



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB2797

Introduced 2/6/2025, by Rep. Maurice A. West, II

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/13-1	from Ch. 46, par. 13-1
10 ILCS 5/13-2	from Ch. 46, par. 13-2
10 ILCS 5/14-1	from Ch. 46, par. 14-1
10 ILCS 5/14-3.1	from Ch. 46, par. 14-3.1

Amends the Election Code. Provides that an election authority may reduce the number of judges of election in each precinct to 3 judges of election in lieu of the 5 judges of election otherwise required. Makes conforming changes.

LRB104 10456 SPS 20531 b

1 AN ACT concerning elections.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Election Code is amended by changing
5 Sections 13-1, 13-2, 14-1, and 14-3.1 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 5/13-1) (from Ch. 46, par. 13-1)

7 Sec. 13-1. In counties not under township organization,
8 the county board of commissioners shall at its meeting in July
9 in each even-numbered year appoint in each election precinct 5
10 capable and discreet persons meeting the qualifications of
11 Section 13-4 to be judges of election. Where neither voting
12 machines nor electronic, mechanical or electric voting systems
13 are used, the county board may, for any precinct with respect
14 to which the board considers such action necessary or
15 desirable in view of the number of voters, and shall for
16 general elections for any precinct containing more than 600
17 registered voters, appoint in addition to the 5 judges of
18 election a team of 5 tally judges. In such precincts the judges
19 of election shall preside over the election during the hours
20 the polls are open, and the tally judges, with the assistance
21 of the holdover judges designated pursuant to Section 13-6.2,
22 shall count the vote after the closing of the polls. However,
23 the County Board of Commissioners may appoint 3 judges of

1 election to serve in lieu of the 5 judges of election otherwise
2 required by this Section (1) to serve in any emergency
3 referendum, or in any odd-year regular election or in any
4 special primary or special election called for the purpose of
5 filling a vacancy in the office of representative in the
6 United States Congress or to nominate candidates for such
7 purpose or (2) if the county board passes an ordinance to
8 reduce the number of judges of election to 3 for primary
9 elections. An election authority may also reduce the number of
10 judges of election in each precinct to 3 judges of election in
11 lieu of the 5 judges of election otherwise required by this
12 Section. The tally judges shall possess the same
13 qualifications and shall be appointed in the same manner and
14 with the same division between political parties as is
15 provided for judges of election.

16 In addition to such precinct judges, the county board of
17 commissioners shall appoint special panels of 3 judges each,
18 who shall possess the same qualifications and shall be
19 appointed in the same manner and with the same division
20 between political parties as is provided for other judges of
21 election. The number of such panels of judges required shall
22 be determined by regulations of the State Board of Elections
23 which shall base the required numbers of special panels on the
24 number of registered voters in the jurisdiction or the number
25 of vote by mail ballots voted at recent elections, or any
26 combination of such factors.

1 Such appointment shall be confirmed by the court as
2 provided in Section 13-3 of this Article. No more than 3
3 persons of the same political party shall be appointed judges
4 of the same election precinct or election judge panel. The
5 appointment shall be made in the following manner: The county
6 board of commissioners shall select and approve 3 persons as
7 judges of election in each election precinct from a certified
8 list, furnished by the chair of the County Central Committee
9 of the first leading political party in such precinct; and the
10 county board of commissioners shall also select and approve 2
11 persons as judges of election in each election precinct from a
12 certified list, furnished by the chair of the County Central
13 Committee of the second leading political party. However, if
14 only 3 judges of election serve in each election precinct, no
15 more than 2 persons of the same political party shall be judges
16 of election in the same election precinct; and which political
17 party is entitled to 2 judges of election and which political
18 party is entitled to one judge of election shall be determined
19 in the same manner as set forth in the next two preceding
20 sentences with regard to 5 election judges in each precinct.
21 Such certified list shall be filed with the county clerk not
22 less than 10 days before the annual meeting of the county board
23 of commissioners. Such list shall be arranged according to
24 precincts. The chair of each county central committee shall,
25 insofar as possible, list persons who reside within the
26 precinct in which they are to serve as judges. However, he may,

