

# SB1659



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB1659

Introduced 2/5/2025, by Sen. Julie A. Morrison

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/11-1

from Ch. 46, par. 11-1

Amends the Election Code. Provides that, in counties under township organization, an election authority may combine a township with another township to constitute one election precinct if the townships are contiguous and 2 or more specified conditions are satisfied. Provides that the election authority shall consider voter convenience and election integrity when determining whether to combine a township with another township to constitute one election precinct.

LRB104 10411 SPS 20486 b

A BILL FOR

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 Section 11-1 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 5/11-1) (from Ch. 46, par. 11-1)

7 Sec. 11-1. In counties not under township organization,  
8 the election precincts shall remain as now established until  
9 changed by the Board of County Commissioners, but said County  
10 Board may, from time to time, change the boundaries of  
11 election precincts and establish new ones. In counties under  
12 township organization, an election authority may combine a  
13 township with another township to constitute one election  
14 precinct if the townships are contiguous and 2 or more of the  
15 following conditions are satisfied:

16 (1) the election authority certifies to the State  
17 Board of Elections that the townships have been combined  
18 into one election precinct for the 2 preceding general  
19 elections;

20 (2) there are no more than 1,800 registered voters in  
21 the townships combined;

22 (3) there are no more than 500 registered voters in a  
23 precinct within either township; or

1           (4) the majority of the board of township trustees for  
2           both townships vote to combine the townships into one  
3           election precinct and inform the election authority of  
4           that decision.

5           The election authority shall consider voter convenience  
6           and election integrity when determining whether to combine a  
7           township with another township to constitute one election  
8           precinct. ~~In counties under township organization, each town~~  
9           ~~shall constitute at least one election precinct.~~

10           Insofar as is practicable, each precinct shall be  
11           situated within a single congressional, legislative and  
12           representative district and within a single municipal ward. In  
13           order to situate each precinct within a single district or  
14           ward, the County Board shall change the boundaries of election  
15           precincts after each decennial census as soon as is  
16           practicable following the completion of congressional and  
17           legislative redistricting.

18           At any consolidated primary or consolidated election at  
19           which municipal officers are to be elected, and at any  
20           emergency referendum at which a public question relating to a  
21           municipality is to be voted on, notwithstanding any other  
22           provision of this Code, the election authority shall establish  
23           a polling place within such municipality upon the request of  
24           the municipal council or board of trustees at least 60 days  
25           before the election and provided that the municipality  
26           provides a suitable polling place. To accomplish this purpose,

1 the election authority may establish an election precinct  
2 constituting a single municipality of under 500 population for  
3 all elections, notwithstanding the minimum precinct size  
4 otherwise specified herein.

5 Notwithstanding the above, when there are not more than 50  
6 registered voters in a precinct who are entitled to vote in a  
7 local government or school district election, the election  
8 authority having jurisdiction over the precinct is authorized  
9 to reassign such voters to one or more polling places in  
10 adjacent precincts, within or without the election authority's  
11 jurisdiction, for that election. For the purposes of such  
12 local government or school district election only, the votes  
13 of the reassigned voters shall be tallied and canvassed as  
14 votes from the precinct of the polling place to which such  
15 voters have been reassigned. The election authority having  
16 jurisdiction over the precinct shall approve all  
17 administrative and polling place procedures. Such procedures  
18 shall take into account voter convenience, and ensure that the  
19 integrity of the election process is maintained and that the  
20 secrecy of the ballot is not violated.

21 Except in the event of a fire, flood or total loss of heat  
22 in a place fixed or established by any election authority  
23 pursuant to this Section as a polling place for an election, no  
24 election authority shall change the location of a polling  
25 place so established for any precinct after notice of the  
26 place of holding the election for that precinct has been given

1 as required under Article 12 unless the election authority  
2 notifies all registered voters in the precinct of the change  
3 in location by first class mail in sufficient time for such  
4 notice to be received by the registered voters in the precinct  
5 at least one day prior to the date of the election.

6 The provisions of this Section apply to all precincts,  
7 including those where voting machines or electronic voting  
8 systems are used.

9 If, as a result of the redistricting of legislative,  
10 representative, or congressional districts following a  
11 decennial census, there exists a census block with only one  
12 voter that is the only census block in a precinct that is in a  
13 legislative, representative, or congressional district, then  
14 the county board, at any meeting of the county board, may  
15 change the precinct boundaries so that the census block is  
16 within a precinct that has more than one voter in the  
17 legislative, representative, or congressional district.

18 (Source: P.A. 88-525.)