Vote Tabulation Information  
Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago

Jurisdiction: All 2,069 precincts in the City of Chicago
Mailing address and contact information for chief election official:
   Executive Director
   Chicago Election Board
   69 W. Washington St., Suite 800
   Chicago IL 60602
Agency Phone: 312-269-7900 (TTY 312-269-0027 for hearing impaired)

For queries on Election Day: Election Central – 312-269-7870

Site where unofficial election results are made available to news media, campaigns and the general public:
   www.chicagoelections.com  69 W. Washington St., 6th Floor
   Chicago IL 60602

Is there cell phone reception at this office? Yes

Does the agency have a pre-election website: Yes www.chicagoelections.com

Does the agency have an Election Night website with live unofficial results? Yes www.chicagoelections.com

When will unofficial results at the precinct level become available at this web site?
   Historically, the web site has made precinct-level unofficial results available starting sometime at or about the hour of 2 a.m. the morning after the election.

When are the polling places open?
   All polls are to be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central Time on Election Day.

Are there ever exceptions to the time when polling places close?
   In the event that a polling place (or polling places) were delayed in opening and that delay caused voters to be turned away from that polling place, the Board has the option to file in Circuit Court to seek an extension of the closing hour only at the affected polling place(s). If the Board seeks and obtains an order, any votes cast after 7 p.m. should be cast on provisional ballots.

How, when and where votes are tabulated

- Are votes tabulated in the polling place?
   Yes. Judges of Election print and display tapes of the unofficial results from the precinct for credentialed media and poll watchers in the precinct at the close of polls. These tapes provide only the unofficial results of ballots that were cast that day in that polling place. These tapes do not include absentee and early voting ballot counts.
• How are unofficial results sent to a satellite tabulation center or a centralized tabulation center?
  Unofficial results are transmitted electronically to the central counting station. The records and memory devices also are transported to the satellite site that is designated for that section of the City. In the event that the transmission of unofficial results from the precinct could not be completed, the transmission is attempted again from the satellite site. In all cases, the materials from the satellite sites are transported to the central counting station downtown. If transmission of results also cannot be completed at the satellite site, transmission then can be attempted yet again at the central tabulation office at 69 W. Washington St.

• At the election agency and on the agency’s web site, how will the unofficial results be reported and released?
  Results will be reported in cumulative fashion for each precinct. This means that the unofficial results reported by precinct will contain a merged total of all Early Voting and Grace Period Voting and all available Absentee Voting counts for that precinct – as well as Election Day voting in the precinct. By law, absentee ballots may continue to arrive and are eligible to be added to the counts for up to 14 days after the date of the election. Provisional ballots also will not be part of the initial count, as those provisional voter documents must be reviewed before any determination can be made on whether the voter was eligible to cast a provisional ballot in that precinct. Provisional voters have a week to submit supporting documents, and the election agency has up to 14 days to make determinations on provisional ballots.

• How will the candidates’ unofficial vote totals be displayed on Election Night?
  The unofficial results will be offered in the same order that the candidates appear on the ballots.

• How many updated vote reports will be made during the course of Election Night?
  In recent years, it has been common for unofficial results to begin being reported at 7:20 p.m. Historically, updates have appeared every 15-25 minutes that follow.

• When does the agency reach 100% of precincts with unofficial counts?
  The agency normally reaches between 97-98% of precincts on Election Night. Normally, the agency reaches 100% of precincts with unofficial counts the Wednesday afternoon after the election. The exceptions are the few precincts that have flawed memory sticks or cartridges. When this occurs, the agency issues a public notice of the public site and time where and when the Election Board will create new cartridges. At that designated site and time, the agency will unseal the election materials from the affected precinct(s) and process the ballots in front of any who care to witness the process. Unofficial results from those precincts are then made available and added to the unofficial totals.
When will provisional and late-arriving (post Election Day) ballots be counted?
In the two weeks that follow Election Day. Any and all counting procedures will be announced through public notice and at www.chicagoelections.com. NOTE: All “Grace Period” ballots cast Nov. 3 and Nov. 4 by those who registered or updated registrations on those dates will be provisional ballots.

When are pre-election ballots (Early Voting, Grace Period Voting and thoseAbsentee Ballots that are received prior to Election Day) tabulated?
The Board uploads pre-election ballots as the polls are closing but only tabulates and issues unofficial results from each precinct when the unofficial results of the Election Day voting from the precinct can be added, merged and reported together.
For example, if voters from Precinct 1 in Ward 1 were to cast 20 ballots in Early Voting and Absentee Voting and 80 ballots in the polling place on Election Day, the agency will report the unofficial results of all 100 ballots when the unofficial results can be merged, tallied and reported together. Until and unless the unofficial results from all 80 Election Day voting in that precinct can be reported, the unofficial results of the other 20 Early and Absentee voting also will not be reported from that precinct.

Are post-Election Day absentee and Provisional Voting totals made public?
Yes, any counting process is announced through public notice and on the Board’s web site at www.chicagoelections.com. Unofficial results are issued at the site at the conclusion of any counting process, and the unofficial results are updated at the Board’s web site as soon as possible.

When do the “unofficial” results become “official” results?
The initial tabulations are all unofficial until the Board completes its canvass and issues its proclamation of results.
The schedule of the canvass is released before Election Day through public notice and on the Board’s web site www.chicagoelections.com.

By law, the agency must complete the canvass process and proclaim the results of the election and transmit a tabulated statement of returns to the County Clerk and State Board of Elections by the close of business 21 days after the election or sooner, if possible.