1 in his sole discretion, submit the names of persons who reside
2 outside the precinct but within the county embracing the
3 precinct in which they are to serve. He must, however, submit
4 the names of at least 2 residents of the precinct for each
5 precinct in which his party is to have 3 judges and must submit
6 the name of at least one resident of the precinct for each
7 precinct in which his party is to have 2 judges. The county
8 board of commissioners shall acknowledge in writing to each
9 county chair the names of all persons submitted on such
10 certified list and the total number of persons listed thereon.
11 If no such list is filed or such list is incomplete (that is,
12 no names or an insufficient number of names are furnished for
13 certain election precincts), the county board of commissioners
14 shall make or complete such list from the names contained in
15 the supplemental list provided for in Section 13-1.1. The
16 election judges shall hold their office for 2 years from their
17 appointment, and until their successors are duly appointed in
18 the manner provided in this Act. The county board of
19 commissioners shall fill all vacancies in the office of judge
20 of election at any time in the manner provided in this Act.

21 (Source: P.A. 100-337, eff. 8-25-17; 100-1027, eff. 1-1-19.)

22 (10 ILCS 5/13-2) (from Ch. 46, par. 13-2)

23 Sec. 13-2. In counties under the township organization the
24 county board shall at its meeting in July in each
25 even-numbered year except in counties containing a population

1 of 3,000,000 inhabitants or over and except when such judges
2 are appointed by election commissioners, select in each
3 election precinct in the county, 5 capable and discreet
4 persons to be judges of election who shall possess the
5 qualifications required by this Act for such judges. Where
6 neither voting machines nor electronic, mechanical or electric
7 voting systems are used, the county board may, for any
8 precinct with respect to which the board considers such action
9 necessary or desirable in view of the number of voters, and
10 shall for general elections for any precinct containing more
11 than 600 registered voters, appoint in addition to the 5
12 judges of election a team of 5 tally judges. In such precincts
13 the judges of election shall preside over the election during
14 the hours the polls are open, and the tally judges, with the
15 assistance of the holdover judges designated pursuant to
16 Section 13-6.2, shall count the vote after the closing of the
17 polls. The tally judges shall possess the same qualifications
18 and shall be appointed in the same manner and with the same
19 division between political parties as is provided for judges
20 of election.

21 However, the county board may appoint 3 judges of election
22 to serve in lieu of the 5 judges of election otherwise required
23 by this Section (1) to serve in any emergency referendum, or in
24 any odd-year regular election or in any special primary or
25 special election called for the purpose of filling a vacancy
26 in the office of representative in the United States Congress

1 or to nominate candidates for such purpose or (2) if the county
2 board passes an ordinance to reduce the number of judges of
3 election to 3 for primary elections. An election authority may
4 also reduce the number of judges of election in each precinct
5 to 3 judges of election in lieu of the 5 judges of election
6 otherwise required by this Section.

7 In addition to such precinct judges, the county board
8 shall appoint special panels of 3 judges each, who shall
9 possess the same qualifications and shall be appointed in the
10 same manner and with the same division between political
11 parties as is provided for other judges of election. The
12 number of such panels of judges required shall be determined
13 by regulations of the State Board of Elections, which shall
14 base the required number of special panels on the number of
15 registered voters in the jurisdiction or the number of
16 absentee ballots voted at recent elections or any combination
17 of such factors.

18 No more than 3 persons of the same political party shall be
19 appointed judges in the same election district or undivided
20 precinct. The election of the judges of election in the
21 various election precincts shall be made in the following
22 manner: The county board shall select and approve 3 of the
23 election judges in each precinct from a certified list
24 furnished by the chair of the County Central Committee of the
25 first leading political party in such election precinct and
26 shall also select and approve 2 judges of election in each

