



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB3673

Introduced 2/5/2026, by Sen. Rachel Ventura

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/12A-2
10 ILCS 5/12A-5
10 ILCS 5/12A-10
10 ILCS 5/12A-35
10 ILCS 5/12A-36 new
10 ILCS 5/12A-37 new
10 ILCS 5/12A-38 new
10 ILCS 5/12A-39 new
10 ILCS 5/12A-45
10 ILCS 5/12A-50
10 ILCS 5/12A-55

Amends the Election Code. Any election authority maintaining a website shall publish, no later than the 45 days before a general election, an Internet Guide containing specified information. Sets forth provisions concerning language access and the election authority's review of candidate photographs, campaign finance attestations, and statements to be included in the Internet Guide. Makes changes in provisions concerning the Internet Guide published by the State Board of Elections.

LRB104 17932 SPS 31369 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 12A-2, 12A-5, 12A-10, 12A-35, 12A-45, 12A-50, and
6 12A-55 and by adding Sections 12A-36, 12A-37, 12A-38, and
7 12A-39 as follows:

8 (10 ILCS 5/12A-2)

9 Sec. 12A-2. Definitions. As used in this Article, unless
10 the context otherwise requires:

11 "Board" means the State Board of Elections.

12 "Internet Guide" refers to information disseminated by the
13 State Board of Elections on a website, pursuant to Section
14 12A-5.

15 "Local election authority" means a county clerk or board
16 of election commissioners.

17 "Public question" or "question" means any question,
18 proposition, or referendum submitted to the voters under
19 Article 28 of this Code.

20 "Statewide candidate" means any candidate who runs for a
21 statewide office, including Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
22 Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Comptroller,
23 United States President, or United States Senator.

1 "Voters' guide" means any information disseminated by the
2 State Board of Elections pursuant to Section 12A-5 or a local
3 election authority pursuant to Section 12A-39.

4 (Source: P.A. 94-645, eff. 8-22-05.)

5 (10 ILCS 5/12A-5)

6 Sec. 12A-5. Board Internet Guide. The Board shall
7 publish, no later than the 45th day before a general election
8 in which a statewide candidate appears on the ballot, an
9 Internet website with the following information:

10 (1) The date and time of the general election.

11 (2) Requirements for a citizen to qualify as an
12 elector.

13 (3) The deadline for registering as an elector in the
14 State of Illinois for the next election.

15 (4) Contact information for local election
16 authorities.

17 (5) A description of the following offices, when they
18 appear on the ballot, including their term of office,
19 basic duties, and base salary: United States President,
20 United States Senator, United States Representative,
21 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary
22 of State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Illinois Supreme Court
23 Judge, ~~and~~ Illinois Appellate Court Judge, State Senator,
24 and State Representative. The Board shall not include
25 information on any office other than the offices listed in

1 this item (5).

2 (6) The names and party affiliations of qualified
3 candidates for the following offices, when these offices
4 appear on the ballot: United States President, United
5 States Senator, United States Representative, Governor,
6 Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State,
7 Treasurer, Comptroller, Illinois Supreme Court Judge, ~~and~~
8 Illinois Appellate Court Judge, State Senator, and State
9 Representative. The Board shall not include information on
10 candidates for any office other than the offices listed in
11 this item (6).

12 (7) Challenged candidates. Where a candidate's right
13 to appear on the general election ballot has been
14 challenged, and any appeal remains pending regarding those
15 challenges, the challenged candidate may appear on the
16 Internet Guide, subject to the other provisions of Section
17 12A-10. In this instance, the Board may note that the
18 candidate's candidacy has been challenged and that he or
19 she may be removed from the ballot prior to election day.
20 If the candidate is removed from the ballot prior to
21 election day, the Board shall remove the candidate's name
22 and other information from the Internet Guide.

23 (8) Any personal statement, contact information,
24 campaign finance attestation, and photograph submitted by
25 a candidate named in the Internet Guide, subject to
26 Sections 12A-10 and 12A-35.

1 (9) A means by which an elector may determine what
2 type of balloting equipment is used by his or her local
3 election authority, and the instructions for properly
4 using that equipment.

5 (10) The text of any public question that may appear
6 on the ballot.

7 (11) A mechanism by which electors may determine in
8 which congressional and judicial districts they reside.
9 The Internet Guide shall allow visitors to search for
10 candidates by office (e.g., Governor or United States
11 Senator) and candidate's name.

