

SB2018



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB2018

Introduced 2/6/2025, by Sen. Julie A. Morrison

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2	from Ch. 46, par. 2A-1.2
10 ILCS 5/2A-56 new	
10 ILCS 5/25-11	from Ch. 46, par. 25-11
330 ILCS 45/4	from Ch. 23, par. 3084
330 ILCS 45/4.5 new	

Amends the Election Code and the Amends the Military Veterans Assistance Act. Provides for the election of commissioners to the Veterans Assistance Commission in consolidated elections. Sets forth provisions concerning vacancies on the Veterans Assistance Commission. Provides that elected commissioners shall have the same powers and duties, and shall be entitled to the same compensation, as enjoyed by commissioners before January 1, 2026. Effective immediately.

LRB104 10452 KTG 20527 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning veterans.

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 2A-1.2 and 25-11 and by adding Section 2A-56 as
6 follows:

7 (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2) (from Ch. 46, par. 2A-1.2)

8 Sec. 2A-1.2. Consolidated schedule of elections; offices
9 designated.

10 (a) At the general election in the appropriate
11 even-numbered years, the following offices shall be filled or
12 shall be on the ballot as otherwise required by this Code:

13 (1) Elector of President and Vice President of the
14 United States.

15 (2) United States Senator and United States
16 Representative.

17 (3) State Executive Branch elected officers.

18 (4) State Senator and State Representative.

19 (5) County elected officers, including State's
20 Attorney, County Board member, County Commissioners, and
21 elected President of the County Board or County Chief
22 Executive.

23 (6) Circuit Court Clerk.

(7) Regional Superintendent of Schools, except in counties or educational service regions in which that office has been abolished.

(8) Judges of the Supreme, Appellate and Circuit Courts, on the question of retention, to fill vacancies and newly created judicial offices.

(9) (Blank) .

(10) Trustee of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, and elected Trustee of other Sanitary Districts.

(11) Special District elected officers, not otherwise designated in this Section, where the statute creating or authorizing the creation of the district requires an annual election and permits or requires election of candidates of political parties.

(12) Beginning with the 2024 general election, the elected members of the Chicago Board of Education; the election of members of the Chicago Board of Education shall be a nonpartisan election as provided for under this Code and may be conducted on a separate ballot.

(b) At the general primary election:

(1) in each even-numbered year candidates of political parties shall be nominated for those offices to be filled at the general election in that year, except where pursuant to law nomination of candidates of political parties is made by caucus.

(2) in the appropriate even-numbered years the political party offices of State central committeeperson, township committeeperson, ward committeeperson, and precinct committeeperson shall be filled and delegates and alternate delegates to the National nominating conventions shall be elected as may be required pursuant to this Code. In the even-numbered years in which a Presidential election is to be held, candidates in the Presidential preference primary shall also be on the ballot.

(3) in each even-numbered year, where the municipality has provided for annual elections to elect municipal officers pursuant to Section 6(f) or Section 7 of Article VII of the Constitution, pursuant to the Illinois Municipal Code or pursuant to the municipal charter, the offices of such municipal officers shall be filled at an election held on the date of the general primary election, provided that the municipal election shall be a nonpartisan election where required by the Illinois Municipal Code. For partisan municipal elections in even-numbered years, a primary to nominate candidates for municipal office to be elected at the general primary election shall be held on the Tuesday 6 weeks preceding that election.

(4) in each school district which has adopted the provisions of Article 33 of the School Code, successors to the members of the board of education whose terms expire

1 in the year in which the general primary is held shall be
2 elected.

3 (c) At the consolidated election in the appropriate
4 odd-numbered years, the following offices shall be filled:

5 (1) Municipal officers, provided that in
6 municipalities in which candidates for alderperson or
7 other municipal office are not permitted by law to be
8 candidates of political parties, the runoff election where
9 required by law, or the nonpartisan election where
10 required by law, shall be held on the date of the
11 consolidated election; and provided further, in the case
12 of municipal officers provided for by an ordinance
13 providing the form of government of the municipality
14 pursuant to Section 7 of Article VII of the Constitution,
15 such offices shall be filled by election or by runoff
16 election as may be provided by such ordinance;

17 (2) Village and incorporated town library directors;

18 (3) City boards of stadium commissioners;

19 (4) Commissioners of park districts;

20 (5) Trustees of public library districts;

21 (6) Special District elected officers, not otherwise
22 designated in this Section, where the statute creating or
23 authorizing the creation of the district permits or
24 requires election of candidates of political parties;

