On April 8, the Illinois General Assembly passed SB 829, which mandates a remote accessible vote-by-mail system for the November 2022 general election and all subsequent elections. This secure system will allow blind, deafblind, and other print disabled voters to mark their absentee ballots using their own screen reader and/or Braille technology to vote privately and independently in their homes. On May 13, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker signed the legislation. Every election authority in the state will have to provide its voters, who are blind, deafblind, or have a print disability with an accessible vote-by-mail option.

The Illinois Board of Elections has signed a contract with Democracy Live, which local election authorities can opt into for their voters. The Chicago and Cook County election authorities use a different accessible vote by mail system.

The time to request an absentee ballot from your local election authority, including an accessible one started on August 7. Absentee voting and early voting begins on September 29.

If you need to locate your local election authority, go to elections.il.gov. Under the tab titled “Information For Voters” there is a link to “Election Authority Contact Information”. Clicking on that will lead you to a page with a drop down menu of each jurisdiction. Selecting your jurisdiction will lead you to a contact page with your election authority’s email address, physical address, phone number, and website.

You can always call the State Board of Elections at 217-782-4141 to get information for your local election authority.

Illinois only permits electronic ballot delivery, which means you will have to print out your ballot and follow the steps given by your election authority to mail it back or drop it off.

If you wish to see a demonstration or demo an Accessible Vote by Mail ballot with JAWS, go to [https://sites.omniballot.us/EBR\_ADA/app/ob/vr](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprotect-us.mimecast.com%2Fs%2F5HgGCn5ND2f7K3Mqc9qQuK%3Fdomain%3Dsites.omniballot.us&data=05%7C01%7Clblake%40nfb.org%7C5bad2e379d9b44fac44508da94fb8d28%7C538f3d4b739545cf93fa8dfc2b4a7f62%7C1%7C0%7C637986105374954614%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BTOCWKVAQLGyLpZT9PtrMBXzNKC3y5RHiY%2FlN1g7he4%3D&reserved=0)

Please use the credentials Sample Voter and 1/1/1999 for First name, last name and date of birth.

There is also a YouTube video showing a voter using the electronic ballot delivery option.

 Go to [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdi-Ge54TkM&t=271s](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprotect-us.mimecast.com%2Fs%2F_TrhCo26E3FrBPxLSzVBdx%3Fdomain%3Dyoutube.com&data=05%7C01%7Clblake%40nfb.org%7C5bad2e379d9b44fac44508da94fb8d28%7C538f3d4b739545cf93fa8dfc2b4a7f62%7C1%7C0%7C637986105374954614%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xAxV77yihATV6JoXS%2FCm6oRY7DTiwSLh9lDIA6OpnNg%3D&reserved=0)