



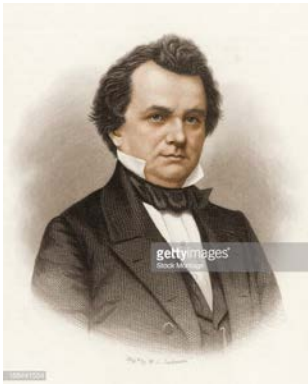
I WANT YOU

The candidate shortage is worse than ever!

2019 Local Elections Guide

www.CandidatesWanted.info

Nonpartisan signup is from Sept. 18 to Dec. 17, 2018



Your day-to-day life is affected most by your local elected officials, not those elected to “higher” office.

The nonpartisan election coming up on April 2, is the biggest one in Illinois. It takes the same number of polling places and poll workers as a general election, but it has many more seats on your ballot than even a presidential election does!

For example, in the non-presidential November 2018 general election, there are 11 hundred seats to be elected on the various ballots in Illinois. At the April 2019 local election, there are 11 *thousand* seats to be filled by the voters. Ten times as many!

The April election is already in process, with candidates signing up, but not enough sign up so that voters have choice at the polls to decide who spends 95% of all your property taxes.

Your day-to-day life is affected most by the nonpartisan officials elected in April. Nobody elected in November comes to your house to put out a fire, pick up your garbage, or move snow off the roads or provide those roads in the first place. Nor do they run any school or pick any superintendents. They don't take you to the hospital in an ambulance, arrest drunken drivers, or provide you with running water. All that, and more, is directed by those ordinary citizens, like you, elected at the nonpartisan April elections.

Sadly, there is always a big shortage of candidates. So big that two-thirds of all the seats on the ballot have only one candidate, and sometimes none at all!

The lack of enough candidates so that voters have an actual choice turns your voting

right into an empty rite. You can't replace someone with no one, so voters can't “throw the bums out” unless there is an alternative on the ballot.

So, just how do you feel about showing up to vote and then having your vote not count for anything most of the time?

This Local Elections Guide shows you a catalog of local offices in Illinois you can run for, and how easy it is to do.

Yes, easy.

Just putting your name on the ballot gives you a 50-50 probability of winning, in most cases. And it gives you a way to give back to your community, make a difference, and guard your tax money.

It is nothing like what you see in the news for the higher offices. There are no TV ads, no debates, no drama. You need to simply gather a few signatures on petition forms we supply. You can usually gather enough in a single weekend, going door-to-door and working from a free list from my office.

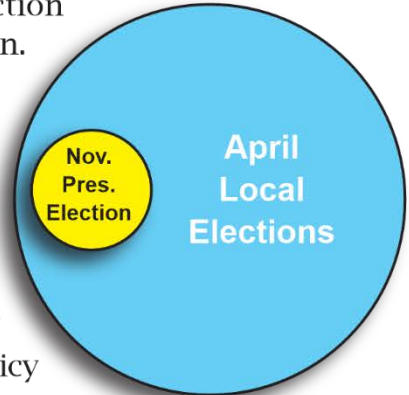
You can download the paperwork you need, all filled in for you, along with instructions for free from CandidatesWanted.org or, often from your county clerk's website. You need to turn in your paperwork no later than December 17.

So please go through this catalog, pick something that catches your eye, and then download your free paperwork, or pick it up from the county clerk's office.

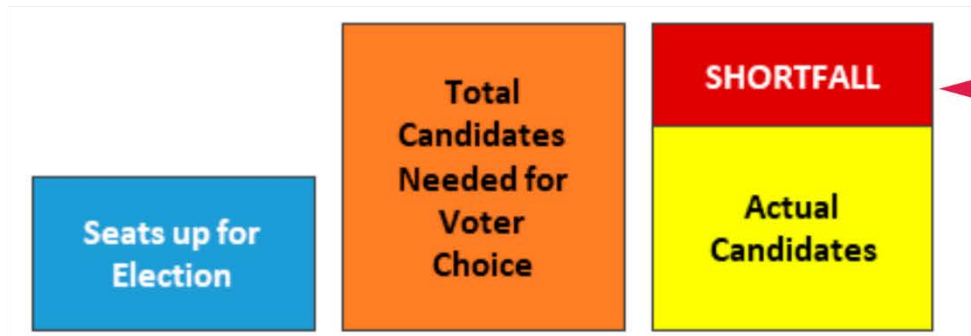
Help Fix the Candidate Shortage!

There are many elected offices in Illinois...

- There are 25 times as many seats on the local election ballots in April than in a November presidential election.
- But 2/3 of the time, voters have no choice because only one person filed papers to be on the ballot, and Illinois has effectively abolished write-ins.
- Local –but not state or federal– nonpartisan elected officials set and spend all of your property taxes, which average 45% more than your Illinois income tax.
- They meet one or two evenings per month to set policy running schools, villages, cities, parks, libraries, and fire departments — things that more directly affect your daily life than higher governments.



...but not enough candidates for them.



Over 25,000 officials are in office by default, not by voter choice.

Stand up...
Step forward...
Make a difference!



It is surprisingly easy to get onto the ballot!

- The average registered voter is eligible to be a candidate for any one of half a dozen local nonpartisan offices. This Guide describes each of those offices and their functions. It also explains some principles and concepts of local government.
- Campaigning for most these low-visibility offices is low-key. But the deadline to get onto the ballot is very far ahead of the April election: before Christmas, and sometimes before Thanksgiving. Now is the time to choose your office.
- You may download, for free, all the necessary paperwork and directions from our website at www.CandidatesWanted.info. For most offices, you can gather enough petition signatures in a Sunday afternoon while working from a free list of voters.

Frequently Asked Questions

What candidate shortage?

Two-thirds of the time, we have no choice because there is only one candidate for that office. The concept that voters elect our officials is turning into a myth.

Why is that?

Most citizens are not usually aware of what offices are elected or when. The deadlines to sign up as a candidate are so far ahead of the election that, before most folks think about running, the window has slammed shut. There are more elected local offices than civic-minded potential candidates to go around.

Could I be a candidate for local office?

There are probably a half a dozen elected seats on the April 2019 ballot you could run for. Most meet for one or two evenings per month. This Guide describes them, and tells you how to become a candidate. **It is surprisingly easy.** You do need to be a registered voter and live in the jurisdiction you are running for, usually for a year before the election.

What elected offices can I run for now?

All of those who affect your property taxes (except for county and township officials). School, village, city, fire protection, library, and park district offices are on the April 2019 ballot. They are the ones that see that fires are put out, crooks are put in, schoolhouses are put up, roads are put down, snow is put aside, parks are put around, garbage is put elsewhere, libraries are opened, and nuisances are closed. Their term of office is usually four or six years.

Should I be a candidate?

Do you have good judgment, honesty, maturity, and healthy skepticism? Are you unafraid to stand out from the crowd, and willing to do your homework before the meetings? Will you challenge mission creep and empire-building by always satisfying yourself that any proposed program expansion is really to fill a true need, and not just to create a demand that would justify present jobs?

Also, you should be running for the right reason: a genuine interest in seeing that the unit of government operates efficiently. If you are thinking of running because of some pay, prestige, or benefit to you or your friends or family, then you shouldn't run.

How much does it pay?

If that matters to you, please do not run for office. Partisan offices on the November ballot are for employment. Those on the April ballot are for volunteer public service.

Does my political party matter?

No. Candidates for local offices are generally not legally allowed to run as Republicans or Democrats.

They must run as "independents."

This guide deals with only how to run as an independent, not as a party, candidate.

Isn't campaigning an expensive chore?

Usually not, not for these offices. There is a lot of hoopla over those partisan offices that are elected in November, where the winners get full-time employment. But these offices elected in April are about service, not employment, and seldom pay anything at all except for the satisfaction of serving the community.

No one cares about your views on abortion or "global warming" or seeing income tax returns.

What campaigning is done is usually just flyers. When did you last see even a yard sign for any of the offices that are listed starting on page 7, except perhaps for mayor?

How do I sign up to become a candidate?

As a start, look at the list of available offices shown in this Guide and pick something you are interested in. You can download the forms you need to file as a candidate, already filled in for you, from our website www.Candidates-Wanted.info. You can also obtain blank ones from the County Clerk's office. You need to gather a few signatures from some neighbors and file your paperwork for the April 2, 2019 election before Christmas, or even before Thanksgiving!

Who can I talk to about running?

You can contact the Citizen Participation Institute. We can put you in touch with someone if we can't answer your questions.

Our website is CitizenParticipation.org. You can email us at Director@CitizenParticipation.org. You can telephone us at (331) 888-2814.

You can download from our www.Candidates-Wanted.info website the forms you need.

The Citizen Participation Institute does not run or manage campaigns, nor do we support or oppose any candidate for public office. We are a nonpartisan resource specializing in open government.

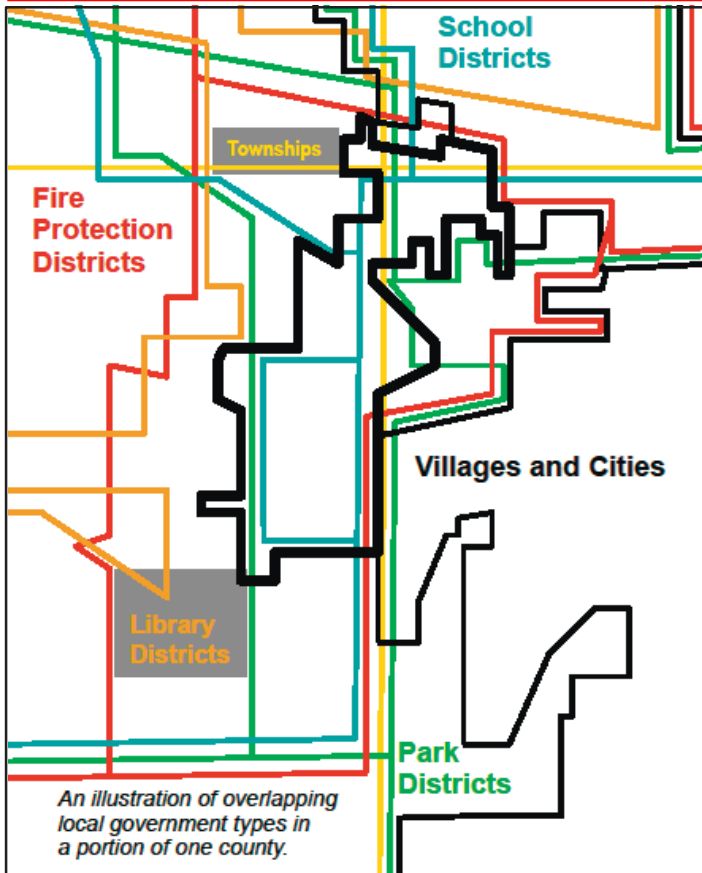
What types of local governments are there in Illinois?

Counties, townships, municipalities (villages, cities, towns), grade school, high school, unit school, community college, fire protection, park, library and sewerage districts. There are sometimes others too.

How do I know which ones I am in?

The best way is to look at your property tax bill. If it is paid by your mortgage company, you can obtain a duplicate from your county treasurer. In many counties, you can download it from the county website.

Frequently Asked Questions



How do they all fit with each other?

They don't. They are all independent from each other, taking orders directly from only the state.

The jurisdictional lines of one type of government do not necessarily follow, and often instead overlap, those of other types of government in an area.

For example, the school district boundaries are different from the city limits. There can be several municipalities and rural areas inside a single school district, or there can be several school districts that dip into different parts of a single municipality.

Who runs them?

Local governments are run by boards of elected officials that usually meet one or two evenings per month.

What do they do?

