

AN ACT concerning elections.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Election Code is amended by changing Sections 17-8 and 17-11 as follows:

(10 ILCS 5/17-8) (from Ch. 46, par. 17-8)

Sec. 17-8. The county clerk shall provide in each polling place, so designated or provided a sufficient number of booths, which shall be provided with such supplies and conveniences, including shelves, pens, penholders, ink, blotters and pencils, as will enable the voter to prepare his ballot for voting, and in which voters may prepare their ballots screened from all observation as to the manner in which they do so. They shall be within plain view of election officers, and both they and the ballot boxes shall be within plain view of those within the proximity of the voting booths. Each of said booths shall have 3 sides enclosed, one side in front, to be closed with a curtain. Each side of each booth shall be 6 feet 4 inches and the curtain shall extend within 2 feet of the floor, which shall be closed while the voter is preparing his ballot. Each booth shall be at least 32 inches square and shall contain a shelf at least one foot wide, at a convenient height for writing. No person other than the election officers and the challengers allowed by law, and those admitted for the purpose of voting as herein provided, shall be permitted within the proximity of the voting booths, (i) except by authority of the election officers to keep order and enforce the law and (ii) except that one or more children under the age of 18 may accompany their parent or guardian into the voting booth as long as a request to do so is made to the election officers and, in the sole discretion of the election officers, the child or children are not likely to disrupt or interfere with the

voting process or influence the casting of a vote. The number of such voting booths shall not be less than one to every 75 voters or fraction thereof who voted at the last preceding election in the precinct. The expense of providing booths and other things required in this Act shall be paid in the same manner as other election expenses.

Where electronic voting systems are used, a booth with a self-contained electronic voting device may be used. Each such booth shall have 3 sides enclosed and shall be equipped with a curtain for closing the front of the booth. The curtain must extend to within 2 feet of the floor. Each side shall be of such a height, in no event less than 5 feet, one inch, as to insure the secrecy of the voter. Each booth shall be at least 32 inches square, provided, however, that where a booth is no more than 23 inches wide and the sides of such booth extend from a point below the device to a height of 5 feet, one inch, at the front of the booth, and such booth insures that voters may prepare their ballots in secrecy, such booth may be used.

(Source: P.A. 89-653, eff. 8-14-96.)

(10 ILCS 5/17-11) (from Ch. 46, par. 17-11)

Sec. 17-11. On receipt of his ballot the voter shall forthwith, and without leaving the inclosed space, retire alone, or accompanied by children as provided in Section 17-8, to one of the voting booths so provided and shall prepare his ballot by making in the appropriate margin or place a cross (X) opposite the name of the candidate of his choice for each office to be filled, or by writing in the name of the candidate of his choice in a blank space on said ticket, making a cross (X) opposite thereto; and in case of a question submitted to the vote of the people, by making in the appropriate margin or place a cross (X) against the answer he desires to give. A cross (X) in the square in front of the bracket enclosing the names of a team of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor counts as one vote for each of such candidates. Before leaving the voting booth the voter shall fold his ballot in

such manner as to conceal the marks thereon. He shall then vote forthwith in the manner herein provided, except that the number corresponding to the number of the voter on the poll books shall not be indorsed on the back of his ballot. He shall mark and deliver his ballot without undue delay, and shall quit said inclosed space as soon as he has voted. No voter shall be allowed to occupy a voting booth already occupied by another, nor remain within said inclosed space more than ten minutes, nor to occupy a voting booth more than five minutes in case all of said voting booths are in use and other voters waiting to occupy the same. No voter not an election officer, shall, after having voted, be allowed to re-enter said inclosed space during said election. No person shall take or remove any ballot from the polling place before the close of the poll. No voter shall vote or offer to vote any ballot except such as he has received from the judges of election in charge of the ballots. Any voter who shall, by accident or mistake, spoil his ballot, may, on returning said spoiled ballot, receive another in place thereof only after the word "spoiled" has been written in ink diagonally across the entire face of the ballot returned by the voter.

Where voting machines or electronic voting systems are used, the provisions of this section may be modified as required or authorized by Article 24 or Article 24A, whichever is applicable.

(Source: P.A. 89-700, eff. 1-17-97.)