January 1, 1995, Illinois was not in compliance. LWVIL and others, including the U.S. Department of Justice, filed suits to force Illinois to comply. In response to the consolidated suits both the federal district court and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the State must comply.

The League of Women Voters of Illinois continues to be fully immersed in Illinois elections and continues to monitor and be aware of issues that have the effect of creating impediments.

Some include:

- Election jurisdictions have an inadequate supply of ballots
- The impact of budget constraints which have resulted in confusion occasioned by multiple precincts located in one polling place.
- What happens to provisional ballots? Are they counted?
- Ensuring consistent, regular election judge training

The gender gap is a measure used by researchers, the media and other to assess the effects of women voters in election outcomes. LWVIL focuses more on overall turnout members than it is in evaluating particular constituencies although it does find analyses turnout interesting.

Panel 5 – Government Perspectives

1. Brent Davis, Director, Division of Election Operations
Illinois State Board of Elections

I have been with the Illinois State Board of Elections since 2005 and have worked in multiple fields within the agency. I am currently the Director of Election Operations for the Board, and oversee many aspects of planning and logistics for statewide elections. Our division prepares the agency's publications, manages the candidate filing processes, canvasses election results and conducts election judge training sessions throughout the state.

For the presentation on March 9th I plan to highlight the basic subject matter of what our training program covers. We provide training on the procedures that must be completed before the polls open, during voting hours, and after the polls close. We address many aspects of how Illinois election laws affect the responsibilities of election judges, voters and pollwatchers. Some of these topics include:

- Pollwatcher rights and responsibilities
- Availability of accessible voting machines and options for those with disabilities
- Provisional voting
- Election day registration
- Processing write-in candidates
- Understanding ballot styles and the appropriate ballot the voter is entitled to
- Campaign Free Zone

In addition to this I will note some of the difficulties that we encounter in trying to provide adequate training for election judges.

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2. David Orr
Cook County Clerk

Three years ago I called for a voter registration approach I described as "All In," meaning that all citizens would be listed in the voter rolls and the government would put all effort into ensuring the rolls are both complete and accurate. Our approach utilizes three methods:

1. Use government transactions to register eligible voters and update their addresses. Almost everyone regularly gives the government their address and personal information, whether for an ID, a license plate, to receive a benefit or to pay taxes.
2. Require state agencies to share data with each other, and election officials to share data with other states, in order to eliminate outdated registrations.
3. Offer Election Day registration as a backstop for those eligible voters not captured by the first two methods.

We have achieved progress in Illinois in four important ways: (1) by implementing online registration, (2) the initial steps toward smoother, more automatic data flows from the DMV and other agencies, (3) an interstate agreement on data sharing for registration and clean-up purposes Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), and (4) Election Day Registration.
Finally, no approach to democracy is complete unless we address the role of money. Our current campaign finance rules drown out the opinion of some while increasing influence for others. We must also address the increase in voter suppression laws aimed at causing a disparity in voting difficulty.

This speech will describe our progress towards the "All In" vision in Illinois and highlight strategies for turning back local and national attacks on our rights as citizens of a democracy.

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3. **Karyn Bass Ehler – Chief of Civil Rights Bureau**
   Office of the Illinois Attorney General

Biography - Karyn Bass Ehler is the Chief of the Civil Rights Bureau in Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan's Office. In that role, Karyn oversees investigations, litigation and legislation to address patterns and practices of discrimination in Illinois.

Prior to joining the Attorney General's office, Karyn was a partner at a mid-size litigation firm in Chicago where she concentrated her practice in the areas of civil rights, constitutional law, commercial litigation and labor and employment law.

Karyn also clerked for Judge William J. Bauer on the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and Judge Matthew Kennelly on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Karyn is a graduate of Northwestern University and DePaul University College of Law.

Presentation - I have served as the Chief of the Civil Rights Bureau for Attorney General Lisa Madigan since 2015. Attorney General Madigan works to ensure that Illinois voters' rights are protected and polling places are accessible. On the November 8, 2016 general election, the Attorney General sent 191 teams of attorneys and investigators throughout the state to monitor the election.

Our office is committed to ensuring that the voting process is a fair, open, and legal election and that all voters' rights are protected. We facilitate accessibility to the polls and view our role as serving to enable voting in Illinois.

Each election we remind voters and local officials of the following basic voting rights:

Basic voting rights:

- If your registration is active and current, you do not need to show identification to cast your vote. If your registration is not active, there are circumstances in which you are required to show identification in order to vote.

- If your voter registration is in "inactive" status and your address has changed, in order to vote the same day you may be asked to show identification of your current address.
- If your voter registration is "canceled," you will need to re-register and must show two forms of identification. The most common forms of identification include a driver's license or a utility bill, one of which must show your current address.
- If a voter cannot read, has trouble understanding English or has a disability, that voter has the right to request assistance from anyone other than his or her employer, an agent of his or her employer, or an officer or agent of his or her union (10 ILCS 5/17-14).
- Voters have the right to take sample ballots or other information into the voting booth for their own use in casting their ballot. Voters should make sure that such information is not visible to other voters in the polling place.
- If a voter makes a mistake or "spoils" a paper ballot and the voter has not cast the ballot, the voter has the right to receive a replacement ballot (10 ILCS 5/17-11).
- Voters have the right to take unpaid time from work to vote, but no more than two successive hours, as long as they have applied with their employer before Election Day. The employer may set the time of day (10 ILCS 5/17-15).
- Voters have the right to vote if they are in line when the polls close at 7 p.m. or at any other time between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day (10 ILCS 5/17-1).
- No one is allowed to try to influence a voter within 100 feet of the polling place (10 ILCS 5/17-29).
- Under Illinois law, it is a crime to prevent a person from voting or registering to vote using intimidation, force, threat or deception (10 ILCS 5/29-4).

Attorney General Madigan urges voters to contact our office if they encounter suspected improper or illegal activity on Election Day.

Chicago area and northern Illinois voters should call 1-866-536-3496 (TTY 1-800-964-3013). Central and southern Illinois voters should call 1-866-559-6812 (TTY 1-877-844-5461).