25 (7) Township officers, including township park
26 commissioners, township library directors, and boards of

1 managers of community buildings, and Multi-Township
2 Assessors;

3 (8) Highway commissioners and road district clerks;

4 (9) Members of school boards in school districts which
5 adopt Article 33 of the School Code;

6 (10) The directors and chair of the Chain O Lakes - Fox
7 River Waterway Management Agency;

8 (11) Forest preserve district commissioners elected
9 under Section 3.5 of the Downstate Forest Preserve
10 District Act;

11 (12) Elected members of school boards, school
12 trustees, directors of boards of school directors,
13 trustees of county boards of school trustees (except in
14 counties or educational service regions having a
15 population of 2,000,000 or more inhabitants) and members
16 of boards of school inspectors, except school boards in
17 school districts that adopt Article 33 of the School Code;

18 (13) Members of Community College district boards;

19 (14) Trustees of Fire Protection Districts;

20 (15) Commissioners of the Springfield Metropolitan
21 Exposition and Auditorium Authority;

22 (16) Elected Trustees of Tuberculosis Sanitarium
23 Districts;

24 (17) Elected Officers of special districts not
25 otherwise designated in this Section for which the law
26 governing those districts does not permit candidates of

1 political parties; and -

2 (18) Commissioners of the Veterans Assistance
3 Commission elected under Section 4.5 of the Military
4 Veterans Assistance Act.

5 (d) At the consolidated primary election in each
6 odd-numbered year, candidates of political parties shall be
7 nominated for those offices to be filled at the consolidated
8 election in that year, except where pursuant to law nomination
9 of candidates of political parties is made by caucus, and
10 except those offices listed in paragraphs (12) through (17) of
11 subsection (c).

12 At the consolidated primary election in the appropriate
13 odd-numbered years, the mayor, clerk, treasurer, and
14 alderpersons shall be elected in municipalities in which
15 candidates for mayor, clerk, treasurer, or alderperson are not
16 permitted by law to be candidates of political parties,
17 subject to runoff elections to be held at the consolidated
18 election as may be required by law, and municipal officers
19 shall be nominated in a nonpartisan election in municipalities
20 in which pursuant to law candidates for such office are not
21 permitted to be candidates of political parties.

22 At the consolidated primary election in the appropriate
23 odd-numbered years, municipal officers shall be nominated or
24 elected, or elected subject to a runoff, as may be provided by
25 an ordinance providing a form of government of the
26 municipality pursuant to Section 7 of Article VII of the

1 Constitution.

2 (e) (Blank).

3 (f) At any election established in Section 2A-1.1, public
4 questions may be submitted to voters pursuant to this Code and
5 any special election otherwise required or authorized by law
6 or by court order may be conducted pursuant to this Code.

7 Notwithstanding the regular dates for election of officers
8 established in this Article, whenever a referendum is held for
9 the establishment of a political subdivision whose officers
10 are to be elected, the initial officers shall be elected at the
11 election at which such referendum is held if otherwise so
12 provided by law. In such cases, the election of the initial
13 officers shall be subject to the referendum.

14 Notwithstanding the regular dates for election of
15 officials established in this Article, any community college
16 district which becomes effective by operation of law pursuant
17 to Section 6-6.1 of the Public Community College Act, as now or
18 hereafter amended, shall elect the initial district board
19 members at the next regularly scheduled election following the
20 effective date of the new district.

21 (g) At any election established in Section 2A-1.1, if in
22 any precinct there are no offices or public questions required
23 to be on the ballot under this Code then no election shall be
24 held in the precinct on that date.

25 (h) There may be conducted a referendum in accordance with
26 the provisions of Division 6-4 of the Counties Code.

(Source: P.A. 102-15, eff. 6-17-21; 102-177, eff. 6-1-22; 102-558, eff. 8-20-21; 102-691, eff. 12-17-21.)

(10 ILCS 5/2A-56 new)

Sec. 2A-56. Veterans assistance commissions; commissioners; time of election. A veteran assistance commissioner elected under Section 4.5 of the Military Veterans Assistance Act shall be elected at each consolidated election to succeed each incumbent commissioner whose term expires before the following consolidated election.