12 (12) Information concerning how to become an election
13 judge.

14 The Board shall archive the contents of the Internet Guide
15 for a period of at least 5 years.

16 In addition, the Board has the discretion to publish a
17 voters' guide before a general primary election in the manner
18 provided in this Article.

19 (Source: P.A. 94-645, eff. 8-22-05.)

20 (10 ILCS 5/12A-10)

21 Sec. 12A-10. Candidate statements, campaign finance
22 attestation, and photographs in the Board Internet Guide.

23 (a) Any candidate whose name appears in the Internet Guide
24 may submit a written statement, contact information, campaign
25 finance attestation, and a photograph to appear in the

1 Internet Guide, provided that:

2 (1) No personal statement may exceed a brief biography
3 (name, age, education, and current employment) and an
4 additional 400 words.

5 (2) Contact ~~Personal statements may include contact~~
6 information for the candidate may include, ~~including~~ the
7 address and phone number of the campaign headquarters, and
8 the candidate's website.

9 (3) Personal statements may not mention a candidate's
10 opponents by name.

11 (4) No personal statement may include language that
12 may not be legally sent through the mail.

13 (5) The photograph shall be a conventional photograph
14 with a plain background and show only the face, or the
15 head, neck, and shoulders, of the candidate.

16 (5.5) If a candidate chooses to submit a campaign
17 finance attestation, it shall be signed by the candidate
18 and include an attestation that the candidate has not and
19 will not accept campaign contributions from corporate
20 political action committees or corporations during the
21 election.

22 (6) The photograph shall not (i) show the candidate's
23 hands, anything in the candidate's hands, or the candidate
24 wearing a judicial robe, a hat, or a military, police, or
25 fraternal uniform or (ii) include the uniform or insignia
26 of any organization.

1 If a candidate provides a signed campaign finance
2 attestation, the Internet Guide shall provide that: "The
3 candidate attests that the candidate has not and will not
4 accept campaign contributions from corporate political action
5 committees or corporations during the election." If a
6 candidate does not provide a signed campaign finance
7 attestation, the Internet Guide shall provide that: "No
8 campaign finance attestation was submitted by the candidate."

9 (b) The Board must note in the text of the Internet Guide
10 that personal statements were submitted by the candidate or
11 his or her designee and were not edited by the Board.

12 (c) Where a candidate declines to submit a statement, the
13 Board may note that the candidate declined to submit a
14 statement.

15 (d) (Blank.)

16 (e) Anyone other than the candidate submitting a
17 statement, campaign finance attestation, or photograph from a
18 candidate must attest that he or she is doing so on behalf and
19 at the direction of the candidate. The Board may assess a civil
20 fine of no more than \$1,000 against a person or entity who
21 falsely submits a statement or photograph not authorized by
22 the candidate.

23 (f) Nothing in this Article makes the author of any
24 statement exempt from any civil or criminal action because of
25 any defamatory statements offered for posting or contained in
26 the Internet Guide. The persons writing, signing, or offering

1 a statement for inclusion in the Internet Guide are deemed to
2 be its authors and publishers, and the Board shall not be
3 liable in any case or action relating to the content of any
4 material submitted by any candidate.

5 (g) The Board may set reasonable deadlines for the
6 submission of personal statements, campaign finance
7 attestation, and photographs.

8 (h) The Board may set formats for the submission of
9 statements, campaign finance attestation, and photographs. The
10 Board may require that statements, campaign finance
11 attestation, and photographs are submitted in an electronic
12 format.

13 (i) Fines collected pursuant to subsection (e) of this
14 Section shall be deposited into the Voters' Guide Fund, a
15 special fund created in the State treasury. Moneys in the
16 Voters' Guide Fund shall be appropriated solely to the State
17 Board of Elections for use in the implementation and
18 administration of this Article 12A.

19 (Source: P.A. 94-645, eff. 8-22-05; 95-699, eff. 11-9-07.)

20 (10 ILCS 5/12A-35)

21 Sec. 12A-35. Board's review of candidate photograph,
22 campaign finance attestation, and statement; procedure for
23 revision.

24 (a) If a candidate files a photograph, campaign finance
25 attestation, and statement under item (8) of Section 12A-5 in

1 a voters' guide, the Board shall review the photograph,
2 campaign finance attestation, and statement to ensure that
3 they comply with the requirements of Section 12A-10. Review by
4 the Board under this Section shall be limited to determining
5 whether the photograph and statement comply with the
6 requirements of Section 12A-10 and may not include any
7 determination relating to the accuracy or truthfulness of the
8 substance or contents of the materials filed.

