

**Election Laws**  
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The second session of the 96th General Assembly that ended in January 2011 passed a number of election laws bills of interest to the League.

**PA 96-0886** – changed the Illinois primary back to March.

**PA 96-1018** – requires the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor to run as a team in the primary.

**PA 96-1008** – altered the time periods for petition filing for candidates and referenda; and for withdrawals, filling vacancies, objections, and ballot certification. Most dates are one or more weeks earlier. To obtain specific dates go to the State Board of Elections website [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov).

This legislation removed the requirement that applications for absentee ballots must be supplied by the election authority; permitting any person to reproduce, distribute, and return an application and requiring the election authority to promptly process any returned application. It also called for a pilot project for the conduct of grace period registration and early voting on campuses at the 2010 general election.

It amended the Revised Cities and Villages Act of 1941 making the deadline for withdrawal of an aldermanic candidate the date of certification of the election ballot. Previously it had been the twentieth day before the election. It also amended the Liquor Act of 1934 requiring that local referenda petitions be filed at least 104 days before the election and objections to those petitions be filed up to 72 days before the election.

**PA 96-1263** – requires that each political committee required to file campaign finance reports electronically must be capable of electronically receiving information from the State Board of Elections. This law took effect in July 2010.

**PA 96-1004** – was passed in response to the Federal MOVE Act (Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act). It allows for the use of the State Write-in ballots in all elections.

**PA 96-0512** -- amends the Election Code to permit the spouse and dependents of active-duty members of the U.S. armed forces to vote military absentee ballots. It permits return delivery of military and overseas ballots by mail, in person by a specified relative or by a licensed motor carrier.

**PA 96-1484** – amends the Election Code authorizing county clerks to use an electronic system for reporting deaths to purge voter registration records of the names of deceased voters and requires that the county clerk must cancel the voter registrations of deceased persons on a monthly basis.

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