

Election Terms

Affidavit - A sworn statement presented in support of a person's qualifications to vote.

Application for Ballot (Form 14) - The form a voter signs to apply for a ballot, which contains the signature of the voter and label printed with information relating to the identity of the voter. The label is printed from the electronic poll book printer and affixed to Application for Ballot (Form 14).

Assistance in Voting - The act of helping a person to vote. Only voters with a physical disability or voters, who cannot speak, read or write English are entitled to request assistance. Please use the Consolidated Voter's Affidavit, Form 1 boxes 4 and 5 for assisting a voter in casting a ballot.

Audio Ballot with Headphones - Voters with visual impairments can vote privately and independently by using the audio ballot and headphones on the touchscreen voting unit. The judges will activate a voter card with the audio ballot. Voters who use a sip and puff device can also use the audio ballot and headphones.

Ballot Box - The ballot scanner will sit atop a ballot box, which will store the voted ballots. The ballot box consists of three parts; top, bottom and collapsible body and will need to be assembled by the judges. The ballot box has two sections, the front section for ballots with write-in votes and the back section for ballots without write-in votes. The ballot scanner will automatically separate ballots into the front and back sections of the ballot box.

Ballot Scanner - The unit used to record the votes cast on the ballots. The ballot scanner will reject ballots that are not initialed by a judge, overvoted or blank.

Ballot Style - The three digit number that determines which ballot a voter should be issued. The ballot style can be found in the voter's record in the electronic poll book and on the voter's label.

Ballot Viewer - A plastic magnifier that enlarges the print on the ballot scan ballots.

Black Return Bag - The large black bag (with handle and wheels) that is used to return materials to the Receiving Station. The Black Return Bag must be sealed prior to leaving the polling place.

Blank Ballot - A ballot with no votes cast on it or marks that cannot be read by the ballot scanner.

Campaign Free Zone - The area outside the polling place room where electioneering is prohibited. This area must be marked off by the two blue cones.

Certificate of Results (Form 80) - The form used to record the number of votes cast. A copy of the Official Election Results Report from the card activator must be attached to each Form 80.

Challenge - An objection made to the election judges concerning a person's identity or qualifications to vote.

Combination Polling Place - a polling place that contains more than 1 precinct. This is not the same as a Split Precinct.

Credential - An official document presented by all pollwatchers in order to remain in the polling place.

Curbside Voting - A method of voting used by a voter who is unable to enter an inaccessible polling place. Two judges, one from each political party, will bring the voting materials to the voter at a point where forward motion is no longer possible, but in no case shall the judges go beyond 50 feet from the entrance of the polling place.

Early Voting - From the 15th day through the 3rd day before the election, voters can vote at Early Voting sites designated by the Board of Elections. A voter does not need a reason to early vote, but must provide a government issued photo ID when requesting an early voting ballot. Persons who cast early voting ballots *cannot* vote in the polling place on Election Day.

Electioneering - The urging of a vote for or against a candidate, political party or referendum. This includes the wearing of campaign buttons, badges or signs, distribution of campaign literature or verbal communication.

Election Supply Carrier (ESC) - The big blue box that is delivered to the polling place prior to Election Day and contains all the equipment, supplies and materials.

Hybrid Ballots - Ballots that have candidates for either the Democratic OR Republican parties and also the Green Party.

Electronic Poll Book - This unit, along with its accessories, is placed at Station 1 and used for processing voters. The e-poll book can be used to look up voters registered within the precinct as well as elsewhere in the City of Chicago.

Lowered Voting Booth - A voting booth that is designed for voters who use a wheelchair. Voters who utilize the lowered voting booth will vote on the ballot. The lowered voting booth also has a chair for voters who cannot stand for long periods of time. When not in use by a voter with a disability, the booth can be used by non-disabled voters.

Memory Pack - The device that will record the votes cast on the ballot scanner. The memory pack will be in the ballot scanner when delivered to the polling place. After all ballots have been processed, the judges will remove the memory pack and consolidate the results (with the results cartridge) in the voter card activator.

Official Ballots - The paper ballot that will contain the names of the candidates, offices and referenda. The voters will use a ballot marker to complete the arrows for the candidates of their choice.

Official Election Results Report - The tape which is printed by the voter card activator that contains the consolidated results from the touchscreen unit and the ballot scanner.

Override Button - The #3 button on the ballot scanner keypad, which, at the voter's discretion, can be used

to override ballots that contain overvotes or are blank.

Overvoted Ballot - A ballot that contains more votes than allowed for an office.

Plastic Pointers - Device given to voters who use the touchscreen voting unit.

Pollwatcher - A representative of a candidate, political party or civic organization who is allowed, by law, to be in the precinct and observe the election process. All pollwatchers must surrender a credential to the judges.

Provisional Ballot - A ballot that is cast by certain categories of voters, but is not counted on Election Day. The Board of Elections has 14 days after the election to process provisional ballots. A provisional voter can contact the Board to find out if the provisional ballot was accepted or rejected.

Results Cartridge - The device that will record the votes cast on the touchscreen voting unit. The results cartridge will be in the touchscreen unit when delivered to the polling place. After the polls close, the judges will remove the results cartridge and consolidate the results (with the memory pack) in the voter card activator.

Split Precinct - A Split Precinct has more than one ballot style. When issuing a ballot to a voter, the judge of election must match the ballot style from the Application for Ballot, Form 14, to the ballot style on the Official Ballot. When a voter uses the touchscreen voting unit, make sure to enter the ballot code that corresponds to the ballot style on the Voter Card Activation Menu and Instructions.

Spoiled Ballot - An ballot scan ballot on which a voter has made a mistake. The ballot scan ballot must be returned to the judges and a new ballot scan ballot will be issued.

Touchscreen Printer - The touchscreen unit contains a printer which will create a paper record of every vote cast on the unit.

Touchscreen Voting Unit - The voting unit specifically designed for voters with disabilities. Voters with visual impairments can vote privately and independently by using the audio ballot and headphones. Voters who use a sip and puff device also can use the audio ballot on the touchscreen.

Transfer Case - The large blue case (with a handle and wheels) that is used to return materials

to the receiving station on election night. The list of materials required to be returned will be contained in the plastic window on the outside of the transfer case. The Transfer Case must be sealed prior to leaving the polling place.

Voter Card - The card used to activate the touchscreen voting unit. The voter card will be activated with the ballot style of the voter. The voter card also is used to activate a provisional ballot and an audio ballot. The voter card will not contain any other information regarding the voter.

Voter Card Activator (Card Activator) - The device used to 1) activate voter cards for the touchscreen; 2) consolidate the votes cast from the results cartridge (touchscreen unit) and memory pack (ballot scanner); and 3) print Official Election Results Reports and transmit the results to the Board's central computer.

White Return Box - This is returned in the Black Return Bag at the end of the night. It will contain the Results Cartridge, Memory Pack, Compact Flash Card from the e-poll book, Verizon air card and the Official Election Results Report (with Consolidation and Transmission Receipts attached).