They see that fires are put out, crooks are put in, school-houses are put up, roads are put down, snow is put aside, parks are put around, garbage is put elsewhere, libraries are opened and nuisances are closed.

Some local governments provide general government. That is, they provide a wide range of services, such as police protection, fire protection, zoning, libraries, and road maintenance. But they may not always provide all of those services. Examples are municipalities (villages, cities, or towns), townships, and counties.

Other local governments provide only specific services. Examples include school districts of various kinds, and community college districts. Sometimes library districts, park districts or fire protection districts have been formed to provide such services when the local general government does not provide them.

For more information, see our Encyclopedia that starts on page 15.

How much does each one affect my property taxes?

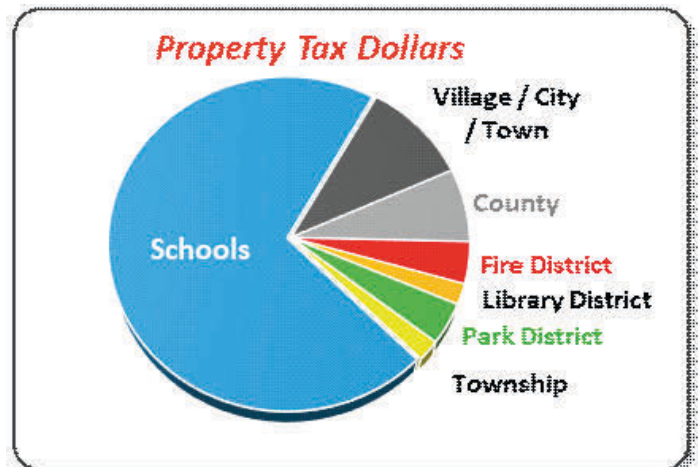
The state and federal governments do not charge any property tax. Your property taxes are entirely under the control of only your local governments, based upon how they decide to spend your money.

The pie chart below shows who gets how much.

When are these officials elected?

Every state creates its own system. In Illinois, the system is to have two sets of elections.

Most officials (22,500 of them) in Illinois are elected at the nonpartisan elections held in April of the odd-numbered years, and they deal with matters below the county level.



The rest (1,500) of the elected officials in Illinois are the partisan (Republican or Democrat) offices (president, governor, legislature, and county) that are elected in November of the even-numbered years, and deal with county, state or federal-level issues.

What are the deadlines?

Nomination papers for school, park, library, township, village and city offices must be filed between Dec. 10 and Dec. 17, 2018. Petition signature collection must begin no earlier than September 18, 2018.

In those few villages or cities that hold primary elections, the filing window for village or city offices is between Nov. 19 and Nov. 26, 2018.

Public Offices Available on the April 2, 2019 Ballot

Words or phrases **THAT LOOK LIKE THIS** are explained in this listing of public offices. Those that **LOOK LIKE THIS** are explained in the Encyclopedia starting on page 11.

Municipal

Village President

The head of the governing board and **EX-OFFICIO** liquor commissioner of a **VILLAGE**. Also called a “mayor.” Village presidents are always elected **AT LARGE**. In villages with a population of 5,000 or less, officials must run as **NONPARTISAN CANDIDATES**, because local political parties are not allowed on the ballot in such small municipalities. They usually continue to do so if local political parties form because the signatures requirement is less than for an **INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE**.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 2. Signatures if filing as a Nonpartisan candidate: 1% of the total vote cast in 2017 for village president. If filing as an Independent candidate: 5% to 8% of the ballots cast in the village in the 2017 election. Paid position. Vacancy 130 days or more before election: elected. Statute: 65 ILCS 5/3.1-25-30.

Village Clerk

The village clerk is a **MINISTERIAL OFFICER** who attends and keeps a record of the meetings of the **VILLAGE BOARD**. She has legal charge of all the village’s records, and countersigns documents to authenticate the mayor’s signature. The real day-to-day work is usually handled by an existing full-time village employee who is designated as a deputy village clerk. The village clerk must run as a **NONPARTISAN CANDIDATE**. In many villages the clerk is no longer an elected office.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: same as for Village President. Paid position. Vacancy 130 days or more before election: elected. Statute: 65 ILCS 5/3.1-35-90.

Village Commissioner

This is the title of a member of the governing council, other than mayor, of a **VILLAGE** where the voters have adopted the **COMMISSION FORM OF GOVERNMENT**. (See **CITY/VILLAGE COMMISSIONER** for more details.).

(Downers Grove still calls its village trustees “commissioners” even though they really became village trustees in 1962 when voters changed from the commission form to the MANAGERIAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT.)

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: 1% of the total vote for mayor last time. Paid position. Vacancy 130 days or more before election: elected. Statute: 65 ILCS 5/4-5.

Village Trustee

One of six (four in some small **VILLAGES**) members of the governing board, usually elected **AT LARGE**. Only five villages (Cahokia, Glendale Heights, Lombard, Oak Lawn and Palatine) elect their trustees from **WARDS**. Village trustees run as **NONPARTISAN CANDIDATES**.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 3. Signatures: same as for village president. Paid position. Vacancy 130 days or more before election: elected. Statute: 65 ILCS 5/3.1-25-5.

City Mayor

The head of the governing board and **EX-OFFICIO** liquor commissioner of a **CITY**. (A village president can also be called the mayor and, in some cases, appears on the ballot

under that title.)

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 1. Signatures: 5% to 8% of the ballots cast in the city in the previous election for a city-wide office. Paid position. Vacancy 130 days or more before election: elected. Statute: 65 ILCS 5/3.1-15-10.

City Clerk

The city clerk is a **MINISTERIAL OFFICER** who attends and keeps a record of the meetings of the **CITY COUNCIL**. She has legal charge of all the city’s records, and countersigns documents to authenticate the mayor’s signature. The real day-to-day work is usually handled by an existing full-time city employee who is designated as a deputy city clerk. In many cities, the clerk is no longer an elected office.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: same as for mayor. Paid position. Vacancy 130 days or more before election: elected. Statute: 65 ILCS 5/3.1-35-90.

City Treasurer

The city treasurer is a **MINISTERIAL OFFICER** who receives and safeguards the city’s money and invests the idle cash. Every month he provides a written **NOTARIZED** report to the **CORPORATE AUTHORITIES**. Most **CITY COUNCILS** have voted to make the treasurer’s position appointed, instead of elected.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: same as for mayor. Paid position. Vacancy 130 days or more before election: elected. Statute: 65 ILCS 5/3.1-35-40.

Alderman

A member of a **CITY COUNCIL** who has resided for a least the past year in, and was elected from, a specific geographic area of that **CITY**, called a “**WARD**” or “**district**.” (In limited cases, some aldermen can be elected **AT LARGE**.) The quantity of wards (“as nearly equal in population as practicable”) depends upon the population of the city. All the wards in the city have the same quantity of aldermen, usually 2 per ward, but sometimes 1 or 3. The terms are usually **STAGGERED**.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 1. Signatures: 5% to 8% of the ballots cast in that ward in the previous election. Paid position. Vacancy 130 days or more before election: elected. Statute: 65 ILCS 5/3.1-15-10; 10 ILCS 5/10-3.

City/Village Commissioner

This is the title of a member of the governing council, other than mayor, of a **VILLAGE** or **CITY** where the voters have adopted the **COMMISSION FORM OF GOVERNMENT**. Each commissioner is theoretically in actual charge of one of the operating departments (accounts and finances, public health and safety, streets and public improvements, and public property). In some communities candidates run to head a specific operating department, but otherwise those assignments are made after the new board is seated. The mayor is the **EX-OFFICIO** commissioner of public affairs, and the commissioner of accounts and finances is automatically the vice-president of the council, and substitutes for the mayor when needed.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: 1% of the total vote for mayor last time. Paid position. Vacancy 130 days or more before election: elected. Statute: 65 ILCS 5/4-3-8, 4-3-19.

City Councilman

One of the members of the **CITY COUNCIL** in cities where all members are elected **AT LARGE**.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: 5% to 8% of the ballots cast in the city in the 2017 election. Paid position. Vacancy 130 days or more before election: elected. Statute: 65 ILCS 5/5-2-12.

Town Clerk

Same as **VILLAGE CLERK**, but for a **TOWN**.

Town President

Same as **VILLAGE PRESIDENT**, but for a **TOWN**.

Town Trustee

Same as **VILLAGE TRUSTEE**, but for a **TOWN**.

Education

Board of Education Member

This is the post that controls a particular **SCHOOL DISTRICT** and has the majority effect on **PROPERTY TAXES**. A school district's board of education is composed of seven members, serving **STAGGERED** four-year terms. About half of them are elected at each April election. A few districts elect their members from **WARDS**.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 3. Signatures: 50. Unpaid position. Vacancy 88 days or more before election: elected. Statute: 105 ILCS 5/10-10.

Community College Trustee

One of the seven members of the governing board of a **COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**. Elected usually **AT LARGE**, with **STAGGERED TERMS**.

Term: 6 years. Ease of Election: 1. Signatures: Lesser of 50 or 10% of the registered voters. Unpaid position. Vacancy 4 months or more before election: elected. Statute: 110 ILCS 805/3-7.

Member of the Board of Education

See **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER**.

Regional School Trustee

One of seven members of the panel that decides

whether **JURISDICTION** of a parcel of land should be transferred from one **SCHOOL DISTRICT** to another. In larger counties, the members of this board are the **EX-OFFICIO TOWNSHIP LAND COMMISSIONERS**.

Term: 6 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: 50. Unpaid position. Vacancy: elected. Statute: 105 ILCS 5/6-1.

School Board Member

See **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER**.

Township Trustee of Schools

One of three officials elected in only 13 of the 30 townships in Cook County, to handle all the accounting, investments, and business affairs of all the school districts in that **CIVIL TOWNSHIP**. Each board hires a full-time treasurer. Voters have abolished the system in most townships of Cook County, and state law has abolished it in all other counties. Of the 143 school districts in Cook County, 99 are still under the system's jurisdiction.

Term: 6 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: 25. Unpaid position. Vacancy 88 days or more before election: elected. Statute: 105 ILCS 5/501.

Libraries, Park Districts

Library Trustee

One of the seven elected members of the governing board of a public **LIBRARY DISTRICT**, a **MUNICIPAL LIBRARY**, or a **TOWNSHIP LIBRARY**. (Library trustees are appointed instead of being elected in all **CITIES**, and those **VILLAGES** that are under the **COMMISSION FORM OF GOVERNMENT**.)

*Term: 4 or 6 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: For a **LIBRARY DISTRICT**, the lesser of 50 or 2% of the ballots cast in the 2017 election; for a **MUNICIPAL LIBRARY** (including a township library), at least 25. Unpaid position. Vacancy 88 days or more before election: elected. Statutes: 75 ILCS 5/4-3.1, 4-3-3; 75 ILCS 16/30-10.*

Park District Commissioner

One of the three, five or seven members of the governing board of a **PARK DISTRICT**. If the park district boundaries are the same as a **MUNICIPALITY**'s, in certain cases the park commissioners may be appointed by the mayor instead of being elected by the voters.

*(1) **General park districts**: 4 or 6 years. Ease of Election: 5. Signatures: 2% of the ballots cast in the park district in the 2017 election, but not less than 25. Unpaid position. Vacancy 123 days or more before election: elected. Statute: 70 ILCS 1205/2-10 et seq., 70 ILCS 1205/2-17.5.*

*(2) **Township park districts**: Term: 4 or 6 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: 2% of the ballots cast in the park district in the 2017 election, but not less than 25. Unpaid position. Vacancy 123 days or more before election: elected. Statute: 70 ILCS 1205/2-19.*

Park District President

The head of the governing board of a **PLEASURE PARKWAY AND PARK DISTRICT**. In some cases, this post is appointed by the chairman of the county board.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: 2% of the ballots cast in the park district in the 2017 election, but at least 25. Unpaid position. Vacancy 123 days or more before election: elected. Statute: 70 ILCS 1205/2-15.