9 (b) The Board shall review each photograph, campaign
10 finance attestation, and statement. If the Board determines
11 that the photograph or statement of a candidate must be
12 revised in order to comply with the requirements of Section
13 12A-10, the Board shall attempt to contact the candidate. A
14 candidate contacted by the Board under this Section may file a
15 revised photograph, campaign finance attestation, or statement
16 no later than the 5th business day following notification.

17 (c) If the Board is required to attempt to contact a
18 candidate under subsection (b) of this Section, the Board
19 shall attempt to contact the candidate by telephone or by
20 using an electronic transmission facsimile machine, if such
21 contact information is provided by the candidate.

22 (d) If the Board is unable to contact a candidate, if the
23 candidate does not file a revised photograph, campaign finance
24 attestation, or statement, or if the revised filing under
25 subsection (b) again fails to meet the standards of review set
26 by the Board:

1 (1) If a photograph does not comply with Section
2 12A-10, the Board may modify the photograph. The candidate
3 shall pay the expense of any modification before
4 publication of the photograph in the voters' guide. If the
5 photograph cannot be modified to comply with Section
6 12A-10, the photograph shall not be printed in the guide.

7 (2) If a statement does not comply with Section
8 12A-10, the statement shall not be published in the
9 voters' guide.

10 (e) If the photograph or statement of a candidate filed
11 under item (8) of Section 12A-5 does not comply with a
12 requirement of Section 12A-10 and the Board does not attempt
13 to contact the candidate by the deadline specified in
14 subsection (b) of this Section, then, for purposes of this
15 Section only, the photograph or statement shall be published
16 as filed.

17 (f) A candidate revising a photograph or statement under
18 this Section shall make only those revisions necessary to
19 comply with Section 12A-10.

20 (g) The Board may by rule define the term "contact" as used
21 in this Section.

22 (Source: P.A. 94-645, eff. 8-22-05; 95-699, eff. 11-9-07.)

23 (10 ILCS 5/12A-36 new)

24 Sec. 12A-36. Local Election Authority Internet Guide and
25 Mailed Voters' Guide. Any election authority maintaining a

1 website shall publish, no later than the 45 days before a
2 general election, the following information:

3 (1) The date and time of the general election.

4 (2) Requirements for a citizen to qualify as an
5 elector.

6 (3) The deadline for registering as an elector in this
7 State for the next election.

8 (4) Contact information for local election
9 authorities.

10 (5) A description of the offices that will appear on
11 the ballot, including their term of office, basic duties,
12 and base salary, excluding the offices that are governed
13 by the Board's Internet Guide in Section 12A-5 provided
14 that the local election authority provides a link to the
15 website domain of the Board's Internet Guide in Section
16 12A-5.

17 (6) The names and party affiliations of qualified
18 candidates for the offices that will appear on the ballot,
19 excluding the offices that are governed by the Board's
20 Internet Guide in Section 12A-5 provided that the local
21 election authority provides a link to the website domain
22 of the Board's Internet Guide in Section 12A-5.

23 (7) Challenged candidates. Where a candidate's right
24 to appear on the general election ballot has been
25 challenged, and any appeal remains pending regarding those
26 challenges, the challenged candidate may appear on the

1 Internet Guide, subject to the other provisions of Section
2 12A-37. In this instance, the local election authority may
3 note that the candidate's candidacy has been challenged
4 and that he or she may be removed from the ballot prior to
5 election day. If the candidate is removed from the ballot
6 prior to election day, the local election authority shall
7 remove the candidate's name and other information from the
8 Internet Guide.

9 (8) Any personal statement, contact information,
10 campaign finance attestation, and photograph submitted by
11 a candidate named in the Internet Guide, subject to
12 Sections 12A-37 and 12A-39.

13 (9) A means by which an elector may determine what
14 type of balloting equipment is used by the local election
15 authority, and the instructions for properly using that
16 equipment.

17 (10) The text of any public question that may appear
18 on the ballot.

19 (11) A mechanism by which electors may determine in
20 which congressional, judicial, and state legislative
21 districts they reside. The Internet Guide shall allow
22 visitors to search for candidates by office (e.g.,
23 Governor or United States Senator) and candidate's name.

