



## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB4838

Introduced 1/27/2022, by Rep. Carol Ammons

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/11-9 new

Amends the Election Code. Allows the election authority in Champaign County to establish a pilot program that creates one or more vote centers for an election. Provides that if a vote center is used in a political subdivision, precinct polling places shall not also be used in the election in that political subdivision, unless each precinct polling place has a secure electronic connection to provide voting information to and receive voting information from the online voter registration system maintained by the election authority. Requires each vote center used to have a secure electronic connection to the online voter registration system maintained by the election authority permitting all voting information processed by any computer at a vote center to be immediately accessible to all other computers at all vote centers in the county and the ability for each voter to securely cast their ballot in a tabulation machine designed and programmed to accept all ballot styles for the current election. Provides for the number, location, and manner of operation and location of vote centers. Provides that vote centers shall receive and return all election supplies and ballots as a single entity, not by individual precinct requirements. Includes provisions concerning minimum requirements for operation of vote centers, early voting, and election judge requirements. Defines "vote center" to mean a polling place at which any registered elector or eligible elector in the political subdivision holding the election may vote, regardless of the precinct in which the elector resides. Repeals the provisions on January 1, 2025.

LRB102 25389 AWJ 34670 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 adding Section  
5 11-9 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 5/11-9 new)

7 Sec. 11-9. Vote center pilot program; Champaign County.

8 (a) As used in this Section, "vote center" means a polling  
9 place at which any registered elector or eligible elector in  
10 the political subdivision holding the election may vote,  
11 regardless of the precinct in which the elector resides.

12 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,  
13 the election authority in Champaign County may establish a  
14 pilot program that creates one or more vote centers for any  
15 election. The election authority shall publish the location of  
16 the vote centers pursuant to Article 12.

17 (c) If vote centers are used in an election in a political  
18 subdivision, precinct polling places shall not also be used in  
19 the election in that political subdivision, unless each  
20 precinct polling place has a secure electronic connection to  
21 provide voting information to and receive voting information  
22 from the online voter registration system maintained by the  
23 election authority.

1       (d) Each vote center used shall have a secure electronic  
2 connection to the online voter registration system maintained  
3 by the election authority permitting all voting information  
4 processed by any computer at a vote center to be immediately  
5 accessible to all other computers at all vote centers in the  
6 county and the ability for each voter to securely cast their  
7 ballot in a tabulation machine designed and programmed to  
8 accept all ballot styles for the current election.

9       (e) The number, location, and manner of operation and  
10 location of vote centers shall be determined by the election  
11 authority based on this Section.

12       There shall be at least one vote center per political  
13 subdivision (excluding townships) with a population of at  
14 least 2,500. Additional sites shall be added for every 5,000  
15 registered voters in the political subdivision. If a  
16 geographical area exists in a county where there is no voting  
17 center required based on population within a 7.5 mile radius  
18 of a political subdivision, a precinct-based polling location  
19 or a vote center must be utilized. Number and placement of  
20 multiple vote centers in a political subdivision shall include  
21 abutting precincts that are in unincorporated area. The  
22 election authority shall calculate the population based upon  
23 the federal decennial census immediately preceding the  
24 election.

25       There shall be at least one vote center: in each  
26 minority-majority county board district (based upon the

1 federal decennial census immediately preceding the election);  
2 on a university campus; in the clerk's office or appropriate  
3 designation as determined by the clerk; and in every 10  
4 contiguous precincts, regardless of township, where there are  
5 no more than 10,000 active voters. The vote center at the  
6 university shall be at the student union or other common area  
7 open to the public and shall be conducted as required under  
8 Section 1-12, including early voting, grace period  
9 registration, and grace period voting.

10 The election authority reserves the right to use any  
11 public building as vote center for any or all of the voting  
12 period. Upon request by an election authority, a unit of local  
13 government shall make the unit's public buildings within the  
14 election authority's jurisdiction available as a vote center,  
15 which may or may not, at the election authority's discretion,  
16 serve early voting, without charge. The unit of local  
17 government shall make the building available at a reasonable  
18 time before and after the period of voting is conducted at that  
19 building. The unit of local government shall ensure that any  
20 portion of the building made available is accessible to voters  
21 with disabilities and elderly voters.

22 (f) Vote centers shall receive and return all election  
23 supplies and ballots as a single entity, not by individual  
24 precinct requirements. Any other statutory reference  
25 pertaining to precinct-based polling places shall apply to  
26 vote centers as a single entity, not as housing individual

1 precincts.

2 (g) On election day, all vote centers shall be open for  
3 voting from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Anyone in line at 7 p.m. is  
4 entitled to vote. Each vote center or precinct-based polling  
5 place shall, at minimum, have 2 voter-processing stations. For  
6 a vote center or precinct-based polling place with more than  
7 3,000 registered voters, each center or polling place shall  
8 have an additional 1 voter-processing station for up to 1,000  
9 registered voters.

10 The minimum number of election judges during early voting  
11 per polling place, either vote center or precinct-based, shall  
12 be the number of voter processing stations plus 1. Of the  
13 minimum 3 election judges, one shall be a member of the  
14 political party represented by a majority of the commissioners  
15 and one a member of the political party represented by a  
16 minority of such commissioners. The first time a vote center  
17 is used as the home precinct (the precinct the vote center is  
18 physically located in), the majority/minority political party  
19 representation as provided in this paragraph determines  
20 election judge ratios. In subsequent elections, the political  
21 party representation shall be determined by the voter turnout  
22 at that site in the previous primary election.

23 A minimum of one voting booth is required for every 500  
24 registered voters in a political subdivision and the voting  
25 booths shall be evenly divided between the vote centers within  
26 that political subdivision. For every 5 booths required, a

1 minimum of one must be ADA compliant. If less than 5 booths are  
2 required, at least 1 ADA-compliant booth is required. Partial  
3 numbers shall be rounded to the next highest whole number.

4 Vote centers shall have at least 1 specimen copy of every  
5 ballot style available for voter review upon request.

6 The Champaign County Clerk has the discretion to  
7 reasonably adjust additional procedures outlined in this Code  
8 to fit the use of vote centers.

9 (h) All vote center provisions outlined in this Section  
10 apply to the use of vote centers as early voting sites. Vote  
11 centers opened as early voting site must open at least 1 day  
12 before Election Day and offer at least 6 hours of voting time  
13 on weekdays and 4 hours on Saturday and Sunday.

14 Election judge coverage for early voting at a vote center  
15 may be done in shifts and entire days of service are not  
16 required. On election day, judges must serve the entire day.

17 (i) Election judges for vote centers must attend 4 hours  
18 of training and pass a test drafted by the Champaign County  
19 Clerk. Commissioned judges are not exempt from the training  
20 and test required in this subsection.

21 (j) If any provision of law conflicts with any part of this  
22 Section, this Section prevails.

23 (k) This Section is repealed on January 1, 2025.