1 election precinct from a certified list furnished by the chair
2 of the County Central Committee of the second leading
3 political party in such election precinct. However, if only 3
4 judges of election serve in each election precinct, no more
5 than 2 persons of the same political party shall be judges of
6 election in the same election precinct; and which political
7 party is entitled to 2 judges of election and which political
8 party is entitled to one judge of election shall be determined
9 in the same manner as set forth in the next two preceding
10 sentences with regard to 5 election judges in each precinct.
11 The respective County Central Committee chair shall notify the
12 county board by June 1 of each odd-numbered year immediately
13 preceding the annual meeting of the county board whether or
14 not such certified list will be filed by such chair. Such list
15 shall be arranged according to precincts. The chair of each
16 county central committee shall, insofar as possible, list
17 persons who reside within the precinct in which they are to
18 serve as judges. However, he may, in his sole discretion,
19 submit the names of persons who reside outside the precinct
20 but within the county embracing the precinct in which they are
21 to serve. He must, however, submit the names of at least 2
22 residents of the precinct for each precinct in which his party
23 is to have 3 judges and must submit the name of at least one
24 resident of the precinct for each precinct in which his party
25 is to have 2 judges. Such certified list, if filed, shall be
26 filed with the county clerk not less than 20 days before the

1 annual meeting of the county board. The county board shall
2 acknowledge in writing to each county chair the names of all
3 persons submitted on such certified list and the total number
4 of persons listed thereon. If no such list is filed or the list
5 is incomplete (that is, no names or an insufficient number of
6 names are furnished for certain election precincts), the
7 county board shall make or complete such list from the names
8 contained in the supplemental list provided for in Section
9 13-1.1. Provided, further, that in any case where a township
10 has been or shall be redistricted, in whole or in part,
11 subsequent to one general election for Governor, and prior to
12 the next, the judges of election to be selected for all new or
13 altered precincts shall be selected in that one of the methods
14 above detailed, which shall be applicable according to the
15 facts and circumstances of the particular case, but the
16 majority of such judges for each such precinct shall be
17 selected from the first leading political party, and the
18 minority judges from the second leading political party.
19 Provided, further, that in counties having a population of
20 3,000,000 inhabitants or over the selection of judges of
21 election shall be made in the same manner in all respects as in
22 other counties, except that the provisions relating to tally
23 judges are inapplicable to such counties and except that the
24 county board shall meet during the month of January for the
25 purpose of making such selection, each township
26 committeeperson shall assume the responsibilities given to the

1 chair of the county central committee in this Section for the
2 precincts within his or her township, and the township
3 committeeperson shall notify the county board by the preceding
4 October 1 whether or not the certified list will be filed. Such
5 judges of election shall hold their office for 2 years from
6 their appointment and until their successors are duly
7 appointed in the manner provided in this Act. The county board
8 shall fill all vacancies in the office of judges of elections
9 at any time in the manner herein provided.

10 Such selections under this Section shall be confirmed by
11 the circuit court as provided in Section 13-3 of this Article.

12 (Source: P.A. 100-337, eff. 8-25-17; 100-1027, eff. 1-1-19.)

13 (10 ILCS 5/14-1) (from Ch. 46, par. 14-1)

14 Sec. 14-1. (a) The board of election commissioners
15 established or existing under Article 6 shall, at the time and
16 in the manner provided in Section 14-3.1, select and choose no
17 less than 3 ~~5~~ persons, men or women, as judges of election for
18 each precinct in such city, village or incorporated town.

19 Where neither voting machines nor electronic, mechanical
20 or electric voting systems are used, the board of election
21 commissioners may, for any precinct with respect to which the
22 board considers such action necessary or desirable in view of
23 the number of voters, and shall for general elections for any
24 precinct containing more than 600 registered voters, appoint
25 in addition to the ~~5~~ judges of election chosen under this

1 subsection a team of 5 tally judges. In such precincts the
2 judges of election shall preside over the election during the
3 hours the polls are open, and the tally judges, with the
4 assistance of the holdover judges designated pursuant to
5 Section 14-5.2, shall count the vote after the closing of the
6 polls. The tally judges shall possess the same qualifications
7 and shall be appointed in the same manner and with the same
8 division between political parties as is provided for judges
9 of election. The foregoing provisions relating to the
10 appointment of tally judges are inapplicable in counties with
11 a population of 1,000,000 or more.