Park District Trustee

A member of the governing board of a **PLEASURE PARKWAY**

AND PARK DISTRICT. In some cases, this post is appointed by the chairman of the county board.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: 2% of the ballots cast in the park district in the 2017 election, but not less than 25. Unpaid position. Vacancy 123 days or more before election: elected. Statute: 70 ILCS 1205/2-15.

The Fox Valley Pleasure Driveway and Park District is unique under statute 70 ILCS 1205/2-17.5 as a general park district. It elects two commissioners from each of three wards, and one commissioner at large.

Fire, Forest, and Other Special Districts

Fire Protection District Trustee

One of the members of the governing board of a **FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**. There are normally three trustees, but the voters can change to five or seven trustees and back. (In many fire protection districts, the trustees are not elected but are appointed by **MUNICIPAL**, **TOWNSHIP**, or **COUNTY** boards to 3-year terms.)

Elected term: 6 years. Ease of Election: 3. Signatures: 25. Paid position. Vacancy in elected position before date of ballot certification by local election official: elected. Statute: 70 ILCS 705/4(a), 10 ILCS 5/10-15.

Forest Preserve District Commissioner

One of the 5 members of the governing board of a **FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT** of less than the entire county, in a county having a population of 30,000 – 90,000.

Based upon their populations, areas in only Adams, Boone, Bureau, Christian, Clinton, Coles, Effingham, Franklin, Fulton, Grundy, Henry, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Lee, Livingston, Macoupin, Marion, McDonough, Monroe, Morgan, Ogle, Randolph, Stephenson, Vermilion, Whiteside, Williamson, and Woodford counties are eligible to establish this type of Forest Preserve District.

It appears that only in Ogle County has such a district actually been established.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: 5% to 8% of the ballots cast in the forest preserve district in the 2017 election. Paid position. Vacancy: elected. Statute: 70 ILCS 805/3.5(a), 10 ILCS 5/10-3, 10-3.1.

Water District Trustee

One of the 7, 5, or 3 members of the governing board of a **WATER DISTRICT**. Members are usually appointed, but a referendum may authorize them to be elected.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: 0.5% of the registered voters, but at least 25. Paid position. Vacancy: appointed only. Statute: 70 ILCS 3705, 10 ILCS 5/10-3.1

Civic Center Authority Board Member

A member of the governing board of a **CIVIC CENTER AUTHORITY**.

Although there are over 50 such taxing bodies created by individual statutes, only the Springfield Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority has its 11 members chosen by election.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: 50. Unpaid position. Vacancy: elected. Statute: 70 ILCS 200/2, 255.



Join the Citizen Participation Institute

Become a local volunteer representative to promote Open Government in your area.

Help citizens learn about the need for members of local boards, and how easy it is to get onto the ballot for nonpartisan offices.

Help residents participate in meetings of official bodies, and obtain public information.

Receive training on open meetings and open records laws, and help local officials observe them.

www.CitizenParticipation.org/Volunteer

Public Offices Not Available until the April 6, 2021 Ballot

Township offices are four-year terms, but they are not staggered. Thus all of these offices come up at the same time, at four year intervals.

Assessor

The assessor estimates the value of every piece of **REAL PROPERTY** in a **CIVIL TOWNSHIP** (or several townships if they have low population) to determine what *share* of all the **PROPERTY TAXES** each property should pay. He does not set the *amount* of taxes, only the angle of each slice of the tax pie. The size of the whole property tax pie is determined primarily by the **SCHOOL BOARDS**. Only persons who have completed certain training are eligible to run for this office. The basic tuition costs are approximately \$950.

There are 18 (2%) assessors in Illinois who handle their entire counties, and 566 (63%) of the assessors estimate values in only one civil township. 319 (35%) assessors each handle multiple townships totaling 834 townships, 59% of all the townships in the state.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: 5% to 8% of the ballots cast in the township in the 2017 election. Paid position. Statute: 35 ILCS 200/2-45, 60 ILCS 1/50-5.

Highway Commissioner

The elected official in charge of the taxation for, and the maintenance of, all public roads in his **ROAD DISTRICT** that are not otherwise maintained by the state, **COUNTY**, or a **MUNICIPALITY**.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 2. Signatures: 5% to 8% of the ballots cast in the road district in the 2017 election. Paid position. Statute: 605 ILCS 5/6-101.

Road District Clerk

An elected **MINISTERIAL OFFICER** for each **ROAD DISTRICT** in only those 17 **COUNTIES** that do not have **CIVIL TOWNSHIPS**.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: 5% to 8% of the ballots cast in the road district in the 2017 election. Paid position. Statute: 605 ILCS 5/6-101.

Township Clerk

The township clerk is a **MINISTERIAL OFFICER** who attends and keeps a record of the meetings of the township trustees. She has legal charge of all the township's records, and countersigns documents to authenticate the **TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR'S** signature. She can vote to break the tie when a **TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE** needs to be appointed to fill a **VACANCY**. The real day-to-day work is usually handled by an existing full-time township employee who is designated as a deputy township clerk.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 3. Signatures: 5% to 8% of the ballots cast in the township in the 2017 election. Paid position. Statute: 60 ILCS 1/75-5, 50-5; 10 ILCS 5/10-3.

Township Collector

The township collector is a **MINISTERIAL OFFICER** who receives the money paid into the **CIVIL TOWNSHIP**. This post has been abolished by the voters in most counties, except in Cook County where state law prevents voters from considering it. It still exists on the ballots in Cook, Madison, Peoria, Sangamon and Will Counties. Those in Peoria and Sangamon counties actually do collect taxes and are paid. None of the others have any work to do and none are paid, except the collector in Venice Township in Madison County is paid.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: 5% to 8% of the ballots cast in the township in the 2017 election. Paid position. Statute: 60 ILCS 1/50-5, 10 ILCS 5/10-3.

Township Community Building Manager

One of three members of the governing board of a community center authorized by the voters of the **TOWNSHIP**. Terms are not **STAGGERED**, so all three members are elected at the same time.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 4. Signatures: 10. Paid position. Statute: 60 ILCS 1/150-15.

Township School Lands Commissioner

One of three officials are elected countywide in only certain smaller counties to administer any remaining **COMMON SCHOOL LANDS** and any remaining proceeds from past sales of those lands.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 5. Signatures: 25. Unpaid position. Statute: 105 ILCS 5/15-1.

Township Supervisor

The head of the governing board of a **CIVIL TOWNSHIP**. He is the chief executive officer of the township and **EX-OFFICIO** treasurer of the township and its associated **ROAD DISTRICT**, ex-officio supervisor of **GENERAL ASSISTANCE**, and **EX-OFFICIO** member of the **BOARD OF HEALTH**.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 3. Signatures: 5% to 8% of the ballots cast in the township in the 2017 election. Paid position. Statute: 60 ILCS 1/70-5, 60 ILCS 50-5; 10 ILCS 5/10-3.

Township Trustee

One of the four members of the governing board of a **CIVIL TOWNSHIP**. Terms are not **STAGGERED**, so all four members are elected at the same time. One out of every seven elected officials in Illinois is a township trustee.

Term: 4 years. Ease of Election: 3. Signatures: 5% to 8% of the ballots cast in the township in the 2017 election. Paid position. Statute: 60 ILCS 1/80-5, 60 ILCS 50-5; 10 ILCS 5/10-3.

Some Appointed Local Positions

Some public offices are filled by appointment instead of election. Mayors and other heads of government are always looking for responsible applicants who have good judgment to fill these positions that are established by law for terms certain. There are many other appointed positions not listed here.

Election Judge

Election judges are paid and work one or two full days per year. Apply to the elections department in your county clerk's office or election commission.

Fire Protection District Commissioner

This body is the civil service board for a **FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**. It tests, hires, promotes, disciplines, and fires full-time firefighters. Apply to the fire chief.

Fire Protection District Trustee

These officials are appointed instead of elected in most **FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS**. Apply to the chairman of the county board.

Fire and Police Commissioner

Every **MUNICIPALITY** that operates a **FIRE DEPARTMENT** or a police department has this civil service board for those departments. It tests, hires, promotes, disciplines, and fires full-time firefighters and policemen. Apply to the mayor.

Library Trustee

Public libraries often have **VACANCIES** on their elected board of library trustees. Apply to the librarian to be appointed until the next **CONSOLIDATED ELECTION**.

This is not an elected position in a **CITY**. Apply to the mayor.

Pension Board Member

Every **FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**, and every **MUNICIPALITY** that operates a **FIRE DEPARTMENT** or a police department, has its own pension fund for each of those types of public safety employees. Apply to the fire chief or the mayor.

Plan Commissioner

This panel exists in many **MUNICIPALITIES** and some **TOWNSHIPS**. Its function is to recommend the types of uses for land in various areas. Those recommendations are implemented by the adoption of zoning districts that require them. The plan commission usually reviews and makes recommendations on proposed subdivisions or requested changes or exceptions to zoning. Apply to the mayor.

Sheriff's Merit Commissioner

This body is the civil service board for the county sheriff. It tests, hires, promotes, disciplines, and fires full-time deputies. Apply to the sheriff.

Village Clerk

An *appointed* village clerk does not have to be a resident of the village and performs the same duties as an elected **VILLAGE CLERK**, described above.

Village (or Town) Treasurer

The treasurer safeguards the money, and prudently invests idle cash. He is appointed by the **CORPORATE AUTHORITIES**, to whom he must provide a written, notarized, report every month. It is not necessary that he be a resident of the **VILLAGE** or **TOWN**. Apply to the mayor.

Zoning Board of Appeals Member

In **MUNICIPALITIES**, **TOWNSHIPS**, or **COUNTIES** having **ZONING**, this panel usually exists to recommend or grant exceptions for certain properties to the zoning rules. Apply to the mayor or chairman of the **COUNTY BOARD**.

Encyclopedia of Illinois Elected Local Government

Words or phrases that **LOOK LIKE THIS** are explained in this Encyclopedia.
Those that **LOOK LIKE THIS** are explained in the listing of Public Offices beginning on page 7.

Words as used in a context such as elections and government have more precise meanings than when used casually. The descriptions of the words and phrases listed in this Encyclopedia are focused on understanding matters related to the **CONSOLIDATED ELECTION** on April 2, 2019. These are the general cases, and are summarized in laymen's terms. Technical details, variations, and exceptions often exist, so these general descriptions are informational, but not necessarily exhaustive or authoritative.

At Large

Living somewhere within the **JURISDICTION**, but not confined to any **WARD** or specific area within it.

Annexation

Formally adding land to the **INCORPORATED** territory of any **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT**, thus making that land subject to the **JURISDICTION** and **PROPERTY TAXATION** of that local government. Removing an area is called "disconnection."

Authority

The legal power to do something. Public funds, property or credit must be used for only public purposes, so donations to charities and worthy causes from public funds, or even temporary use of equipment or credit cards for personal purposes are barred by the Illinois **CONSTITUTION**.

Only the **MAYOR**, **VILLAGE PRESIDENT**, **CITY/VILLAGE COMMISSIONER** or chairman of the governing body of a **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT** has executive authority and can give directions to the relevant staff and contractors of that unit of government. Other elected members of the governing body are confined to discussing and voting in open session upon policies and matters properly before them.

Ballot Layout

The sequence of offices appearing on the ballot in **CONSOLIDATED ELECTIONS**. First is any **UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT**, followed by any **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT**, then **HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**, **COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**, **MUNICIPALITY**, **TOWNSHIP**, **PARK DISTRICT**, **LIBRARY DISTRICT**, and finally any **FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**.

