



*Debbie Gillette*  
Kendall County Clerk & Recorder

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September 26, 2018

**VIA EMAIL**

Amy Meek  
Staff Attorney  
Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU of Illinois  
[ameek@aclu-il.org](mailto:ameek@aclu-il.org)

Dear Ms. Meek,

Thank you for reaching out to me. To clear up concerns regarding identification requirements, voters in Kendall County are not **REQUIRED** to show identification to vote. However, there are certain instances where state law does require a voter to present identification. We simply want to make sure voters are prepared in the event that any of these situations arise. In case you were not aware, here are just a few of the examples in the Illinois Election Code where individuals may be required to provide identification:

1. 10 ILCS 5/6-105 states, in relevant part:

First time voting. A person must vote for the first time in person and not a vote by mail ballot if the person registered to vote by mail, unless the person first provides the appropriate election authority with sufficient proof of identity and the election authority verifies the person's proof of identity. Sufficient proof of identity shall be demonstrated by submission of the person's driver's license number or State identification card number or, if the person does not have either of those, verification by the last 4 digits of the person's social security number, a copy of a current and valid photo identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other federal, State, or local government document that shows the person's name and address. A person may also demonstrate sufficient proof of identity by submission of a photo identification issued by a college or university accompanied by either a copy of the applicant's contract or lease for a residence or any postmarked mail delivered to the applicant at his or her current residence address. Persons who apply to register to vote by mail but provide inadequate proof of identity to the election authority shall be notified by the election authority that the registration has not been fully completed and that the person remains ineligible to vote by mail or in person until such proof is presented.

2. 10 ILCS 5/6-66 states, in relevant part:

The judges in charge of the precinct registration files shall compare the signature upon such certificate with the signature on the registration record card as a means of identifying the voter. Unless satisfied by such comparison that the applicant to vote is the identical person who is registered under the same name, the judges shall ask such applicant the questions for identification which appear on the registration card, and if the applicant does not prove to the satisfaction of a majority of the judges of the election precinct that he is the

identical person registered under the name in question then the vote of such applicant shall be challenged by a judge of election, and the same procedure followed as provided in this Article and Act for challenged voters.

Instructing voters to “be prepared to present identification to the election judge” does not imply that they will be turned away from voting or is not intended to discourage or prevent individuals from voting. I have served as the Election Authority for the last 14 elections and we have not received a formal complaint regarding a judge requesting the voter provide identification outside of the purview of the law. With an average of 400 Election Judges serving at each election we feel that the training and notices we provide have conveyed that identification can only be asked to be provided in certain circumstances. The judges are also trained on the use of Provisional Voting.

Kendall County held its Election Judge training with the State Board of Elections on September 24, 2018 where approximately 300 Election Judges were told specifically from the representatives from the State Board of Elections that ID is not required and that they are not to ask for the voter to show ID unless there is a problem with their registration or they are registering to vote.

The Voting and Early Voting in Kendall County at [https://www.co.kendall.il.us/wp-content/uploads/Election\\_Voting\\_Kendall\\_County.pdf](https://www.co.kendall.il.us/wp-content/uploads/Election_Voting_Kendall_County.pdf) has been amended per your request. When we hold additional training classes we will continue to instruct the Election Judges that ID is not required to vote.

Kendall County election results clearly show that voters have not been depressed, suppressed or disenfranchised. Election turnout has increased in Kendall County. In the General Primary Elections for the non-presidential years of 2014 and 2018 the results are 19% and 21% respectively. In the General Election Presidential election cycle years of 2012 and 2016 the results are 70% and 72% respectively.

The Kendall County Clerk’s Office always strives to provide the best customer service we can while also ensuring the voter has a good voting experience.

Sincerely,



Debbie Gillette  
Kendall County Clerk & Recorder

Cc: Steven Sandvoss, Illinois State Board of Elections