12 (b) To qualify as judges the persons must:

13 (1) be citizens of the United States;

14 (2) be of good repute and character and not subject to
15 the registration requirement of the Sex Offender
16 Registration Act;

17 (3) be able to speak, read and write the English
18 language;

19 (4) be skilled in the 4 fundamental rules of
20 arithmetic;

21 (5) be of good understanding and capable;

22 (6) not be candidates for any office at the election
23 and not be elected committeepersons;

24 (7) reside and be entitled to vote in the precinct in
25 which they are selected to serve, except that in each
26 precinct not more than one judge of each party may be

1 appointed from outside such precinct. Any judge so
2 appointed to serve in any precinct in which he is not
3 entitled to vote must be entitled to vote elsewhere within
4 the county which encompasses the precinct in which such
5 judge is appointed and such judge must otherwise meet the
6 qualifications of this Section, except as provided in
7 subsection (c) or (c-5).

8 (c) An election authority may establish a program to
9 permit a person who is not entitled to vote to be appointed as
10 an election judge if, as of the date of the election at which
11 the person serves as a judge, he or she:

12 (1) is a U.S. citizen;

13 (2) is a junior or senior in good standing enrolled in
14 a public or private secondary school;

15 (3) has a cumulative grade point average equivalent to
16 at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;

17 (4) has the written approval of the principal of the
18 secondary school he or she attends at the time of
19 appointment;

20 (5) has the written approval of his or her parent or
21 legal guardian;

22 (6) has satisfactorily completed the training course
23 for judges of election described in Sections 13-2.1,
24 13-2.2, and 14-4.1; and

25 (7) meets all other qualifications for appointment and
26 service as an election judge.

1 No more than one election judge qualifying under this
2 subsection may serve per political party per precinct. Prior
3 to appointment, a judge qualifying under this subsection must
4 certify in writing to the election authority the political
5 party the judge chooses to affiliate with.

6 Students appointed as election judges under this
7 subsection shall not be counted as absent from school on the
8 day they serve as judges.

9 (c-5) An election authority may establish a program to
10 permit a person who is not entitled to vote in that precinct or
11 county to be appointed as an election judge if, as of the date
12 of the election at which the person serves as a judge, he or
13 she:

14 (1) is a U.S. citizen;

15 (2) is currently enrolled in a community college, as
16 defined in the Public Community College Act, or a public
17 or private Illinois university or college;

18 (3) has a cumulative grade point average equivalent to
19 at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;

20 (4) has satisfactorily completed the training course
21 for judges of election described in Sections 13-2.1,
22 13-2.2, and 14-4.1; and

23 (5) meets all other qualifications for appointment and
24 service as an election judge.

25 No more than one election judge qualifying under this
26 subsection may serve per political party per precinct. Prior

1 to appointment, a judge qualifying under this subsection must
2 certify in writing to the election authority the political
3 party the judge chooses to affiliate with.

4 Students appointed as election judges under this
5 subsection shall not be counted as absent from school on the
6 day they serve as judges.

7 (d) The board of election commissioners may select 2
8 additional judges of election, one from each of the major
9 political parties, for each 200 voters in excess of 600 in any
10 precinct having more than 600 voters as authorized by Section
11 11-3. These additional judges must meet the qualifications
12 prescribed in this Section.

13 (Source: P.A. 100-1027, eff. 1-1-19.)

14 (10 ILCS 5/14-3.1) (from Ch. 46, par. 14-3.1)

15 Sec. 14-3.1. The board of election commissioners shall,
16 during the month of July of each even-numbered year, select
17 for each election precinct within the jurisdiction of the
18 board 5 persons to be judges of election who shall possess the
19 qualifications required by this Act for such judges. The
20 selection shall be made by a county board of election
21 commissioners in the following manner: the county board of
22 election commissioners shall select and approve 3 persons as
23 judges of election in each election precinct from a certified
24 list furnished by the chair of the county central committee of
25 the first leading political party in that precinct; the county

