

VOTE FRAUD is a clear intent or action aimed at depriving a voter of his right to vote or falsifying actual votes cast. Voters can play a major role in helping to guarantee clean elections by being on the alert for unusual activities at or near polling places and reporting irregularities to election authorities. Some of the more common methods of fraudulent activity include:

- Vote buying, offering money or gifts to a voter to vote for a specific candidate;
- Chain balloting, taking a previously marked ballot from the polls and passing it to a voter entering the polls;
- Ghost voting, voting under the name of a deceased person a fictitious name, or a nonexistent address;
- Altering the figures on the tally sheet during the counting of ballots.

IF A VOTER SPOTS SOMETHING THAT HE/SHE KNOWS SHOULD NOT BE HAPPENING AT THE POLLS, HE/SHE SHOULD REPORT IT *IMMEDIATELY* TO THE ELECTION JUDGES AND/OR APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES.

The following are telltale signs that you should be suspicious of:

- Money changing hands in or near the polls.
- Someone passing a folded piece of paper or card to a voter who hides it on his/her person. NOTE: voters may possess and use sample ballots to assist them while voting.
- A person claiming to be someone else in order to vote. Also, someone giving an address or place that you know is an empty lot. Or, if you know a person doesn't live at the address which he claims.
- More than one person in a voting booth, except under these circumstances: If a disabled person signed an affidavit requesting assistance, he may have a friend or two judges of election (one from each party) assist him.
- Electioneering within the Campaign Free Zone.
- Intoxicated voters being given assistance in the voting booth.

- Election Judges from both major parties are not represented in the polling place where major political parties are listed on the ballot.
- The judges of election are not in control of the polling place; for example, if you see someone giving offers to the election judges.

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PRECEDING TELLTALE
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Many voting irregularities are often misconstrued as vote fraud. These occur as a result of misunderstanding election laws or through malfunction of voting devices.

REMEMBER.....

- The judges of election are the sole authority in the polling place on election day.
- No person, except a judge, may handle or touch election supplies and materials.
- A police officer may be in the polling place to preserve order and carry out lawful directions given by the judges.
- Pollwatchers are official observers only. They may observe the conduct of the election before, during, and after the polls close. All pollwatchers must present valid credentials upon entering the polling place.
- Electioneering, or any type of campaigning, must not take place in the Campaign Free Zone during voting hours.

YOU CAN HELP TO PREVENT VOTE FRAUD BY REPORTING UNUSUAL ACTIVITIES OR IRREGULARITIES IMMEDIATELY TO THE ELECTION JUDGES AND/OR THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES.

A primary goal of the State Board of Elections is to help bring about greater understanding and participation in the electoral process.

For more information on election laws and procedures, write or call the State Board of Elections



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Preventing VOTE FRAUD



Your Illinois State Board of Elections advises that you, the voter, are the chief safeguard against vote fraud. And you can play a major role in helping to guarantee fair and honest elections.