IV. STATE-BY-STATE SURVEY

When states regulate voter registration drives, it directly affects who participates in the electoral process, and who is permitted to assist them. This survey provides a state-by-state snapshot of the following four categories of restrictions.

1) **Official Volunteer Systems**
   - Laws requiring official certification or authorization to conduct voter registration drives.

2) **Training Programs**
   - Laws offering or requiring a specified course of training before conducting voter registration drives.

3) **Registration & Reporting Requirements**
   - Laws requiring groups to first register with the State and maintain or submit various records and reports related to drives.

4) **Return Deadlines & Penalties**
   - Laws requiring the submission of collected voter registration applications prior to the general book closing deadline, and imposing penalties for violations of the return deadline or violations of other rules.

For almost every state, the Brennan Center provided the chief election official with an opportunity to edit the summary. Revised drafts were returned to the official for final review.

These summaries are not intended as, and do not constitute, legal advice. They are provided for informational and educational use only. For more information, including specific voter registration requirements, or any revisions to the laws described, contact the elections office listed for each state.

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**ILLINOIS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official Volunteer System:</th>
<th>Optional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training: Official Volunteers:</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration &amp; Reporting:</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return Deadline &amp; Penalties:</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For More Information:
State Board of Elections
2329 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, IL 62704
(217) 782-4141
http://www.elections.il.gov/
Illinois maintains an official volunteer system (“deputy registrar”) that is mandatory for drives using state registration forms and optional for drives using federal forms. Potential deputy registrars must meet eligibility requirements and file a written request with the county clerk.

The county clerk must appoint as a deputy registrar all individuals who qualify, except that it may limit the appointments of those affiliated with civic and labor organizations. The election authority must provide a written explanation if the application is denied. All deputy registrars must be registered voters in the jurisdiction of the appointing election authority. All registrars may accept registrations at any time other than the 27-day period before any election.

Deputy registrars must be trained under the direction of the county clerk. Deputy registrars must return completed registration materials by first class mail within two business days or by personal delivery within seven days, which shortens to two days during the week before book-closing. A deputy registrar’s failure to submit forms on time can result in revocation of the deputy registrar appointment. Knowing violation of any of the laws governing deputy registrars constitutes a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail or up to a $2,500 fine.

Voter registration drives using federal forms may operate outside of the deputy registrar system. Anyone can download federal mail-in registration forms, copy them, and distribute them to voters in a drive outside of the deputy registrar system. State officials do not encourage third parties to mail applications on behalf of voters, but the practice is not prohibited. All persons accepting voter registration applications who are not deputy registrars are “encouraged” to transmit completed applications within 10 days after execution, or within five days if it is within five days of the book-closing deadline.

Election officials are required to make available both state and federal voter registration forms. There is a 50-form limit for federal mail voter registration forms. Drives requesting more than 50 federal forms must submit a written distribution plan that details the states in which the forms will be distributed and the quantities distributed in each state. The state will charge the requesting party if they seek more than 200

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2 10 ILL. COMP. STAT. §§ 5/4-6.2(a), 5/5-16.2(a), 5/6-50.2(a) (2010) (eligible list includes but is not limited to librarians, school principals, officers of companies and organizations).
3 10 ILL. COMP. STAT. §§ 5/4-6.2(a), 5/5-16.2(a), 5/6-50.2(a) (2010).
4 10 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/4-6.2(a), 5/5-16.2(a), 5/6-50.2(a)(7) (2010).
5 10 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/4-6.2(a), 5/5-16.2, 5/6-50.2(a) (2010).
6 10 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/4-6.2(a), 5/5-16.2(a), 5/6-50.2(a) (2010).
7 10 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/4-6.2(b), 5/4-9, 5/5-8, 5/5-16.2(b), 5/6-36, 5/6-50.2(b) (2010).
8 10 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/4-6.2(c), 5/5-16.2(c), 5/6-50.2(c) (2010).
9 10 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/4-6.2(b), 5/6.2(b), 5/6-50.2(b) (2010).
10 10 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/29-12 (2010).
11 730 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/5-4.5-55(a), (e) (2010).
13 ILL. ADMIN. CODE tit. 26 § 216.70 (2010).
14 ILL. ADMIN. CODE tit. 26 § 216.60 (2010).
federal forms. There is no specific limit on the number of state voter registration forms provided to drives operating under the deputy registrar system.

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View the full report at:
http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/state_restrictions_on_voter_registration_drives/

15 ILL. ADMIN. CODE tit. 26 § 216.60(h) (2010).