1 board of election commissioners also shall select and approve
2 2 persons as judges of election in each election precinct from
3 a certified list furnished by the chair of the county central
4 committee of the second leading political party in that
5 precinct. The selection by a municipal board of election
6 commissioners shall be made in the following manner: for each
7 precinct, 3 judges shall be selected from one of the 2 leading
8 political parties and the other 2 judges shall be selected
9 from the other leading political party; the parties entitled
10 to 3 and 2 judges, respectively, in the several precincts
11 shall be determined as provided in Section 14-4. However, a
12 Board of Election Commissioners may appoint 3 ~~three~~ judges of
13 election to serve in lieu of the 5 judges of election otherwise
14 required by this Section to serve in any emergency referendum,
15 or in any odd-year regular election or in any special primary
16 or special election called for the purpose of filling a
17 vacancy in the office of representative in the United States
18 Congress or to nominate candidates for such purpose. An
19 election authority may also reduce the number of judges of
20 election in each precinct to 3 judges of election in lieu of
21 the 5 judges of election otherwise required by this Section.

22 If only 3 judges of election serve in each election
23 precinct, no more than 2 persons of the same political party
24 shall be judges of election in the same election precinct, and
25 which political party is entitled to 2 judges of election and
26 which political party is entitled to one judge of election

1 shall be determined as set forth in this Section for a county
2 board of election commissioners' selection of 5 election
3 judges in each precinct or in Section 14-4 for a municipal
4 board of election commissioners' selection of election judges
5 in each precinct, whichever is appropriate. In addition to
6 such precinct judges, the board of election commissioners
7 shall appoint special panels of 3 judges each, who shall
8 possess the same qualifications and shall be appointed in the
9 same manner and with the same division between political
10 parties as is provided for other judges of election. The
11 number of such panels of judges required shall be determined
12 by regulation of the State Board of Elections, which shall
13 base the required number of special panels on the number of
14 registered voters in the jurisdiction or the number of
15 absentee ballots voted at recent elections or any combination
16 of such factors. A municipal board of election commissioners
17 shall make the selections of persons qualified under Section
18 14-1 from certified lists furnished by the chair of the
19 respective county central committees, or each ward
20 committeeperson in a municipality of 500,000 or more
21 inhabitants, of the 2 leading political parties. Lists
22 furnished by chairmen of county central committees or ward
23 committeepersons, as the case may be, under this Section shall
24 be arranged according to precincts. The chair of each county
25 central committee or ward committeepersons, as the case may
26 be, shall, insofar as possible, list persons who reside within

1 the precinct in which they are to serve as judges. However, he
2 may, in his sole discretion, submit the names of persons who
3 reside outside the precinct but within the county embracing
4 the precinct in which they are to serve. He must, however,
5 submit the names of at least 2 residents of the precinct for
6 each precinct in which his party is to have 3 judges and must
7 submit the name of at least one resident of the precinct for
8 each precinct in which his party is to have 2 judges. The board
9 of election commissioners shall no later than March 1 of each
10 even-numbered year notify the chairmen of the respective
11 county central committees or ward committeepersons, as the
12 case may be, of their responsibility to furnish such lists,
13 and each such chair shall furnish the board of election
14 commissioners with the list for his party on or before May 1 of
15 each even-numbered year. The board of election commissioners
16 shall acknowledge in writing to each county chair or ward
17 committeepersons, as the case may be, the names of all persons
18 submitted on such certified list and the total number of
19 persons listed thereon. If no such list is furnished or if no
20 names or an insufficient number of names are furnished for
21 certain precincts, the board of election commissioners shall
22 make or complete such list from the names contained in the
23 supplemental list provided for in Section 14-3.2. Judges of
24 election shall hold their office for 2 years from their
25 appointment and until their successors are duly appointed in
26 the manner herein provided. The board of election

1 commissioners shall, subject to the provisions of Section
2 14-3.2, fill all vacancies in the office of judges of election
3 at any time in the manner herein provided.

4 Such selections under this Section shall be confirmed by
5 the court as provided in Section 14-5.

6 (Source: P.A. 100-1027, eff. 1-1-19.)