Ballots Cast

The statistic from a previous election that is the basis for computing the minimum quantity of signatures needed on **NOMINATION PAPERS** for the next election in that **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT**. It is *not* the sum of the votes for any office. (Not everyone votes on every office, and sometimes are authorized to vote for more than person for the same office.) Instead, the requirement is based upon the count of how many persons turned in a ballot, even if it was all blank.

Board of Health

A **SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENT** approved by the voters in some **CIVIL TOWNSHIPS** in Illinois whose governing board is composed of **EX-OFFICIO** members. It deals with matters of sanitation and public health.

Campaign Finance Disclosure

See **POLITICAL COMMITTEE** on page 22.

Circuit Court

The trial level **COURT** in Illinois.

City

A type of **MUNICIPALITY**. A city is governed by an elected **MAYOR** and **ALDERMEN** or **CITY COUNCILMEN** elected from districts called "**WARDS**." A city usually also has an elected **TREASURER**. The trustees of any **MUNICIPAL LIBRARY** of a city are appointed, not elected. A city may incorporate within its **JURISDICTION** portions of one or more **CIVIL TOWNSHIPS** and **COUNTIES**. Municipal candidates can run as either an **INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE** or a **NONPARTISAN CANDIDATE** (depending upon whether the **MUNICIPALITY** has passed an ordinance adopting the **PRIMARY ELECTION SYSTEM**) but the paperwork is slightly different for each type.

City Council

The governing board of a **CITY**. It composed of a **MAYOR** and several **ALDERMEN**, **CITY COUNCILMEN**, or **CITY COMMISSIONERS**.

City of Chicago

Chicago's elections are governed by special laws, so much of this Guide does not apply to Chicago.

Civic Center Authority

A **SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENT** created to promote, operate and maintain expositions, conventions, and theatrical, sports and cultural activities from time to time in auditorium, exposition, recreational and office buildings it owns.

Civil Township

It is very different from a **CONGRESSIONAL TOWNSHIP**. See the topic **TOWNSHIP**, the customary synonym for a civil township, on page 15.

Closed Meeting

A meeting of a **PUBLIC BODY** behind closed doors to discuss a very limited topic disclosed to the public, as permitted by the **OPEN MEETINGS ACT**. The Act presumes everything will be released to the public once the need for confidentiality has passed, and there is no penalty in that Act for anyone disclosing information from the closed session.

Commission Form of Government

1. In a **VILLAGE** or **CITY**, if the voters have approved a change to become this **FORM OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT** and certified the change to the secretary of state, then the governing council consists of a **MAYOR** and four commissioners, all elected **AT LARGE** at the same time to four-year terms, so there are no **STAGGERED TERMS** and no mid-term election. Each of the commissioners has a specific area of responsibility (**ACCOUNTS AND FINANCES**, **PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**, **STREETS AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS**, or **COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC PROPERTY**). Where the voters have also decided to

require it, a candidate must run specifically for one of those named posts and no other. **VILLAGES** operating under this form of government have different election laws than those **CITIES** that operate under it. The Commission form of government became fashionable starting in 1911, and over the next few years 90 municipalities adopted it, but half have now abandoned it, leaving only 3% (45 municipalities) in Illinois still using it. See **STATUTES** beginning at 65 ILCS 5/4-1-1. Used in the villages of: Braceville, Buda, Catlin, Cedar Point, Forest Park, Gardner, Palos Park, Seneca, Tampico. Used in the cities of: Altamont, Anna, Benton, Braidwood, Cairo, Chenoa, Clinton, Coffeen, Dallas, Du Quoin, East Peoria, Effingham, Eldorado, Flora, Grayville, Harrisburg, Hillsboro, Jerseyville, Marion, Marseilles, Mattoon, Mount Carmel, Nokomis, Oglesby, Oregon, Ottawa, Pinckneyville, Rosiclare, Shelbyville, South Beloit, Sparta, Sullivan, West Frankfort, Windsor, Zeigler, Zion.

2. In one of the 17 **COUNTIES** that does not have **CIVIL TOWNSHIPS**, the **COUNTY BOARD** then consists of either 3 or 5 members, styled “commissioners” who are elected from districts. Used in the counties of: Alexander, Calhoun, Edwards, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Menard, Monroe, Morgan, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Scott, Union, Wabash, and Williamson.

Congressional Township

A land surveyor’s unit, nominally square and measuring six miles on each side. Sometimes elected **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS** or **REGIONAL EDUCATION TRUSTEES** or **TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES OF SCHOOLS** must live in different congressional townships.

A congressional township is different from a **CIVIL TOWNSHIP**. Like gridlines on a map, a *congressional* township is not a **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT**, but a *civil* township is. Several congressional townships, or parts of them, may form a single civil township. A congressional township is sometimes split between different civil townships that are in different **COUNTIES** or states.

It is called a “congressional” township because an ordinance passed by the Continental Congress in 1785 directed how the land in this part of the country is to be measured and marked. Each congressional six-mile square township is divided into 36 “sections” that are nominally one-mile square, containing 640 acres.

A congressional township is named by the count of how many other congressional townships it is away from certain fixed locations.

In most of Illinois, land is measured East/West from where the Ohio River flows into the Mississippi River, and North/South from a point along that line near Centralia, Illinois. That line is called the “Third Principal Meridian.” The Kane County Courthouse sits in “township 39 North, range 8 East of the Third Principal Meridian.” There happen to be two **CIVIL TOWNSHIPS** within this congressional township: Geneva and Batavia Townships. All civil townships have names, and often follow congressional township lines, but these two civil townships do not.

Congressman

A federal officer elected from one of 18 districts in Illinois. This Guide does not deal with federal officers, only local

ones.

Consolidated Election

Those elections held in April of odd-numbered years at which seats of 38,500 local officials in Illinois are filled. Because the four-year terms of **TOWNSHIP** officials are not **STAGGERED**, the quantity of seats on the ballot alternates every two years between 25,000 and 13,500 seats. This Guide deals with only the 13,500 seats to be filled at the April 2, 2019 consolidated election.

Constitution

The basic and fundamental law of the State of Illinois. It organizes governmental power into three branches: (1) the **LEGISLATURE** to make the laws; (2) the governor and other elected **OFFICIALS** to execute the laws; and (3) the **COURTS** to apply the laws.

Illinois has had a series of Constitutions, starting when it became a state in 1818. It adopted new ones in 1848, 1870, and 1970 by votes of the people. Changes (“Amendments”) to the Constitution are presented to the voters for approval. The voters have no right to initiate a change, except for “structural and procedural subjects” pertaining to the **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**.

Contiguous

Areas adjacent to each other so as to form a connected area.

Corporate Authorities

The **MAYOR/VILLAGE PRESIDENT** plus the members of the governing body (**CITY COUNCIL** or **VILLAGE BOARD**).

Coterminous Township

A **CIVIL TOWNSHIP** whose borders are the same as an underlying **VILLAGE**, **CITY**, or **TOWN**. There are 20 coterminous townships in Illinois. (Alton, Belleview, Berwyn, Bloomington, Champaign, Cicero, Cunningham (Urbana), East Saint Louis, Freeport, Galesburg, Godfrey, Macomb, Oak Park, Quincy, River Forest, Warsaw, Zion)

Because the underlying **MUNICIPALITY** takes over most functions that would normally be the township’s responsibility, in a coterminous township no **HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER**, **TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES**, or **TOWNSHIP CLERK** are elected.

County

The largest subdivision of the State into **GENERAL GOVERNMENTS**. There are 102 counties in Illinois. The **MUNICIPALITY** that contains the administrative headquarters of a county government is called the “county seat.” This Guide does not cover county officials in detail, because they are elected at partisan elections in November, not at the April nonpartisan elections.

(A “county” was the area that the King assigned to one of his Counts to govern.)

County Board

The governing board of a **COUNTY**. Its members are elected from geographical districts. In some counties its chairman is elected **AT LARGE** by the voters, instead of being chosen from among themselves by the members of the county board.

County Clerk

The **MINISTERIAL OFFICER** with whom the mandatory **STATE-**

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

MENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS must be filed before **NOMINATION PAPERS** are turned in. Even in areas that have elections administered by an **ELECTION COMMISSION**, the statements of economic interest must still be submitted to the county clerk.

The addresses of the offices of county clerks in Illinois are:

County County Clerk's Office

Adams 507 Vermont St, Quincy
 Alexander 2000 Washington Ave, Cairo
 Bond 203 W College Ave, Greenville
Boone 1212 Logan Ave Ste 103, Belvidere
 Brown 200 Court St Rm 4, Mount Sterling
 Bureau 700 S Main St, Princeton
Calhoun 106 North County Road, Hardin
 Carroll 301 N Main St, Mount Carroll
 Cass 100 E Springfield St, Virginia
Champaign 1776 E Washington St, Urbana
 Christian 101 S Main St, Taylorville
 Clark 501 Archer Ave, Marshall
Clay 111 Chestnut St, Louisville
 Clinton 850 Fairfax St, Carlyle
 Coles 651 Jackson Ave Rm 122, Charleston
Cook 69 W Washington St Ste 500, Chicago
 Crawford 100 Douglas St, Robinson
 Cumberland 140 Courthouse Square, Toledo
DeKalb 110 E Sycamore St, Sycamore
 DeWitt 201 W Washington St, Clinton
 Douglas 401 S Center St Ste 203, Tuscola
DuPage 421 N County Farm Rd, Wheaton
 Edgar 115 W Court St Rm J, Paris
 Edwards 50 E Main St Ste 12, Albion
Effingham 101 N 4th St Ste 201, Effingham
 Fayette 221 S 7th St, Vandalia
 Ford 200 W State St Rm 101, Paxton
Franklin 202 W Main St, Benton
 Fulton 100 N Main St, Lewistown
 Gallatin 484 N Lincoln Blvd W, Shawneetown
Greene 519 N Main St, Carrollton
 Grundy 111 E Washington St, Morris
 Hamilton 100 S Jackson St, Mc Leansboro
Hancock 500 Main St, Carthage
 Hardin Main & Market Streets, Elizabethtown
 Henderson 4th & Warren, Oquawka
Henry 307 W Center St, Cambridge
 Iroquois 1001 E Grant St, Watseka
 Jackson 1001 Walnut St, Murphysboro
Jasper 204 W Washington St Ste 2, Newton
 Jefferson 100 S 10th St Rm 105, Mount Vernon
 Jersey 200 N Lafayette St, Jerseyville
Jo Daviess 330 N Bench St, Galena
 Johnson 117 N 5th St, Vienna
 Kane 719 S Batavia Ave, Geneva
Kankakee 189 E Court St, Kankakee
 Kendall 111 W Fox Rd, Yorkville
 Knox 200 S Cherry St, Galesburg
Lake 18 N County St, Waukegan
 Lasalle 707 E Etna Rd, Ottawa
 Lawrence 1100 State St, Lawrenceville
Lee 112 E 2nd St, Dixon
 Livingston 112 W Madison St, Pontiac
 Logan 601 Broadway St, Lincoln
Macon 141 S Main St, Decatur
 Macoupin 201 E Main St, Carlinville
 Madison 157 N Main St, Edwardsville

Marion 100 E Main St, Salem
 Marshall 122 N Prairie St, Lacon
 Mason 100 North Broadway, Havana
Massac 1 Superman Sq, Metropolis
 McDonough 1 Courthouse Sq, Macomb
 McHenry 2200 N Seminary Ave, Woodstock
McLean 115 E Washington St Rm 102, Bloomington
 Menard 102 S 7th St, Petersburg
 Mercer 100 SE 3rd St, Aledo
Monroe 100 S Main St, Waterloo
 Montgomery 1 Courthouse Sq, Hillsboro
 Morgan 300 W State St, Jacksonville
Moultrie 10 S Main St Ste 6, Sullivan
 Ogle 105 S 5th St Ste 104, Oregon
 Peoria 542 SW Adams St, Peoria
Perry 3764 State Route 13/127, Pinckneyville
 Piatt 101 W Washington St, Monticello
 Pike 121 E Washington St, Pittsfield
Pope 310 East Main Street, Golconda
 Pulaski 500 Illinois Ave, Mound City
 Putnam 120 North 4th Street, Hennepin
Randolph 1 Taylor St Rm 202, Chester
 Richland 103 W Main St, Olney
 Rock Island 1504 3rd Ave, Rock Island
Saint Clair 10 Public Sq, Belleville
 Saline 10 E Poplar St, Harrisburg
 Sangamon 200 S 9th St Rm 105, Springfield
Schuyler 102 S Congress St, Rushville
 Scott 35 E Market St, Winchester
 Shelby 301 E Main St, Shelbyville
Stark 130 W Main St, Toulon
 Stephenson 50 W Douglas St Ste 500, Freeport
 Tazewell 11 S 4th St Ste 203, Pekin
Union 309 W Market St Rm 116, Jonesboro
 Vermilion 6 N Vermilion St, Danville
 Wabash 401 N Market St, Mount Carmel
Warren 100 W Broadway, Monmouth
 Washington 101 E Saint Louis St, Nashville
 Wayne 301 E Main St, Fairfield
White 301 E Main St, Carmi
 Whiteside 200 E Knox St, Morrison
Will 302 N Chicago St, Joliet
 Williamson 407 N Monroe St Ste 119, Marion
 Winnebago 404 Elm St Fl 1, Rockford
 Woodford 115 N Main St Rm 202, Eureka

Council-Manager Form of Government

See **MANAGERIAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT**.