(10 ILCS 5/25-11) (from Ch. 46, par. 25-11)

Sec. 25-11. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, when a vacancy occurs in any elective county office, or in a county of less than 3,000,000 population in the office of clerk of the circuit court, in a county which is not a home rule unit, the county board or board of county commissioners shall declare that such vacancy exists and notification thereof shall be given to the county central committee or the appropriate county board or board of county commissioners district committee of each established political party within 3 days of the occurrence of the vacancy. The vacancy shall be filled within 60 days by appointment of the chair of the county board or board of county commissioners with the advice and consent of the county board or board of county commissioners. In counties other than Champaign County

1 operating under the county executive form of government under
2 Division 2-5 of the Counties Code, when a vacancy occurs in an
3 elected county office other than in the office of an elected
4 member of the county board, the county executive shall declare
5 that such vacancy exists and then notification of the vacancy
6 shall be given to the county central committee of each
7 established political party within 3 days of the occurrence of
8 the vacancy, and the vacancy shall be filled within 60 days by
9 appointment of the county executive with the advice and
10 consent of the county board. However, when a vacancy occurs in
11 the office of an elected member of the county board in a county
12 other than Champaign County that is operating under the county
13 executive form of government under Division 2-5 of the
14 Counties Code, the elected county board speaker or county
15 board chair, as the case may be, shall declare that such
16 vacancy exists and then notification shall be given to the
17 appropriate county board district committee of each
18 established political party within 3 days of the occurrence of
19 the vacancy, and the vacancy shall be filled within 60 days by
20 appointment of the elected county board speaker or county
21 board chair, as the case may be, with the advice and consent of
22 the county board. In Champaign County while operating under
23 the county executive form of government under Division 2-5 of
24 the Counties Code, when a vacancy occurs in an elected county
25 office or in the office of an elected member of the county
26 board, the elected county board speaker or county board chair,

1 as the case may be, shall declare that such vacancy exists and
2 then notification shall be given to the county central
3 committee or the appropriate county board district committee
4 of each established political party within 3 days of the
5 occurrence of the vacancy; and the vacancy shall be filled
6 within 60 days by appointment of the elected county board
7 speaker or county board chair, as the case may be, with the
8 advice and consent of the county board. In counties in which
9 forest preserve district commissioners are elected by
10 districts and are not also members of the county board,
11 however, vacancies in the office of forest preserve district
12 commissioner shall be filled within 60 days by appointment of
13 the president of the forest preserve district board of
14 commissioners with the advice and consent of the forest
15 preserve district board of commissioners. In counties in which
16 the forest preserve district president is not also a member of
17 the county board, vacancies in the office of forest preserve
18 district president shall be filled within 60 days by the
19 forest preserve district board of commissioners by appointing
20 one of the commissioners to serve as president. The appointee
21 shall be a member of the same political party as the person he
22 succeeds was at the time of his election and shall be otherwise
23 eligible to serve. The appointee shall serve the remainder of
24 the unexpired term. However, if more than 28 months remain in
25 the term, the appointment shall be until the next general
26 election at which time the vacated office shall be filled by

1 election for the remainder of the term. In the case of a
2 vacancy in a seat on a county board or board of county
3 commissioners which has been divided into districts under
4 Section 2-3003 or 2-4006.5 of the Counties Code, the appointee
5 must also be a resident of the county board or county
6 commission district. If a county commissioner ceases to reside
7 in the district that he or she represents, a vacancy in that
8 office exists. In the case of a vacancy in the office of
9 veteran assistance commissioner, the vacancy shall be filled
10 within 60 days by appointment of the president of the board of
11 commissioners with the advice and consent of the other
12 commissioners. The appointee shall be eligible to serve as
13 commissioner. The appointee shall serve the remainder of the
14 unexpired term. However, if more than 28 months remain in the
15 term, the appointment shall be until the next consolidated
16 election at which time the vacated office of veteran
17 assistance commissioner shall be filled by election for the
18 remainder of the term.

19 Except as otherwise provided by county ordinance or by
20 law, in any county which is a home rule unit, vacancies in
21 elective county offices, other than the office of chief
22 executive officer, and vacancies in the office of clerk of the
23 circuit court in a county of less than 3,000,000 population,
24 shall be filled by the county board or board of county
25 commissioners.

26 (Source: P.A. 102-1120, eff. 1-23-23.)

