

Voting and Elections

- Voting is a Constitutional right
 - 1870
 - amendment for black citizens to vote
 - 1920
 - amendment for women to vote
 - 1971
 - amendment for 18 year olds to vote

- Primaries
 - Elections held by major political parties to decide a candidate prior to the general election

- General elections
 - biennial elections
 - held every two years

- Other elections
 - judicial, township, municipal, school, village, park district, etc.

- Voting Requirements
 - 18 by election day
 - live in district for 30 days
 - US citizen
 - cannot claim right to vote outside Illinois
 - Registered

- Early Voting
 - in person
 - by mail

- Referendums
 - People can vote on a public issue
 - Example: School district asks about building new school buildings

- Two Party System
 - Democrat and Republican
 - smaller parties are known as third parties

- Voter turnout
 - 60 percent in last election

- Constitutional Convention in Illinois
 - every 20 years choice given to people for new constitutional convention
 - question presented again in 2028

Municipal Government

-municipality (city, village or town)

Mayor and Council Form

-mayor

-chief executive officer

-veto power (overridden by 2/3 vote by council)

-council

-6 to 20 members

-cities divided into wards with 1, 2, or 3 aldermen or alderwomen from those districts

Trustee Village Form

-village president

-6 trustees

-all have 2-4 years terms

Commission Form

-less than 200,000 population

-elected mayor and four commissioners for 4 yr terms

-no other elected officers

Council Manger Form

-elected council

-appoints a city manager

Strong Mayor

-8 to 20 aldermen

-mayor is more powerful than other forms

-Example: does not need approval for appointments

Home Rule

-local government determines own affairs

Local Government

-special purpose counties, districts and townships

Special Purpose Districts

-Examples: public school, forest preserve, park district

County Government

-102 counties in Illinois

-has a governing body—the county board

-county seat is the governmental center of each county

Townships

-counties are divided into townships

Financing State and Local Governments

-over \$1 trillion is spent each year in our country

Limits on State Taxes

-imposed on states by Constitution, state laws and state constitution

Types of Taxes

-Sales

-Income

-Property

State Budget

-Total for this year exceeds 42.8 billion