24 (12) Information concerning how to become an election
25 judge.

26 The local election authority shall archive the contents of

1 the Internet Guide for a period of at least 5 years.

2 In addition, the local election authority has the
3 discretion to publish a voters' guide before a general primary
4 election in the manner provided in this Article.

5 Any local election authority that mails out a sample
6 ballot prior to a general election shall compile the
7 information included in the Local Election Authority Internet
8 Guide into a Voters' Guide that shall get mailed out to voters
9 in the jurisdiction with the sample ballot. In lieu of the
10 requirement to mail out the contents of the Local Election
11 Authority Internet Guide, a local election authority that
12 mails out a sample ballot prior to a general election may mail
13 out to voters within the jurisdiction the website domain where
14 the Local Election Authority Internet Guide is located. A
15 local election authority may work with the Board to access
16 moneys in the Voters' Guide Fund to implement this Section.
17 Dispersal of Voters' Guide Fund moneys is at the discretion of
18 the Board.

19 (10 ILCS 5/12A-37 new)

20 Sec. 12A-37. Candidate statements, campaign finance
21 attestation, and photographs in the Local Election Authority
22 Internet Guide.

23 (a) Any candidate whose name appears in the Internet Guide
24 may submit a written statement, contact information, campaign
25 finance attestation, and a photograph to appear in the

1 Internet Guide, provided that:

2 (1) No personal statement may exceed a brief biography
3 (name, age, education, and current employment) and an
4 additional 400 words.

5 (2) Contact information for the candidate may include
6 the address and phone number of the campaign headquarters,
7 and the candidate's website.

8 (3) Personal statements may not mention a candidate's
9 opponents by name.

10 (4) No personal statement may include language that
11 may not be legally sent through the mail.

12 (5) If a candidate chooses to submit a campaign
13 finance attestation, it shall be signed by the candidate
14 and include an attestation that the candidate has not and
15 will not accept campaign contributions from corporate
16 political action committees or corporations during the
17 election.

18 (6) The photograph shall be a conventional photograph
19 with a plain background and show only the face, or the
20 head, neck, and shoulders, of the candidate.

21 (7) The photograph shall not (i) show the candidate's
22 hands, anything in the candidate's hands, or the candidate
23 wearing a judicial robe, a hat, or a military, police, or
24 fraternal uniform or (ii) include the uniform or insignia
25 of any organization.

26 If a candidate provides a signed campaign finance

1 attestation, the Internet Guide shall provide that: "The
2 candidate attests that the candidate has not and will not
3 accept campaign contributions from corporate political action
4 committees or corporations during the election." If a
5 candidate does not provide a signed campaign finance
6 attestation, the Internet Guide shall provide that: "No
7 campaign finance attestation was submitted by the candidate."

8 (b) The local election authority must note in the text of
9 the Internet Guide that personal statements were submitted by
10 the candidate or his or her designee and were not edited by the
11 Board.

12 (c) Where a candidate declines to submit a statement, the
13 local election authority may note that the candidate declined
14 to submit a statement.

15 (d) Anyone other than the candidate submitting a
16 statement, campaign finance attestation, or photograph from a
17 candidate must attest that he or she is doing so on behalf and
18 at the direction of the candidate. The local election
19 authority may assess a civil fine of no more than \$1,000
20 against a person or entity who falsely submits a statement or
21 photograph not authorized by the candidate.

22 (e) Nothing in this Article makes the author of any
23 statement exempt from any civil or criminal action because of
24 any defamatory statements offered for posting or contained in
25 the Internet Guide. The persons writing, signing, or offering
26 a statement for inclusion in the Internet Guide are deemed to

1 be its authors and publishers, and the local election
2 authority shall not be liable in any case or action relating to
3 the content of any material submitted by any candidate.

4 (f) The local election authority may set reasonable
5 deadlines for the submission of personal statements, campaign
6 finance attestation, and photographs.

7 (g) The local election authority may set formats for the
8 submission of statements, campaign finance attestation, and
9 photographs. The Board may require that statements, campaign
10 finance attestation, and photographs are submitted in an
11 electronic format.

12 (h) Fines collected pursuant to subsection (d) of this
13 Section shall be deposited into the Voters' Guide Fund, a
14 special fund created in the State treasury. Moneys in the
15 Voters' Guide Fund shall be appropriated solely to the State
16 Board of Elections for use in the implementation and
17 administration of this Article 12A.