Court

A **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT** that imposes justice.

There are two separate and independent court systems, each administering the laws of their own jurisdiction and under their own rules: the state system, and the federal system. Because almost all law we live under is state law, almost all cases are handled by the state courts. There are approximately 950 state court judges, and 50 federal court judges in Illinois.

Only state court judges are elected. Once in office, their reelection consists of a yes/no question every six years on whether that judge should be retained. (They almost always are.) Because they are elected on a partisan basis at the November elections, this Guide does not deal with their candidacies.

Cumulative Voting

A system that allows a voter to cast multiple votes for a single candidate when multiple seats for the same office are to be filled. Under the 1870 [CONSTITUTION](#), three state representatives were to be elected from each state senate district. The voter could distribute his three votes however he wished: one vote each for three candidates, or two of his votes for one candidate and one vote for someone else, or all three of his votes for a single candidate. This proved to be very confusing and complicated in practice, and was abolished when the 1970 Constitution was adopted. It still survives for electing [ALDERMEN](#) in a few cities where the voters have approved it.

Dillon's Rule

A legal principle embraced in the Illinois [CONSTITUTION](#) that [UNITS OF GOVERNMENT](#) are created by [AUTHORITY](#) of the State, and therefore have only those powers and rights that their creator, the State, has chosen to give them. For everything that a community subject to Dillon's Rule does, it must be able to point to a specific state law ([STATUTE](#)) that says (or necessarily implies) that it can do that. All [UNITS OF GOVERNMENT](#) automatically have Dillon's Rule protection by default. The alternative is [HOME RULE](#).

Ease of Election

An indicator of past competition throughout the region for that kind of seat. The higher the number, the easier it has been to win because of fewer rivals.

Level 5= no candidate at all for some seats.

Level 4= usually only 1 candidate per seat.

Level 3= sometimes more than 1 candidate.

Level 2= usually two candidates per seat.

Level 1= more than an average of two per seat.

Election Attorney

A listing of attorneys with frequent and recent experience in election cases is at [CandidatesWanted.info](#).

Election Authority

The [COUNTY CLERK](#) or [ELECTION COMMISSION](#) that administers voter registration and elections for all [UNITS OF GOVERNMENT](#) headquartered within a specific [COUNTY](#) or [MUNICIPALITY](#).

Election Commission

A public body that, instead of the [COUNTY CLERK](#), is the [ELECTION AUTHORITY](#) that administers voter registration and election matters in certain [COUNTIES](#) or [MUNICIPALITIES](#).

Election Commissions

Bloomington 115 E Washington St Rm 403, Bloomington

Chicago 69 W Washington St Ste 600, Chicago

Danville 6 N Vermilion St, Danville

DuPage County 421 N County Farm Rd, Wheaton

East Saint Louis 301 Riverpark Dr Ste 300, East Saint Louis

Galesburg 55 W Tompkins St, Galesburg

Rockford 301 S 6th St, Rockford

Peoria 542 SW Adams St, Peoria

Electoral Board

A panel composed of [EX-OFFICIO](#) members that meets to decide whether a [NOMINATION PAPERS OBJECTION](#) is valid or not. Every [COUNTY](#) convenes a County Officers Electoral Board that hears cases involving school, fire, library or park district offices. A [MUNICIPALITY](#) convenes its own Municipal Officers Electoral Board to hear cases involving seats in that

[VILLAGE](#), [CITY](#), or [TOWN](#). Every [TOWNSHIP](#) convenes its own Township Officers Electoral Board to hear cases involving seats in that township. Every [COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT](#) convenes its own Education Officers Electoral Board to hear cases involving seats in that community college. Decisions can be appealed to the [CIRCUIT COURT](#).

Elementary School District

Elementary school districts are [SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENTS](#) that handle pupils from kindergarten through the eighth grade. Pupils then transfer to a [HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT](#). Sometimes different portions of an elementary school district will transfer to different high school districts. About half of all the school districts are elementary school districts.

Enclave

A geographical area surrounded by a [UNIT OF GOVERNMENT](#), but not subject to its [JURISDICTION](#). An example would be property that has not been [ANNEXED](#) into and made a legal part of a village, but is entirely surrounded by properties that have been annexed.

Exclave

A geographical area that is legally part of a jurisdiction, but is not physically attached to it. An example for a [ROAD DISTRICT](#) would be an [ENCLAVE](#) surrounded by a village, so its streets are not maintained by that village but are instead maintained by the road district that serves other [UNINCORPORATED](#) areas too. The village's enclave is also the road district's exclave.

Ex-officio

Automatically also holding a post just because that person holds a different one. For example, the mayor is automatically also the local liquor commissioner and also automatically a member of every municipal committee.

Filing Deadline

[NOMINATION PAPERS](#) for the April 2, 2019 [CONSOLIDATED ELECTION](#) must be filed between December 10 and December 17, 2018.

For a few [MUNICIPALITIES](#), the dates are November 19 through November 26, 2018. The instructions that are downloaded with nomination papers from [www.CandidatesWanted.info](#) will show the applicable dates for your own municipality.

Filing Location

[STATEMENTS OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS](#) are always filed at the office of the [COUNTY CLERK](#) of the [COUNTY](#) in which the [UNIT OF GOVERNMENT'S](#) principal office is located.

[NOMINATION PAPERS](#) for most offices are filed directly with the [UNIT OF GOVERNMENT](#). An exception is that [ELEMENTARY SCHOOL](#), [HIGH SCHOOL](#), or [UNIT SCHOOL](#) districts file with [ELECTION AUTHORITY](#) of the [COUNTY](#) in which the District's principal office is located.

The instructions that are downloaded with nomination papers from [www.CANDIDATESWANTED.INFO](#) will show the applicable locations for your own unit of government.

Fire Department

A part of a [MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT](#) that specializes in fire suppression. It is under the control of the governing board of the municipality.

Fire Protection District

A **SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENT** providing fire suppression to geographical areas within its boundaries. Some fire protection districts do not actually fight the fires, but instead contract with a neighboring **FIRE DEPARTMENT** or another fire protection district, paying them out of the property taxes collected by that (“paper”) district that really exists only in legal paperwork.

FOIA

See **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**.

Forest Preserve District

A **SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENT** providing recreational and cultural facilities to the area within its boundaries. It is established after a referendum. If its boundaries are the same as a **COUNTY**, **MUNICIPALITY**, or **SANITARY DISTRICT**, then those board members become the **EX-OFFICIO** governing body of the forest preserve district, (except in DuPage County, where they are elected on a partisan basis at a **GENERAL ELECTION**). Otherwise, they appointed by the chairman of the county board.

Such forest preserve districts have been established within these counties: Champaign, Cook, Crawford, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, Piatt, Rock Island, Will, and Winnebago.

But in a **COUNTY** having a population of 30,000 – 90,000, the commissioners are elected on a **NONPARTISAN** basis at the **CONSOLIDATED ELECTION** when the boundaries are not the same as a **COUNTY**, **MUNICIPALITY**, or **SANITARY DISTRICT**.

Based upon their populations, this type of Forest Preserve District is allowed in only Adams, Boone, Bureau, Christian, Clinton, Coles, Effingham, Franklin, Fulton, Grundy, Henry, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Lee, Livingston, Macoupin, Marion, McDonough, Monroe, Morgan, Ogle, Randolph, Stephenson, Vermilion, Whiteside, Williamson, and Woodford counties. It appears that only in Ogle County has such a district (Byron) actually been established.

Form of Municipal Government

The form of government controls the duties and powers of **MUNICIPAL** officials. Illinois law provides for four alternatives:

Mayor-Council. This is the default form of government. It takes a vote of the residents to change to or from any of the other forms. See **MAYOR-COUNCIL FORM OF GOVERNMENT**. Commission. See **COMMISSION FORM OF GOVERNMENT**. Managerial. See **MANAGERIAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT**. Strong Mayor. See **STRONG MAYOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT**.

Freedom of Information Act

An Illinois **STATUTE** (5 ILCS 140) requiring **PUBLIC BODIES** to provide to anyone who asks, a copy of almost any public record it has or controls. It is a fundamental obligation of government to operate openly and provide records as expeditiously and efficiently as possible in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. A free online training course is open to the public at foia.ILattorneyGeneral.net.

The only comprehensive guide for the public that includes the up-to-date text of the Freedom of Information Act (and other good government laws too) along with official interpretations by courts and the Attorney General, can be obtained from the CitizenParticipation.org website.

General Assembly

The Illinois legislature. The **CONSTITUTION** requires it to be composed of 59 senators who are elected by voters residing

in the respective senate districts to office for four-year **STAGGERED TERMS**, and 118 representatives who are elected by voters residing in their respective districts to office for two years terms. Every senate district contains two whole representative districts.

General Assistance

Otherwise known as welfare money or public aid.

General Election

Those elections held in November of even-numbered years at which 1,500 officials in Illinois are elected. Candidates run as Republicans or Democrats. This Guide does not deal those offices, but with only those offices that are filled at a **CONSOLIDATED ELECTION**.

General Government

A **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT** that provides many different services, often summarized as “police, streets, and **ZONING**.” Other units of government are a **SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENTS**. For the purposes of this Guide, only **COUNTIES**, **CIVIL TOWNSHIPS**, and **MUNICIPALITIES** are general governments. (We ignore state and federal bodies because their governing bodies are not elected at the **CONSOLIDATED ELECTION**).

General Park District

A **SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENT** that provides **PARK DISTRICT** services to residents within its **JURISDICTION**. There are five or seven commissioners in this type, serving either four-year or six-year terms.

High School District

High school districts are **SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENTS** that take over from the **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICTS** in their area and teach 9th through 12th grades. About 10% of all the school districts are high school districts.

Home Rule

The reverse of **DILLON’S RULE**. A **MUNICIPALITY** that has Home Rule powers can do anything it wants unless there is a state law specifically prohibiting it. A **MUNICIPALITY** automatically shifts to Home Rule status when its population exceeds 25,000 persons. The voters can choose to adopt Home Rule powers early, and can always vote to revert to **DILLON’S RULE** protection regardless of population.

