

# SUPPORT HB 4469

Senate: Aquino-Bennett-Collins-Van Pelt-Raoul-Hunter-Lightford-Hutchinson-Koehler

## VOTING IN JAIL & A “KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS” RESOURCE UPON RELEASE

There are approximately 20,000 people detained in jail pre-trial in Illinois. Those who are citizens have the right to vote in elections. However, without a formal process in place, *voting in jail is nearly impossible for pre-trial detainees.*

**HB 4469 requires county jails and election authorities to collaborate in creating a process that ensures that pre-trial detainees can also cast their ballot during elections.**

In any given year, there are approximately 30,000 people who return from prison, all of whom are citizens are eligible to vote in Illinois upon release. Yet many of these citizens do not register to vote because they *believe that their past criminal conviction disqualifies them.*

**HB 4469 requires the Illinois Department of Corrections and each county jail to provide eligible citizens released from their custody a voter registration application.**

There are approximately 4 million people in Illinois who have a past felony conviction, all of whom are eligible to vote in Illinois. Yet, many of these citizens are *not aware of their right to vote.*

**HB 4469 requires the Illinois Department of Corrections to provide citizens released from their custody detailed information about their voting rights.**

### VOTING IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF LIFE.

- Research indicates that re-enfranchising people with criminal convictions cuts the rate of recidivism.
- By increasing voter access for pretrial detainees and educating people with criminal convictions of their right to vote in this state, this bill increase voting amongst pre-trial detainees and the formerly incarcerated, cutting the rate of recidivism.

### REGISTERING TO VOTE IS THE GATEWAY TO BEING CIVICALLY ENGAGED.

- By providing individuals with a voter registration application upon release from their custody, IDOC and the county jails can help these populations successfully re-enter into society, while also reducing the recidivism rate.

**Currently, 8 of 102 counties already ensure that citizens detained in jail pre-trial can vote during elections**  
This bill builds on their good experience to make sure that all eligible citizens who want to vote get to vote.

**For more information contact:**

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## Supporting Organizations

ACLU of Illinois	Heartland Alliance
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Chicago	Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club
Business and Professional People for the Public Interest	Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Cabrini Green Legal Aid	Illinois Environmental Council
Change Peoria	Illinois Federation of Teachers
Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice	Illinois Public Interest Research Group
Chicago Bar Association	Indivisible Illinois
Chicago Board of Election Commissioners	John Howard Association
Chicago Books to Women in Prison	League of Women Voters of Chicago
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless	League of Women Voters of Cook County
Chicago Community Bond Fund	League of Women Voters of Illinois
Chicago Council of Lawyers	Legal Council for Health Justice
Chicago Jobs Council	Local 881 UFCW Backbone Films LLC
Chicago Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights	National Rainbow PUSH Coalition
Chicago Urban League	North Side Action and Resistance
Chicago Votes	Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Common Cause Illinois	Solidarity Sundays
Community Renewal Society	Uptown People’s Law Center
Equality Illinois	Western Front Resist
Faith in Place	

## Counties With a Voting Program

Champaign  
Coles  
Cook  
DuPage  
Lake  
Piatt  
Sangamon  
Tazewell

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