18 (10 ILCS 5/12A-38 new)

19 Sec. 12A-38. Language. The local election authority may
20 translate all of the material it is required to provide for the
21 Internet Guide into other languages as it deems necessary to
22 comply with the federal Voting Rights Act or at its
23 discretion. Visitors to the site shall have the option of
24 viewing the Guide in all languages into which the Guide has
25 been translated. Candidates may, at their option and expense,

1 submit statements in languages other than English. The Board
2 shall not be responsible for translating candidate statements.

3 (10 ILCS 5/12A-39 new)

4 Sec. 12A-39. Local election authority's review of
5 candidate photograph, campaign finance attestation, and
6 statement; procedure for revision.

7 (a) If a candidate files a photograph, campaign finance
8 attestation, and statement under item (8) of Section 12A-36 in
9 a voters' guide, the local election authority shall review the
10 photograph, campaign finance attestation, and statement to
11 ensure that they comply with the requirements of Section
12 12A-37. Review by the local election authority under this
13 Section shall be limited to determining whether the photograph
14 and statement comply with the requirements of Section 12A-37
15 and may not include any determination relating to the accuracy
16 or truthfulness of the substance or contents of the materials
17 filed.

18 (b) The local election authority shall review each
19 photograph, campaign finance attestation, and statement. If
20 the local election authority determines that the photograph or
21 statement of a candidate must be revised in order to comply
22 with the requirements of Section 12A-37, the Board shall
23 attempt to contact the candidate. A candidate contacted by the
24 local election authority under this Section may file a revised
25 photograph, campaign finance attestation, or statement no

1 later than the 5th business day following notification.

2 (c) If the local election authority is required to attempt
3 to contact a candidate under subsection (b) of this Section,
4 the local election authority shall attempt to contact the
5 candidate by telephone or by using an electronic transmission
6 facsimile machine, if such contact information is provided by
7 the candidate.

8 (d) If the local election authority is unable to contact a
9 candidate, if the candidate does not file a revised
10 photograph, campaign finance attestation, or statement, or if
11 the revised filing under subsection (b) again fails to meet
12 the standards of review set by the local election authority:

13 (1) If a photograph does not comply with Section
14 12A-37, the local election authority may modify the
15 photograph. The candidate shall pay the expense of any
16 modification before publication of the photograph in the
17 voters' guide. If the photograph cannot be modified to
18 comply with Section 12A-37, the photograph shall not be
19 printed in the guide.

20 (2) If a statement does not comply with Section
21 12A-10, the statement shall not be published in the
22 voters' guide.

23 (e) If the photograph or statement of a candidate filed
24 under item (8) of Section 12A-36 does not comply with a
25 requirement of Section 12A-37 and the local election authority
26 does not attempt to contact the candidate by the deadline

1 specified in subsection (b) of this Section, then, for
2 purposes of this Section only, the photograph or statement
3 shall be published as filed.

4 (f) A candidate revising a photograph or statement under
5 this Section shall make only those revisions necessary to
6 comply with Section 12A-37.

7 (g) The local election authority may use the definition
8 for "contact" as created by the Board by rule under Section
9 12A-35.

10 (10 ILCS 5/12A-45)

11 Sec. 12A-45. Material submitted for inclusion in any
12 voters' guide may not be admitted as evidence in any suit or
13 action against the Board or local election authority to
14 restrain or enjoin the publication of a voters' guide.

15 (Source: P.A. 94-645, eff. 8-22-05.)

16 (10 ILCS 5/12A-50)

17 Sec. 12A-50. Order of appearance within the guides. For
18 all guides disseminated by the Board or local election
19 authority, all information about offices and candidates on the
20 ballot shall be listed together in the same part of the guide
21 or insert. All candidates for one office, together with their
22 statements and photographs if any, shall be listed before
23 information on other offices and candidates is listed. To the
24 extent possible, offices and candidates shall be listed in the

1 same order in which they appear on the ballot.

2 (Source: P.A. 94-645, eff. 8-22-05.)

3 (10 ILCS 5/12A-55)

4 Sec. 12A-55. Constitutional issues. If a constitutional
5 amendment appears on the ballot, the contents of the pamphlet
6 issued by the Secretary of State under Section 2 of the
7 Illinois Constitutional Amendment Act may be included in any
8 guide issued by the Board or local election authority.

9 (Source: P.A. 94-645, eff. 8-22-05.)