

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 Section 24C-12 as follows:

(10 ILCS 5/24C-12)

Sec. 24C-12. Procedures for Counting and Tallying of Ballots. In an election jurisdiction where a Direct Recording Electronic Voting System is used, the following procedures for counting and tallying the ballots shall apply:

Before the opening of the polls, the judges of elections shall assemble the voting equipment and devices and turn the equipment on. The judges shall, if necessary, take steps to activate the voting devices and counting equipment by inserting into the equipment and voting devices appropriate data cards containing passwords and data codes that will select the proper ballot formats selected for that polling place and that will prevent inadvertent or unauthorized activation of the poll-opening function. Before voting begins and before ballots are entered into the voting devices, the judges of election shall cause to be printed a record of the following: the election's identification data, the device's unit identification, the ballot's format identification, the

contents of each active candidate register by office and of each active public question register showing that they contain all zero votes, all ballot fields that can be used to invoke special voting options, and other information needed to ensure the readiness of the equipment and to accommodate administrative reporting requirements. The judges must also check to be sure that the totals are all zeros in the counting columns and in the public counter affixed to the voting devices.

After the judges have determined that a person is qualified to vote, a voting device with the proper ballot to which the voter is entitled shall be enabled to be used by the voter. The ballot may then be cast by the voter by marking by appropriate means the designated area of the ballot for the casting of a vote for any candidate or for or against any public question. The voter shall be able to vote for any and all candidates and public measures appearing on the ballot in any legal number and combination and the voter shall be able to delete, change or correct his or her selections before the ballot is cast. The voter shall be able to select candidates whose names do not appear upon the ballot for any office by entering electronically as many names of candidates as the voter is entitled to select for each office.

Upon completing his or her selection of candidates or public questions, the voter shall signify that voting has been completed by activating the appropriate button, switch or

active area of the ballot screen associated with end of voting. Upon activation, the voting system shall record an image of the completed ballot, increment the proper ballot position registers, and shall signify to the voter that the ballot has been cast. Upon activation, the voting system shall also print a permanent paper record of each ballot cast as defined in Section 24C-2 of this Code. This permanent paper record shall (i) be printed in a clear, readily readable format that can be easily reviewed by the voter for completeness and accuracy and (ii) either be self-contained within the voting device or be deposited by the voter into a secure ballot box. No permanent paper record shall be removed from the polling place except by election officials as authorized by this Article. All permanent paper records shall be preserved and secured by election officials in the same manner as paper ballots and shall be available as an official record for any recount, redundant count, or verification or retabulation of the vote count conducted with respect to any election in which the voting system is used. The voter shall exit the voting station and the voting system shall prevent any further attempt to vote until it has been properly re-activated. If a voting device has been enabled for voting but the voter leaves the polling place without casting a ballot, 2 judges of election, one from each of the 2 major political parties, shall spoil the ballot.

Throughout the election day and before the closing of the polls, no person may check any vote totals for any candidate or

public question on the voting or counting equipment. Such equipment shall be programmed so that no person may reset the equipment for reentry of ballots unless provided the proper code from an authorized representative of the election authority.

The precinct judges of election shall check the public register to determine whether the number of ballots counted by the voting equipment agrees with the number of voters voting as shown by the applications for ballot. If the same do not agree, the judges of election shall immediately contact the offices of the election authority in charge of the election for further instructions. If the number of ballots counted by the voting equipment agrees with the number of voters voting as shown by the application for ballot, the number shall be listed on the "Statement of Ballots" form provided by the election authority.

The totals for all candidates and propositions shall be tabulated. One copy of an "In-Precinct Totals Report" shall be generated by the automatic tabulating equipment for return to the election authority. One copy of an "In-Precinct Totals Report" shall be generated and posted in a conspicuous place inside the polling place, provided that any authorized pollwatcher or other official authorized to be present in the polling place to observe the counting of ballots is present. The judges of election shall provide, if requested, a set for each authorized pollwatcher or other official authorized to be present in the polling place to observe the counting of

ballots. In addition, sufficient time shall be provided by the judges of election to the pollwatchers to allow them to copy information from the copy which has been posted.

Until December 31, 2019 ~~2015~~, in elections at which fractional cumulative votes are cast for candidates, the tabulation of those fractional cumulative votes may be made by the election authority at its central office location, and 4 copies of a "Certificate of Results" shall be printed by the automatic tabulation equipment and shall be posted in 4 conspicuous places at the central office location where those fractional cumulative votes have been tabulated.

If instructed by the election authority, the judges of election shall cause the tabulated returns to be transmitted electronically to the offices of the election authority via modem or other electronic medium.

The precinct judges of election shall select a bi-partisan team of 2 judges, who shall immediately return the ballots in a sealed container, along with all other election materials and equipment as instructed by the election authority; provided, however, that such container must first be sealed by the election judges with filament tape or other approved sealing devices provided for the purpose in a manner that the ballots cannot be removed from the container without breaking the seal or filament tape and disturbing any signatures affixed by the election judges to the container. The election authority shall keep the office of the election authority, or any receiving

stations designated by the authority, open for at least 12 consecutive hours after the polls close or until the ballots and election material and equipment from all precincts within the jurisdiction of the election authority have been returned to the election authority. Ballots and election materials and equipment returned to the office of the election authority which are not signed and sealed as required by law shall not be accepted by the election authority until the judges returning the ballots make and sign the necessary corrections. Upon acceptance of the ballots and election materials and equipment by the election authority, the judges returning the ballots shall take a receipt signed by the election authority and stamped with the time and date of the return. The election judges whose duty it is to return any ballots and election materials and equipment as provided shall, in the event the ballots, materials or equipment cannot be found when needed, on proper request, produce the receipt which they are to take as above provided.

(Source: P.A. 96-1549, eff. 3-10-11; 97-766, eff. 7-6-12.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1, 2016.