Incorporated

Land within the borders of a specific **VILLAGE**, **CITY**, or **TOWN**.

Incumbent

The person presently holding an elected office.

Independent Candidate

A candidate not running under the banner of any political party. Candidates running for a **TOWNSHIP** office are required to run as Independent Candidates. A candidate for **MUNICIPAL** office almost always runs as a **NONPARTISAN CANDIDATE**.

Ind. Sigs (column heading)

For a candidate running as an **INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE**, the range of the quantity of **SIGNATURES** that are **VALID** that need to be on the **NOMINATION PAPERS**.

Jurisdiction

The territory or matters that a **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT** has **AUTHORITY** over.

Legislature

The common name for the Illinois [GENERAL ASSEMBLY](#).

Library District

A public library that serves an area that is unrelated to any [MUNICIPAL](#) or [CIVIL TOWNSHIP](#) lines. As a [SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENT](#), it levies its own property taxes, independent of any other [UNIT OF GOVERNMENT](#).

List of Registered Voters

Free lists of registered voters are available for the [JURISDICTION](#) in which you intend to become a candidate. Use these lists to know who to approach to sign your nomination papers. The signature of anyone who is not on the list can be disqualified and not counted toward the total you need. These lists must *not be used for commercial purposes!* Phone the relevant office for more information:

Phone	Election Authority
(217) 277-2150	Adams County
(618) 734-7000	Alexander County
(618) 664-0449	Bond County
(815) 544-3103	Boone County
(217) 773-3421	Brown County
(815) 875-2014	Bureau County
(618) 576-9700	Calhoun County
(815) 244-0221	Carroll County
(217) 452-7217	Cass County
(217) 384-3724	Champaign County
(217) 824-4969	Christian County
(217) 826-8311	Clark County
(618) 665-3626	Clay County
(618) 594-6620	Clinton County
(217) 348-0501	Coles County
(312) 603-0906	Cook County
(312) 269-0990	Chicago
(618) 546-1212	Crawford County
(217) 849-2631	Cumberland County
(815) 895-7147	DeKalb County
(217) 935-7780	DeWitt County
(217) 253-2442	Douglas County
(630) 407-5600	DuPage County
(217) 466-7433	Edgar County
(618) 445-2115	Edwards County
(217) 342-6535	Effingham County
(618) 283-5000	Fayette County
(217) 379-9400	Ford County
(618) 439-3403	Franklin County
(309) 547-3041	Fulton County
(618) 269-3025	Gallatin County
(217) 942-5443	Greene County
(815) 941-3222	Grundy County
(618) 643-2721	Hamilton County
(217) 357-3911	Hancock County
(618) 287-2251	Hardin County
(309) 867-2911	Henderson County
(309) 937-3480	Henry County
(815) 432-6960	Iroquois County
(618) 687-7360	Jackson County
(618) 783-3124	Jasper County
(618) 244-8020	Jefferson County
(618) 498-5571	Jersey County
(618) 498-5571	Jo Daviess County
(618) 658-3611	Johnson County
(630) 232-5990	Kane County
(815) 937-2990	Kankakee County
(630) 553-4104	Kendall County
(309) 345-3815	Knox County
(309) 342-5563	Galesburg
(847) 377-2410	Lake County
(815) 434-8202	Lasalle County
(618) 943-2346	Lawrence County
(815) 288-3309	Lee County
(815) 842-9318	Livingston County
(217) 732-4148	Logan County
(217) 424-1305	Macon County
(217) 854-3214	Macoupin County
(618) 296-4485	Madison County
(618) 548-3400	Marion County
(309) 246-6325	Marshall County
(309) 543-6661	Mason County
(618) 524-5213	Massac County
(309) 833-2474	McDonough County
(815) 334-4242	McHenry County
(309) 888-5190	McLean County
(309) 888-5136	Bloomington
(217) 632-3201	Menard County
(309) 582-7021	Mercer County
(618) 939-8681	Monroe County
(217) 532-9530	Montgomery County
(217) 243-8581	Morgan County
(217) 728-4389	Moultrie County
(815) 732-1110	Ogle County
(309) 494-8683	Peoria County
(618) 357-5116	Perry County
(217) 762-9487	Piatt County
(217) 285-6812	Pike County
(618) 683-4466	Pope County
(618) 748-9360	Pulaski County
(815) 925-7129	Putnam County
(618) 826-5000	Randolph County
(618) 392-3111	Richland County
(309) 786-8683	Rock Island County
(618) 825-2380	Saint Clair County
(618) 482-6672	East Saint Louis
(618) 253-8197	Saline County
(217) 753-8683	Sangamon County
(217) 322-4734	Schuyler County
(217) 742-3178	Scott County
(217) 774-4421	Shelby County
(309) 286-5911	Stark County
(815) 235-8289	Stephenson County
(309) 477-2267	Tazewell County
(618) 833-5711	Union County
(217) 554-1911	Vermilion County
(217) 554-1930	Danville
(618) 262-4561	Wabash County
(309) 734-4612	Warren County
(618) 327-4800	Washington County
(618) 842-5182	Wayne County
(618) 382-7211	White County
(815) 772-5139	Whiteside County
(815) 740-4613	Will County
(618) 997-1301	Williamson County
(815) 319-4250	Winnebago County
(815) 987-5750	Rockford
(309) 467-2822	Woodford County

Local Election Official

The person that a candidate files his **NOMINATION PAPERS** with so that his name will be printed on the ballot. Who that person is depends upon the elected office sought. For school board, papers are filed at the office of the **ELECTION AUTHORITY**. For most other local offices, papers are filed at the office of the Clerk or Secretary of that **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT**.

Majority

More than half. The winner of an election in Illinois needs only a **PLURALITY** of the votes, not a majority of them (except in Chicago, which holds runoff elections).

Majority of a Quorum

More than half of the members of a **PUBLIC BODY** needed to form a **QUORUM**. For example, for a six-member village board, four trustees are needed to have a quorum, so three trustees form a majority of a quorum. The **OPEN MEETINGS ACT** has restrictions on a majority of a quorum of members of a public body coming together to discuss public business outside of a proper public meeting.

It makes an exception for a five-member public body because a quorum is three members so a majority of that is just two members and thus no two members could ever discuss their work outside of a public meeting. In the special case of a five-member public body, it allows two members, but not three, to meet privately to discuss public business.

Managerial Form of Government

Under this form of government, executive authority shifts from the elected mayor to a hired professional employee who is recognized by state law and given certain powers by law. For example, instead of the mayor, he has the legal duty to enforce the laws, and hires and fires all department heads and unelected officers.

Only 6% (80 municipalities) have had the required vote by the residents to legally change to this form of government. Otherwise the municipality really has the default of **MAYOR-COUNCIL FORM OF GOVERNMENT**.

Many municipalities *think* they have this form of government, because they have an employee who has a job title of “manager.” But he is not known to the law and has only those powers the **CORPORATE AUTHORITIES** have chosen to delegate to him from time-to-time. (The usual way to avoid confusion and misrepresentation of authority is to use the title “administrator” instead of “manager.”)

If the voters have approved a change to become this **FORM OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT** and certified the change to the secretary of state, then the governing board remains as it was before, except those formerly under a **COMMISSION FORM** or **STRONG MAYOR FORM** shift to the mayor-council form of government.

See **STATUTES** beginning at 65 ILCS 5/5-1-1.

Used in Arlington Heights, Barrington, Bloomington, Brookfield, Carbondale, Carpentersville, Centralia, Champaign, Charleston, Clarendon Hills, Collinsville, Crystal Lake, Decatur, Deerfield, DeKalb, Des Plaines, Dixon, Downers Grove, Elgin, Elk Grove, Elmhurst, Elmwood Park, Evanston, Galesburg, Glencoe, Glenview, Greenville, Highland, Highland Park, Hinsdale, Hoffman Estates, Homewood, Joliet, Kenilworth, Kewanee, La Grange, La Grange Park, Lake Forest, Libertyville, Lombard, Lyons, Maywood, Mount Prospect, Mount Vernon, Naperville, Niles, Normal, Northbrook, Northfield,

Northlake, Oak Lawn, Oak Park, Olney, Orland Park, Palatine, Paris, Park Forest, Park Ridge, Peoria, Princeton, Riverside, Rochelle, Rock Island, Rolling Meadows, Salem, Savanna, Skokie, Sterling, Streator, Sycamore, Villa Park, Westchester, Western Springs, Wheaton, Wheeling, Wilmette, Winnetka, Wood Dale, Wood River, Woodstock.

Mayor-Council Form of Government

This is the default form of government, and is used by 90% of Illinois **MUNICIPALITIES**. The mayor or village president has the sole executive authority, and the governing board is a **VILLAGE BOARD** or **CITY COUNCIL**.

Meeting

See **OPEN MEETINGS ACT**.

Ministerial Officer

An official who does not vote on setting policy, but whose duty involves carrying out policies, laws, and routine matters. An example is the **VILLAGE CLERK**.

Municipal Library

A public library serving only residents of a specific **MUNICIPALITY** or **CIVIL TOWNSHIP**. Its property taxes are levied on its behalf by the governing board of the affiliated **VILLAGE, CITY, TOWN, or CIVIL TOWNSHIP**.

Municipality

A **VILLAGE, CITY, or TOWN**. A municipality is a unit of **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**, and can cross lines to include parts of more than one **CIVIL TOWNSHIP, COUNTY, or SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENT**.

Nomination Papers

A set of legal forms that must be filed with the correct official before a candidate can have his name printed on the ballot. There are at least three separate forms required in the set: a Statement of Candidacy, the receipt for filing the candidate’s **STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS**, and petition pages.

Nomination Papers Objection

A written request that a certain candidate be disqualified from having his name printed on the ballot due to specific defects discovered during the **VALIDATION** process. The decision will be made by the relevant **ELECTORAL BOARD**. Objections must be filed at the same office where the candidate’s nomination papers were filed within five *business* days (December 24, 2018) after the deadline for filing nomination papers. Very few nomination papers are ever challenged, but they should be prepared as though they will be. The process serves to weed out candidates that, being inattentive to following the detailed legal requirements to get elected, would likely be also as indifferent to the law once in office.

Nonpartisan Candidate

Most local offices require a candidate to run as a nonpartisan, that is without any party or group identification on the ballot.

Non-High School District

A **HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT** that does not operate a high school, but instead pays the tuition and transportation costs for its students to attend a high school operated by another school district. It is an early form of school vouchers. Such

districts are authorized by [STATUTE 105 ILCS 5/12-10](#), enacted in 1917. The Chester Non-High School District 122 in Randolph County is the only known such district, and benefits from 105 ILCS 5/12-15 because of “an ancient grant prior to the admission of Illinois to the Union....”

Notarization

A written statement by an authorized official verifying the identity of the person who signed the written document the notarization applies to.

NP Sigs. (column heading)

The minimum quantity of [SIGNATURES](#) that are [VALID](#) that need to be on the [NOMINATION PAPERS](#) when a candidate is running as a [NONPARTISAN CANDIDATE](#). Most local office candidates are required to run as nonpartisans. A [MUNICIPAL](#) candidate runs as an [INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE](#) unless that municipality has adopted the [PRIMARY ELECTION](#) system.

Oath of Office

Before taking office, every person elected must sign this oath, and the document is filed in the records of the [UNIT OF GOVERNMENT](#): “I do solemnly swear (*or affirm*) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the [CONSTITUTION](#) of the State of Illinois, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of to the best of my ability.”

