

SUPPORT SB 2090 (HA1)

Voting In Jail & a “Know Your Voting Rights” Resource Upon Release

Lead Sponsors:

Senator Omar Aquino
Representative Emanuel “Chris” Welch

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.*

SB 2090 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.*

SB 2090 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.*

SB 2090 requires the Illinois Department of Corrections to provide citizens released from their custody detailed information about their voting rights.

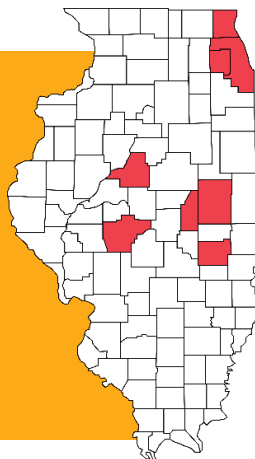
SB 2090 also clarifies that for in person voting, non-partisan pollwatchers are limited to one per division within the jail, instead of one per precinct and requires in person voting to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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.

Counties with a Voting Program:

Champaign	DuPage	Sangamon
Coles	Lake	Tazewell
Cook	Piatt	



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.