

# 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.**

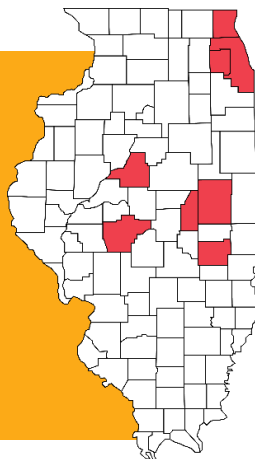
SB 2090 also clarifies that for in person voting, non-partisan pollwatchers are limited to one per division within the jail, instead of one per precinct and requires in person voting to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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.

## SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

ACLU of Illinois

Asian Americans Advancing Justice –  
Chicago

Business and Professional People for the  
Public Interest

Cabrini Green Legal Aid

Change Peoria

Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice

Chicago Bar Association

Chicago Board of Election Commissioners

Chicago Books to Women in Prison

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

Chicago Community Bond Fund

Chicago Council of Lawyers

Chicago Jobs Council

Chicago Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights

Chicago Urban League

Chicago Votes

Common Cause Illinois

Community Renewal Society

Equality Illinois

Faith in Place

Heartland Alliance

Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee  
Rights

Illinois Environmental Council

Illinois Federation of Teachers

Illinois Public Interest Research Group

Indivisible Illinois

John Howard Association

League of Women Voters of Chicago

League of Women Voters of Cook County

League of Women Voters of Illinois

Legal Council for Health Justice

Local 881 UFCW Backbone Films LLC

National Rainbow PUSH Coalition

North Side Action and Resistance

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty  
Law

Solidarity Sundays

Uptown People's Law Center

Western Front Resist