Official

Someone who holds a public office, regardless of how he (elected, appointed, or hired) obtained it. This is an estimated statewide count (37,899) for some of the elected seats discussed in this Guide:

Education 6,235 seats (17%)

Seats Office

- 5,992 Board of Education Member (16%)
- 273 Community College Trustee (1%)

Municipalities 9,687 seats (26%)

Seats Office

- 308 City Mayor (1%)
- 977 Village President (3%)
- 712 Village Clerk (2%)
- 288 City Clerk (1%)
- 308 City Treasurer (1%)
- 5,862 Village Trustee (15%)
- 1,232 Aldermen (3%)

Townships 11,265 seats (30%)

Seats Office

- 1,430 Township Supervisor (4%)
- 1,410 Township Clerk (4%)
- 5,640 Township Trustee (15%)
- 1,473 Highway Commissioner (4%)
- 1,312 Assessor (3%)

Others 10,682 seats (28%)

Seats Office

- 2,380 Park District Commissioner (6%)
- 2,506 Library District Trustee (7%)
- 5,796 Fire Protection District Trustee (15%)

Open Meetings Act

An Illinois [STATUTE](#) (5 ILCS 120) requiring advance public notice, and allowing the public to attend and address the meeting, any time a [MAJORITY OF A QUORUM](#) of a [PUBLIC BODY](#) comes together for the purpose of discussing public business.

There are some strictly-limited subjects that can be discussed behind closed doors, but no final action can be taken there. Those exceptions are too-often illegally stretched. Officials who violate the Open Meetings Act are subject to personal fines and jail time.

A free online training course is open to the public at [foia.ILattorneyGeneral.net](#). Every elected official is required to successfully complete that course within 90 days after entering office.

The only comprehensive guide for the public that includes the up-to-date text of the Open Meetings Act (and other good government laws too) along with official interpretations by courts and the Attorney General, can be obtained from the [CitizenParticipation.org](#) website.

Park District

A [SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENT](#) that provides recreational services to residents within its [JURISDICTION](#). There are three types of park districts: (1) General park district, (2) [TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT](#), and (3) [PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT](#).

Pay

Most of the officials elected at a [CONSOLIDATED ELECTION](#) serve, by law, without compensation. Compensation includes perquisites, so those officials must not receive free or discounted golf, meals, tickets, tuition, or anything else not also available to the general public on the same terms.

For those that the law allows to be paid, the amount must usually be set at least 180 days (October 4, 2018) before the election, and the formula cannot be changed during that term for him. The current pay is shown at [www.Candidates.Wanted.info](#).

Pleasure Driveway and Park District

A [SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENT](#) created before 1947 that provides [PARK DISTRICT](#) services to residents within its [JURISDICTION](#). It was originally authorized to provide trails for buggy driving, but later all park districts received authorization to do that. The governing board is composed of one [PARK DISTRICT PRESIDENT](#) and six [PARK DISTRICT TRUSTEES](#) serving four-year [STAGGERED TERMS](#).

Plurality

More than any other alternative. The winner of an election in Illinois needs only a plurality of the votes, not a [MAJORITY](#) of them.

Police District

When two [MUNICIPALITIES](#) are [CONTIGUOUS](#), police officers from either one have full powers throughout all of the other one, even if they are not in hot pursuit.

Political Committee

A candidate or group that accepts or spends more \$5,000 in a 12-month period on behalf of, or in opposition to, a candidate(s) or [QUESTION OF PUBLIC POLICY](#) to be submitted to the voters. Once crossing the \$5,000 threshold, the committee must register with the [State Board of Elections](#) within 10 days and file quarterly financial reports until it files paperwork that the committee has dissolved.

Primary Election System

A system that simplifies local election ballots by holding a preliminary election to narrow the field when five or more persons file as candidates for the *same* seat of a [VILLAGE](#), [CITY](#), or [TOWN](#) office. (When three at-large village trustee

seats are up, then it would take 13 persons filing for village trustee, or five filing for mayor, to trigger a primary election.) The filing deadlines for nomination papers are earlier (November 19-26, 2018) so that a primary election can be held on February 26, 2019 if necessary. The **CONSOLIDATED ELECTION** date remains April 2, 2019.

Probability of Competition

A numeric score based upon the excess of the total quantity of candidates for seats in that named office in the entire region, divided by the quantity of such seats up for election last time. It is a factor in computing the **EASE OF ELECTION**.

Property Taxes

Money that the owner of **REAL PROPERTY** must pay each year to cover the cost of local governments. If the tax is not paid, then each year the **COUNTY** will sell that real property to anyone who will pay the overdue taxes.

The tax amount is based upon total money that all the local units of government having **JURISDICTION** over that real property want for the next year (within some legal limits on increases). The tax amount of a given real property is the same share as the **ASSESSOR'S** estimate of the value of that property has to the sum of the estimated valuations of all the other properties.

Public Body

A **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT**, or any administrative or advisory body or committee of it. All public bodies are subject to the **OPEN MEETINGS ACT** and the **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**.

Public Library

A **LIBRARY DISTRICT** or **MUNICIPAL LIBRARY**. Its governing board is composed of seven **LIBRARY TRUSTEES**.

Public Question

A proposition placed upon the ballot by either the governing board of a **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT**, or else by a petition from voters within that **JURISDICTION**.

The decision made by the voters is always *morally* binding upon the governing board, but is *legally* binding upon them only if a specific **STATUTE** authorizes that specific proposition to be presented. See **STATUTES** starting at 10 ILCS 5/28-1.

Quorum

The minimum number of members that must be present for a **PUBLIC BODY** to conduct business. Sometimes a member may be deemed present if he is connected by a visual or audio conference call.

Real Property

Real estate. Land and structures attached to that land.

Regional Board of School Trustees

A **SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENT** whose sole function is to decide whether to grant a land owner's request to shift his property from the **JURISDICTION** of its present **SCHOOL DISTRICT** to a different one. Each of the 39 boards meets quarterly, and can have special meetings too.

Registered Voter

For purposes of signing a **NOMINATION PETITION**, a registered voter is a citizen of the United States who is a resident of Illinois, will be 18 years old or older on April 2, 2019, has registered to vote, and still lives at the place stated on his most recent registration form in the **JURISDICTION** of the elected office named on the nomination petition.

A person must be registered before he can vote. Any person desiring to register to vote in Illinois may do so online at ova.elections.il.gov or in person at a county courthouse, village or city hall, library and many other government offices.

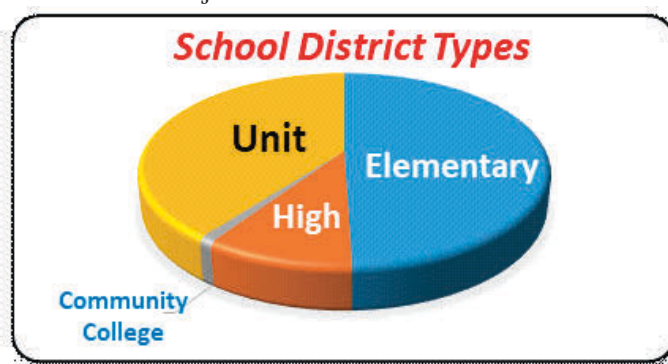
Road District

A **SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENT** that maintains the roads within its **JURISDICTION**. Almost every **CIVIL TOWNSHIP** has a single township-wide road district for the **UNINCORPORATED** areas. Sometimes one road district serves multiple townships, or a county unit road district may have been established by the voters. In **COUNTIES** that do not have townships, several road districts may exist, or a county unit road district may have been established by the voters, or a municipal road district established by request of the village or city governing board. There are approximately 1,473 Road Districts in Illinois. **PROPERTY TAXES** for road districts are paid by the owners of all taxable **REAL PROPERTY** in the district, even if the roads serving that property are maintained by a **MUNICIPALITY**.

Robert's Rules of Order

A set of rules of procedure for conducting meetings, designed for clubs. No state legislature in the United States uses them, and even many social clubs are moving away from them. Every **PUBLIC BODY** has legal **AUTHORITY** to set its own rules of procedure, subject to certain constraints set out in the **STATUTES**, and Robert's Rules have no application or special status unless that public body explicitly adopts all or some of them.

Robert's Rules admittedly are not written for legislative bodies like city councils. Problems include wasting a lot of time with motions and seconds on items that are already on the agenda, hijacking meeting agendas and thus violating of open meetings laws, and preventing routine necessary matters from being voted upon by malicious use of non-debatable motions to adjourn.



School District

A **SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENT** that educates pupils between kindergarten and the 12th grade, or beyond.

A school district is not the same as the zone that sends pupils to a stated schoolhouse. A district may have several schoolhouses. (A schoolhouse is headed by a principal, who reports to the superintendent of the district. The superintendent reports to the **BOARD OF EDUCATION**.)

There are four basic types of school districts: **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** (K-8), **HIGH SCHOOL** (9-12), **UNIT SCHOOL** (K-12) and **COMMUNITY COLLEGE**.

Signatures

A set of **NOMINATION PAPERS** includes a minimum quantity

of original signatures from voters registered (and still residing at that address) within the **JURISDICTION** of that **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT**, asking that the designated person be listed as a candidate on the ballot. Because some signatures are subject to being disqualified by a **NOMINATION PAPERS OBJECTION**, one should *always* turn in more than the minimum required.

For some offices there is also a maximum. If more than the maximum quantity of signatures are turned in for a candidate, it is not a disqualification but only the first allowed quantity on the petition are considered. Excess signatures are ignored for all purposes and cannot be used to substitute for any invalid signatures earlier in the petition.

(A voter is not allowed to sign the petition of more than one candidate for the same elective seat. Without an upper limit on total signatures, then in a small community a candidate could try to prevent competition by maliciously getting so many surplus signatures that there would not be enough voters left eligible to sign anyone else's petition.)

Special Charter Governments

Before the **CONSTITUTION** of 1870 was adopted, there was no general law for the creation of **SCHOOL DISTRICTS**, **MUNICIPALITIES**, and other local governments. Each one was created by the **GENERAL ASSEMBLY** as a special one-time law with provisions that may not be the same as other similar districts. Those provisions are still in effect in those ancient **UNITS OF GOVERNMENT** unless the General Assembly has revoked them, or the unit of government has surrendered them.

Special Charter School Districts

A **SCHOOL DISTRICT** created by a **SPECIAL CHARTER**. There are 10 such districts surviving today.

Bloomington School District 87, Canton Union School District 66, City of Chicago School District 299, Decatur School District 61, Kankakee School District 111, Paris-Union School District 95, Peoria School District 150, Rock Island School District 41, Rockford School District 205, and Springfield School District 186.

An example of unusual provisions is Peoria School District 150 that elects a **BOARD OF EDUCATION** of five (instead of seven) members to terms of five (instead of four) years, one member every year (instead of in only odd-numbered years) from **WARDS** (instead of **AT LARGE**).

Special Purpose Government

A **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT** that provides only a single, specialized, service. **SCHOOL DISTRICTS**, **ROAD DISTRICTS**, and **LIBRARY DISTRICTS** are some examples of a special purpose government.

Staggered Terms

When there are multiple members of a board, not everyone's term of office expires at the same time (except for **TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES** and elected officials in a **VILLAGE** or **CITY** that has a **COMMISSION FORM OF GOVERNMENT**). When the term of office is four years, a different half of the members are elected every two years.

Statewide Standards for Findings and Rulings by Illinois Electoral Boards

A manual for use by **ELECTORAL BOARDS** with predetermined rulings on allegations commonly made in challenges to **NOMINATION PAPERS** so that the results will be impartial and uniform regardless of who is hearing the challenge. It is compiled by an advisory board of leading Illinois election

law experts and is available for free download from www.CitizenParticipation.org.

Statement of Economic Interests

A document that must be filed annually by all elected officials and certain employees of every **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT**. The statements are filed with the **COUNTY CLERK** of the **COUNTY** in which the principal headquarters of the unit of government is located.