1 Section 10. The Military Veterans Assistance Act is
2 amended by changing Section 4 and by adding Section 4.5 as
3 follows:

4 (330 ILCS 45/4) (from Ch. 23, par. 3084)

5 Sec. 4.

6 (a) Prior to January 1, 2026, Upon the taking effect of
7 ~~this Act,~~ the commander of any veteran service organization or
8 any properly created Veterans Assistance Commission, which
9 shall undertake the assistance of military veterans and their
10 families, as hereinbefore provided, before the acts of the
11 commander, quartermaster, or commandant shall be operative in
12 any city or town, shall file with the city clerk of such city
13 or town clerk of such town, or administrator of military
14 veterans assistance of such town or county, a notice that said
15 veteran service organization or Veterans Assistance Commission
16 intends to undertake such assistance as is provided by this
17 Act, and such notice shall contain the names of the assistance
18 committee of the veteran service organization or Veterans
19 Assistance Commission in such city or town, and the commander
20 and other officers of said veteran service organization or
21 Veterans Assistance Commission. And the commander of the
22 veteran service organization or Veterans Assistance Commission
23 shall annually thereafter, during the month of October, file a
24 similar notice with the city or town clerk, or the

1 administrator of military veterans assistance, also a detailed
2 statement of the amount of assistance furnished during the
3 preceding year, with the names of all persons to whom such
4 assistance shall have been furnished, together with a brief
5 statement in such case from the assistance committee upon
6 whose recommendation the orders were drawn. Any person who
7 fails or neglects so to do at the time required by this Act
8 shall be guilty of a petty offense and fined \$250 to be
9 recovered in the name of the county in the circuit court.

10 (b) After January 1, 2026, the commander of any veteran
11 service organization or any properly created Veterans
12 Assistance Commission, which shall undertake the assistance of
13 military veterans and their families, as hereinbefore
14 provided, before the acts of the commander, quartermaster, or
15 commandant shall be operative in any city or town, shall file
16 with the city clerk of such city or town clerk of such town, or
17 administrator of military veterans assistance of such town or
18 county, a notice that said veteran service organization or
19 Veterans Assistance Commission intends to undertake such
20 assistance as is provided by this Act. After filing such
21 notice with the clerk, candidates for elected commissioner
22 shall file nominating petitions with the clerk in accordance
23 with Section 10-3.1 of the Election Code.

24 (Source: P.A. 102-732, eff. 1-1-23.)

1 Sec. 4.5. Veterans Assistance Commission; commissioner
2 elections.

3 (a) For every Veterans Assistance Commission properly
4 created under subsection (a) of Section 4 prior to January 1,
5 2026 and for every Veterans Assistance Commission properly
6 created under subsection (b) of Section 4 after January 1,
7 2026, the commissioners shall be elected as provided in this
8 Section, beginning with the first consolidated election
9 following January 1, 2026. There shall be 7 elected
10 commissioners, elected from the district at large. Each
11 commissioner must be a resident of the district and a veteran.
12 Candidates for elected commissioner shall file nominating
13 petitions with the clerk in accordance with Section 10-3.1 of
14 the Election Code. The terms of all elected commissioners
15 shall commence on the third Monday of the month following the
16 month of election. No party designation shall appear on the
17 ballot for the election of commissioners. The terms of all
18 officers who hold their position in accordance with the
19 process provided for in subsection (a) of Section 4 shall
20 expire on the third Monday of the month following the month of
21 the first election of commissioners in that city under this
22 Section.

23 (b) The initial elected commissioners shall, no later than
24 45 days after taking office, divide themselves publicly by lot
25 as equally as possible into 2 groups. Commissioners or their
26 successors from one group shall be elected for terms of 4

1 years; the initial elected commissioners from the second group
2 shall serve for terms of 2 years, and their successors shall be
3 elected for terms of 4 years.

4 (c) The commissioners shall elect from among their number
5 a president of the board of commissioners.

6 (d) Whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of
7 commissioner, whether by death, resignation, refusal to
8 qualify, no longer residing in the district, or for any other
9 reason, the board of commissioners shall declare that a
10 vacancy exists. The vacancy shall be filled within 60 days by
11 appointment of the president of the board of commissioners,
12 with the advice and consent of the other commissioners. The
13 appointee shall be eligible to serve as commissioner. The
14 appointee shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term. If,
15 however, more than 28 months remain in the term, the
16 appointment shall be until the next consolidated election, at
17 which time the vacated office of commissioner shall be filled
18 by election for the remainder of the term.

19 If a vacancy occurs in the office of president of the board
20 of commissioners, the remaining commissioners shall elect one
21 of their number to serve as president for the balance of the
22 unexpired term of the president in whose office the vacancy
23 occurred.

24 (e) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, elected
25 commissioners shall have the same powers and duties, and shall
26 be entitled to the same compensation, as enjoyed by

1 commissioners before January 1, 2026.

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
3 becoming law.