

**WHY VOTE?**

When you vote, you have your say in:  
TAXES

HEALTH CARE  
RETIREMENT

TRANSPORTATION  
EDUCATION

ENVIRONMENT

WORKING CONDITIONS

WALL STREET ACCOUNTABILITY

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

ONE VOTE COUNTS



**LWW**

**The League of  
Women Voters of  
Greater Rockford**

**VOTER REGISTRATION**

Any citizen 18 or older is eligible to vote with one important exception. Effective January 1, 2014, for elections held in even numbered years, you may register and VOTE in the Primary Election in March if you are 17 years old and will be 18 years old on or before the General Election in November.

To vote you must register. You must register again when you move or change your name.

**PLACES TO REGISTER TO VOTE**

If you live in the city of Rockford:  
**Rockford City Board of Election**  
301 South Sixth Street  
815-987-5750  
Web: [www.voterockford.com](http://www.voterockford.com)

If you live in Winnebago County  
outside the city of Rockford:  
**Winnebago County Clerk's Office**  
404 Elm Street  
Rockford  
815-319-4252.  
Web: [elections.winnebago-county-clerk.com](http://elections.winnebago-county-clerk.com)

If you live in Boone County:  
**Boone County Clerk's Office**  
1212 Logan Ave  
Belvidere  
815-544-3103  
Web: [www.boonecountyil.org/content/voter-and-election-information](http://www.boonecountyil.org/content/voter-and-election-information)  
On front of website, search "voting" or "voter"

In other counties, the County Clerk's Office  
Other sites:  
Driver's License Offices, Libraries, Special sites,  
such as grocery stores and high schools, sponsored by the League of Women Voters and other organizations.

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION OUTSIDE OF THE ELECTION OFFICE**

Twenty-seven (27) days before the election.

**WHAT YOU NEED TO REGISTER TO VOTE**

Two Forms of Identification, one with your *current* address.

Last four Digits of Social Security number.

If you are a naturalized citizen, the date and place (City and Court) of your naturalization.

**VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD**

You will receive a voter identification card in the mail several weeks after you register. Your voter identification card tells you your:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| Polling Place – Usually in your neighborhood    | Ward and Precinct       |
| United States Congressional District            | Judicial Court District |
| State Senate and State Representative Districts | County Board District   |
| School District                                 | Township District       |
| Election Office location                        |                         |

If you do not receive your voter identification card within a couple of weeks, call the City Board of Elections or your County Clerk's office or visit the City or your County website.

**ON LINE REGISTRATION**

If you have a current driver's license or state identification card, you may register on-line. More information about on-line registration will be posted on the websites as it becomes available.

## ELECTION TYPES

**There are two elections.** In even numbered years a **Primary** election is held in March and a **General** election in November. In odd numbered years the **Primary** is in February and the **General** in April. *All elections are important! Local, state and national decisions are made there.* Depending on the year, President, Senators, Representatives, Governor, Mayor, County Board, City Aldermen, School Board Members, etc. are elected.

In Illinois, for the **Primary** election you must declare a party – Democratic or Republican. If you wish to vote for issues only, a Non-partisan ballot may be available. For the **General** election you do not have to declare a party.

## VOTING PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY

**Absentee Voting in the Election Offices** begins 40 days before the election. You do not have to state a reason for requesting an Absentee ballot. Absentee voting in the Election offices ends one day before the Election.

**Absentee Voting by Mail** -- Request an absentee ballot within forty (40) days before an election. The ballot will be mailed to you. A friend or family member may request the election offices mail the ballot to you. The ballot must be mailed to the Election office and be postmarked by Election Day.

**Early Voting in the Election Offices** begins 15 days before the Election. The City Election Board offers out-of-office voting sites for Early Voting in General elections. Check their Website for locations. Early voting ends 3 days before the Election. You will need to show a government-issued photo ID for Early voting.

**Grace Period Voting** is an extension of the deadline for registration. Grace Period Voting begins 27 days before the Election. If you missed the deadline for Voter Registration, you may go to the Election office to register. Keep in mind you must register and vote at the same time so be prepared to vote. Grace period voting in the Election offices ends 3 days before the Election.



*These voters use an optical scanner to count their votes.*

## Where you can find The League of Women Voters



Facebook.com/LeagueofWomen  
VotersofGreaterRockford

League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford  
email: lwwgr22@gmail.com

League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford  
website: <http://www.lwwgr.org>

State League website: <http://www.lwvil.org>  
National League website: <http://www.lww.org>

Paid for in part by a grant from the League of Women Voters Education Fund

## UPCOMING ELECTIONS

The next elections are the **Primary** on March 18, 2014, and the **General** on November 4, 2014.

The offices to be **Nominated** in the Primary Election and **Elected** in the General Election are:

United States Senator  
Governor/Lieutenant Governor  
Attorney General  
Comptroller  
Treasurer  
United States House of Representatives  
Congress  
Representatives in the General Assembly  
County Clerks  
County Treasurers  
County Sheriffs  
Regional Superintendent of Schools  
County Board Members

The offices to be **Elected** in the Primary election are:

Democratic State Central Committeemen  
(one committeeman and one committeewoman per congressional district)  
Precinct Committeemen (all counties except Cook County)

The Republican Party elects state central members at the county convention.



*Voting booths ready for a busy election day.*

## WHY VOTE?

“When I turned eighteen I immediately registered to vote. I figured it was my right. I have voted ever since.”

*Person active in a neighborhood organization.*



“I’ve always voted, even when I lived outside the country.”

*Person registering an address change.*



“I never thought voting was important until I needed 911 and realized others had voted for it.”

*A single mother who fell into a coma at home. Her life was saved when her young son called 911.*



“My daughter insisted that she register to vote on her eighteenth birthday.”

*A mother who had thought voting was not as important until her daughter voted.*



“I moved to the United States in 1978 when I was 16 years old. I registered in the Selective Service, paid my taxes—did everything a citizen was required to do—but couldn’t vote. I got my citizenship in 1997 so I could vote. I am proud to vote in every election now.”

*Local business owner*