

# PREVENTING VOTE FRAUD

## 10 ILCS 5/29



### **WHAT IS VOTE FRAUD?**

Vote fraud is a clear intent or action aimed at depriving a voter of his right to vote or falsifying actual votes cast. Voters can play a major role in helping to guarantee clean elections by being on the alert for unusual activities at or near polling places and reporting irregularities to election authorities. Some of the more common methods of fraudulent activity include:

- Vote buying, offering money or gifts to a voter to vote for a specific candidate;
- Chain balloting, taking a previously marked ballot from the polls and passing it to a voter entering the polls;
- Ghost voting, voting under the name of a deceased person a fictitious name, or a nonexistent address;
- Altering the figures on the tally sheet during the counting of ballots.

### **WHAT ARE SOME SIGNS OF SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR?**

- Money changing hands in or near the polls.
- Someone passing a folded piece of paper or card to a voter who hides it on his/her person. NOTE: voters may possess and use sample ballots to assist them while voting.
- A person claiming to be someone else in order to vote. Also, someone giving an address or place that you know is an empty lot. Or, if you know a person doesn't live at the address which he claims.
- More than one person in a voting booth, except under these circumstances: (a) if a disabled person signed an affidavit requesting assistance, he may have a friend or two judges of election (one from each party) assist him; or (b) one or more children under the age of 18 may accompany their parent or guardian into a voting booth.
- Electioneering within the Campaign Free Zone.
- Intoxicated voters being given assistance in the voting booth.
- Election Judges from both major parties are not represented in the polling place.
- The judges of election are not in control of the polling place; for example, if you see someone giving orders to the election judges.

**REMEMBER:**

- The judges of election are the sole authority in the polling place on Election Day.
- No person, except a judge, may handle or touch election supplies and materials.
- A law enforcement officer may be in the polling place to preserve order and carry out lawful directions given by the judges.
- Pollwatchers are official observers only. They may observe the conduct of the election before, during, and after the polls close. All pollwatchers must present valid credentials upon entering the polling place.
- Electioneering, or any type of campaigning, must not take place in the Campaign Free Zone during voting hours.
- Minor children may accompany their parent or guardian into the voting booth if requested of the election officers and if the election officers determine that the children are not likely to disrupt or interfere with the voting process or influence the casting of a vote.

**WHO CAN PREVENT VOTE FRAUD?**

Any voter that notices unusual activities or irregularities that should not be happening at the polls, should report it immediately to the election judges and/or appropriate authorities, such as the county clerk, county state's attorney's office, board of election commissioners, or the Illinois Attorney General's office.

Illinois State Board of Elections website: [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov)  
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