Candidates for election to that unit of government must also file such a statement, and attach the receipt to their **NOMINATION PAPERS**. Failure to include the receipt at the time the nomination papers are filed is a fatal error that disqualifies the candidate.

The statement does not really delve into personal finances, and consists of a few general questions relating to potential conflicts of interests when purchasing items for the **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT**. In almost all statements on file, officials have properly answered every question with "none."

Statute

A written law created by the **GENERAL ASSEMBLY** following the process ordained in the **CONSTITUTION**.

Most Illinois statutes are collected, numbered, and available online by clicking "Illinois Compiled Statutes" at www.ilga.gov. For example, the Election Code is numbered Act 5 of Chapter 10 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes and so is cited and found there as "10 ILCS 5."

Strong Mayor Form of Government

In a **VILLAGE** or **CITY**, if the voters have approved a change to become this **FORM OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT**, and certified the change to the secretary of state, then the governing council consists of a mayor and aldermen as in a **MAYOR-COUNCIL FORM** of government. The mayor receives the powers the law gives to a statutory manager in a **MANAGERIAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT**. See **STATUTES** beginning at 65 ILCS 5/6-1-1.

This form of government was created in 1970 at the request of the City of Aurora, which uses it.

Term of Office

Election results are not official until 14 days (April 16, 2019) after the election. Winners must then sign their **OATHS OF OFFICE**. The terms of municipal officers start at the first regular or special meeting after that. School and community college board members must take office within 28 days (April 30) after election day.

For fire, library, park, and most other offices, terms begin on the third Monday in May (May 19, 2019). Assessors take office the following January 1.

Term Limits

Illinois has no limit on how many times a person can be elected to the same office. A few **MUNICIPALITIES** (e.g. Rolling Meadows) have used **HOME RULE** or **PUBLIC QUESTION** powers to set such a limit for their elected officials.

Town

A town (sometimes called an "incorporated town") is *not* a **TOWNSHIP**. It is a **MUNICIPALITY** of **GENERAL GOVERNMENT** created before 1870 by a special one-time law passed by the **LEGISLATURE**. It functions like a **VILLAGE**. There are only 13 towns left in Illinois. A town may incorporate within its **JURISDICTION** portions of one or more **CIVIL TOWNSHIPS** and **COUNTIES**. **Towns**: Annawan, Astoria, Chatsworth, Cicero, Cortland, La Prairie,

Mason, Naples, New Canton, Normal, Otterville, Sigel, Topeka.

Township, Civil

See [TOWNSHIP](#) below.

Township, Congressional

See [CONGRESSIONAL TOWNSHIP](#).

Township

A unit of [GENERAL GOVERNMENT](#) for [UNINCORPORATED](#) territory within a specific area of a [COUNTY](#). It is sometimes referred to as a “[CIVIL TOWNSHIP](#)” to avoid confusion with a congressional township.

There are more civil townships in Illinois than any other type of government. Civil townships exist in 85 of the 102 counties of Illinois and all territory of those counties is inside one of the civil townships. Civil township lines never cross county lines. The boundaries of a civil township are often the same as a [CONGRESSIONAL TOWNSHIP](#), but a civil township may include all or parts of several congressional townships.

A civil township is governed by a [TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR](#) and four [TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES](#). Other elected township-level officials are the [ASSESSOR](#), [CLERK](#), and [HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER](#). All are elected at the same time for four-year terms at the April election that follows a presidential election, so terms are not staggered. Candidates for township office are allowed to run as Republicans or Democrats, but when that happens it is usually in an urban area. Independents are always eligible on the ballot for those offices.

A vacancy in a township office is filled through appointment by the township board of trustees for the remainder of the term, so unexpired terms do not appear on the ballot at the next election. 30% of all elected officials in Illinois are township officials.

Townships have three required functions: Assessment of all real property in the township (including incorporated areas), maintenance (through the associated road district) of roads in unincorporated areas, and administering general welfare financial assistance. Townships are authorized, but not required, to perform certain other functions. See [STATUTES](#) beginning at 60 ILCS 1/85-10.

Township Park District

A [SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENT](#) that provides [PARK DISTRICT](#) services to residents within its [TOWNSHIP](#). There are only three commissioners, who serve [STAGGERED](#) six-year terms in this type of park district.

Unexpired Term

A shorter-than-normal time until an elected seat that appears on the ballot will expire. This happens when an [INCUMBENT](#) dies or otherwise [VACATES](#) his seat early and so the remainder of his term is filled by the voters at the next election.

Unincorporated

Land that is not within the border of any [VILLAGE](#), [CITY](#), or [TOWN](#) and therefore not subject to any of those [UNITS OF GOVERNMENT](#). The “city” in the address is assigned by the postal service, and represents only where the carrier picks up his mail.

Unit of Government

An official public body created by an Illinois [STATUTE](#). All units of government are subject to either [DILLON’S RULE](#) or to [HOME RULE](#). The [CitizenParticipation.org](#) website shows the contact information for 8,511 units of government in Illinois. The table below shows statistics for only those types of governments covered in this Guide.

CountType of Government

1430	Civil Townships
977	Villages
858	School Districts
840	Fire Protection Districts
359	Library Districts
365	Park Districts
308	Cities
39	Community Colleges
12	Towns

Unit School District

A school district providing education to pupils from kindergarten level through 12th grade.

United City

A [MUNICIPALITY](#) that was formed from the merger of two previous municipalities under [STATUTE](#) 65 ILCS 5/7-2. The United City of Yorkville was created in 1957 when the Village of Yorkville and the adjacent Village of Bristol merged.

Vacancy in Office

Generally, if there are 28 months or more remaining in the term as of the date the previous official died, resigned, or left office some other way, then the remainder of the unexpired term appears on the ballot at the next [CONSOLIDATED ELECTION](#).

If a vacancy occurs before January 24, 2019 in an office that has a term expiring in 2019 or later, then the [FILING LOCATION](#) official should certify that unexpired term (even if no candidates have filed or had an opportunity to for it), along with other ballot certifications, to the county clerk.

But certain offices are appointed for the entire unexpired term, and those unexpired terms do not appear on the ballot. Examples are [ASSESSOR](#), [CITY CLERK](#), [CITY TREASURER](#), and most [TOWNSHIP OFFICES](#).

Validation of Nomination Papers

Nomination papers are presumed valid, unless they have such an obvious defect (a missing but required form, signature, or notarization; obviously an inadequate number of tendered petition signatures) that the [LOCAL ELECTION OFFICIAL](#) rejects them out-of-hand because they are not in *apparent* conformity with the legal requirements.

But the *actual* conformity (usually confirming how many petition signatures are legally valid) is not checked by any official; the law assumes that an opposing candidate will do it because it would be easier to win the election if his opponent is disqualified. Any [REGISTERED VOTER](#) in the [JURISDICTION](#) who finds something wrong can file a [NOMINATION PAPERS OBJECTION](#).

Village

The most common type of [MUNICIPALITY OF GENERAL GOVERNMENT](#). It is run by an elected village president (sometimes also called “mayor”) and a board of six village trustees elected [AT LARGE](#). If there is a [MUNICIPAL LIBRARY](#), seven [LIBRARY TRUSTEES](#) are elected. A village may incorporate with its

JURISDICTION portions of one or more **CIVIL TOWNSHIPS** and **COUNTIES**. Municipal candidates run as either an **INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE** or a **NONPARTISAN CANDIDATE**, but the paperwork is slightly different for each type.

Village Board

The governing board of a **VILLAGE**. It is composed of the mayor, and six **VILLAGE TRUSTEES**, all elected **AT LARGE**. A few villages have, by a vote of the residents, adopted a system of requiring trustees to be elected from **WARDS.**, which cuts a voter's election powers from choosing one-half of the board every two years down to choosing only one-sixth of the board every four years.

Ward or District

One of several distinct geographical divisions of a **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT** from which only residents of that area are eligible to fill a specific seat on the governing board of that unit of government. Such systems actually decrease the amount of choice voters can have because (1) it is difficult enough to find anyone willing be a candidate even **AT LARGE**, much less from a specific area, and (2) instead of a resident being able to vote on several board members every two years, he can vote on only one every four years.

Water District

A **SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENT** that provides water service (and sometimes sewerage service too). It is formed after a

referendum initiated by at least 100 legal voters. It is governed by a board of trustees, usually appointed, but elected if so decided by referendum.

Write-in Vote

The theoretical ability of a voter to cast a vote for someone whose name is not printed on the ballot. This ability has been virtually abolished in Illinois because the only votes that will be counted are for those persons who have filed at least 61 days (January 31, 2019) before the election a **NOTARIZED** declaration of their intents to be a write-in candidates.

Zoning

Regulation of what uses can be made of land in various zoning districts of a jurisdiction. The regulations often also specify the size and location of buildings and parking lots. Exceptions can be requested though the **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**.

COUNTIES may adopt a zoning ordinance or resolution. If a **MUNICIPALITY** adopts its own zoning, the municipal zoning supersedes the county zoning. If there is no county zoning, then a **TOWNSHIP** may adopt zoning within its jurisdiction.

2019 Candidates Guide

A publication available from the Illinois State Board of Elections at www.elections.il.gov/InfoForLocalElectionOfficials.aspx.

About This Guide

This copyrighted Guide is prepared by the Citizen Participation Institute (CitizenParticipation.org) to educate potential candidates, students, and the general public about the importance of elected local offices in Illinois and the ease of becoming an elected official.

It has been written to provide only high-level general information about the limited subjects covered. Illinois statutes are filled with obscure exceptions, so remember that this Guide covers the *usual*, not all the special, cases, and there are many more statutes involving any topic than are cited here for illustration.

This guide is not legal advice, for which the reader should consult an attorney actually experienced in recent municipal law and election law.

A listing of some such attorneys is posted at www.CandidatesWanted.info.

This Guide's scope is limited to the types of elected offices that are filled at the nonpartisan elections held in April 2019.

This Guide is for only individuals running as independent or nonpartisan candidates in that Consolidated Election. We do not deal with group or party

candidacies that may coexist with independent and nonpartisan candidates.

It is also written for use in civic education classes in implementing Illinois Learning Standards for Social Science, especially standards SS.CV.2.9-12, SS.CV.1.9-12, SS.IS.4.9-12, and SS.IS.9.9-12. Companion lesson plans are available.

The Citizen Participation Institute is solely responsible for the contents of this Guide. Great efforts have been put into the accuracy and preparation this Guide, but it should not be relied upon as authoritative. When confirmation or more detailed information is needed, consult the relevant Election Authority, or staff at the local unit of government.

Please report any confusing or erroneous content to Director@CitizenParticipation.org so it can be repaired in future editions.

—Stanley R. Zegel, *editor*

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It is very difficult to become President of the United States.

But you can *easily* become president or a member of your

- Village Board
- City Council
- Library Board
- School Board
- Community College Board
- Park Board
- Fire Board
- Water Board

They are the ones that see that fires are put out, crooks are put in, schoolhouses are put up, roads are put down, snow is put aside, parks are put around, garbage is put elsewhere, libraries are opened and nuisances are closed.

Those non-partisan governments spend 96% of your property tax money. They are run by 5-7 elected members meeting 1 or 2 times per month.

Voters have little choice who makes those decisions because of the candidate shortage. The ballot usually has only one candidate (or none at all) per seat, who then strolls onto the board by default.

That means your money is being spent by people who were not elected.

By just adding your name to the ballot, you would usually have a statistical 50% chance of winning. Campaigning for these important offices is low-key with only minor (or no) expenses. But time is short, and your paperwork for the April election needs to be turned-in *before Christmas!* For more information and the forms you need, visit our website www.CandidatesWanted.info.

Go to www.CandidatesWanted.info

