Section Six: Grow Your Own Voters
With Betty Magness and Alice Tregay, Rainbow/PUSH

GROW YOUR OWN VOTERS

Voting is a right, not a privilege! Growing your own voters can mean the difference between winning and losing. Registration drives are an important part of your campaign.

BEGIN VIDEO

After a successful petition drive, the next step in a campaign is the registration drive. During a door-to-door petition drive, you should have found people who were not registered. If you did not take steps to get them registered at that time, you will want to go back to them now. The registration drive is the best chance to find all the voters who need to register, as well as those who no longer live in the precincts you are covering. At this point, report nights should occur twice weekly to gather information from the precinct workers on the progress of registering new voters.

The registration drive is also an opportunity to familiarize people with your candidate. You should provide your precinct workers with registration piece to leave as they go door-to-door. This piece should have complete information about registration opportunities, and should say that this information is being provided by your candidate. It should also include the name of the office for which your candidate is running, the candidate's party affiliation, the date of the election, website address, email, the address and phone number of the campaign office, and the names of any well-known endorsers, along with a statement that further information about registration can be had at your campaign headquarters. This piece can be a simple sheet or a brochure with photos, etc. Everyone doing registration work for your candidate should have copies of this piece to distribute.

In October 1996 Illinois came into compliance with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), known familiarly as motor-voter. Since then we have had two valid registration systems in the state.

Volunteer Deputy Registrars

Any group can apply and participate in this program. Anyone who is at present a Deputy Registrar, or any civic organization which sponsors Deputy Registrars, can continue to register voters on the same non-partisan basis as in the past. **Deputy Registrars may not combine voter registration with any partisan political activities.** That means they cannot carry literature for any candidate or party or talk to voters about a candidate while doing voter registration. (For more information on how to become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar, see Appendix.)

Below is a sample voter registration form.

ILLINOIS VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Suggested, August 2008

SBE R-19

FOR ILLINOIS RESIDENTS ONLY

TO VOTE YOU MUST:

- Be a United States citizen
- Be at least 18 years old
- Live in your election precinct at least 30 days
- Not be convicted and in jail
- Not claim the right to vote anywhere else

TO VOTE IN THE NEXT ELECTION:

- **Mail or deliver this application to your County Clerk or Board of Election Commissioners no later than 28 days before the next election. (click here for County Clerk/Election Board listings) or go to www.elections.il.gov**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- If you do not have a driver's license, State Identification Card or social security number, and this form is submitted by mail, and you have never registered to vote in the jurisdiction you are now registering in, then you must send, with this application, either (i) a copy of a current and valid photo identification, or (ii) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. If you do not provide the information required above, then you will be required to provide election officials with either (i) or (ii) described above the first time you vote at a voting place or by absentee ballot.
- If you change your name you must re-register.
- If you register at a public service agency, any information regarding the agency that assisted you will remain confidential as will any decision not to register.
- If you do not receive a Notice within 2 weeks of mailing or delivering this application, call your County Clerk or Board of Election Commissioners.

TO COMPLETE THIS FORM:

- Box 1-If you do not have a middle name, leave blank.
- Box 3-If mailing address is same as Box 2, write "same".
- Box 4-If you have never registered before, leave blank. If you do not remember your former address; provide as much information as possible.
- Box 5-If you have not changed your name, leave blank.
- Box 9-If you have an Illinois Driver's License or Secretary of State ID, check the first box and fill in the number. If you do not have a Driver's License or SOS ID, check the second box and fill in the last four digits of your Social Security Number. If you do not have a SSN, check the third box and send a copy of the appropriate document (as described in the "Important Information" section) along with this form.
- 10-Read, date and personally sign your name or make your mark in the box.

IF YOU HAVE NO STREET ADDRESS,

below describe your home: list the name of subdivision; cross streets; roads; landmarks; mileage and/or neighbors' names.

N

W E

S

If you have questions about completing this form, please call the State Board of Elections at (217)782-4141 or (312)814-6440 (or webmaster@elections.il.gov).

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY IN BLACK OR BLUE INK

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? (check one) yes ☐ no ☐
Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day? (check one) yes ☐ no ☐
If you checked "no" in response to either of these questions, then do not complete this form.

Office Use

You can use this form to: (Check One) ☐ apply to register to vote in Illinois ☐ change your address ☐ change your name

1. Last Name | First Name | Middle Name or Initial | Suffix (Circle One) Jr. Sr. II III IV

2. Address where you live (House No., Street Name, Apt. No.) | City/Village/Town | Zip Code | County | Township

3. Mailing address (P.O. Box) | City/Village/Town, State | Zip Code

4. Former Registration Address: (include City and State and Zip Code) | Former County

5. Former Name: (if changed)

6. Date of Birth: MM/DD/YY

7. Sex (circle one) M F

8. Home telephone number including area code (optional) ( ) -

9. ID number – check the applicable box and provide the appropriate number
☐ IL Driver's License or, if none, Sec. of State ID or
☐ Last 4 digits of Social Security Number
☐ I have none of the above-listed identification numbers.

10. Voter Affidavit – Read all statements and sign within the box to the right.
I swear or affirm that

- I am a citizen of the United States;
- I will be at least 18 years old on or before the next election;
- I will have lived in the State of Illinois and in my election precinct at least 30 days as of the date of the next election;
- The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information, then I may be fined, imprisoned, or if I am not a U.S. citizen, deported from or refused entry into the United States.

This is my signature or mark in the space below.

Today's Date: ____/____/____

11. If you cannot sign your name, ask the person who helped you fill in this form to print their name, address and telephone number.
Name of person assisting. | Full Address | Telephone No.

NVRA

The NVRA program is open to any person qualified to vote, i.e., a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, who may use the NVRA forms personally or distribute them for the purpose of registering, changing an address, or changing a name. Completed NVRA forms may be mailed or delivered in person to the local election authority or county clerk. The Chicago Board of Election Commissioners will ask anyone who requests or returns 50 or more NVRA forms to fill out a Return/Request Form. Below is a sample.

Voter Registration Application

Before completing this form, review the General, Application, and State specific instructions.

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Will you be 18 years old on or before election day? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you checked "No" in response to either of these questions, do not complete form.

(Please see state-specific instructions for rules regarding eligibility to register prior to age 18.)

This space for office use only.

1	(Circle one) Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	(Circle one) Jr Sr II III IV

2	Home Address	Apt. or Lot #	City/Town	State	Zip Code
3	Address Where You Get Your Mail If Different From Above		City/Town	State	Zip Code

4	Date of Birth ___/___/___ Month Day Year	5	Telephone Number (optional)	6	ID Number - (See item 6 in the instructions for your state)
7	Choice of Party (see item 7 in the instructions for your State)	8	Race or Ethnic Group (see item 8 in the instructions for your State)		

9 I have reviewed my state's instructions and I swear/affirm that:

- I am a United States citizen
- I meet the eligibility requirements of my state and subscribe to any oath required.
- The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information, I may be fined, imprisoned, or (if not a U.S. citizen) deported from or refused entry to the United States.

Please sign full name (or put mark) ▲

Date: ___/___/___ Month Day Year

If you are registering to vote for the first time: please refer to the application instructions for information on submitting copies of valid identification documents with this form.

Please fill out the sections below if they apply to you.

If this application is for a **change of name,** what was your name before you changed it?

A	Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	(Circle one) Jr Sr II III IV

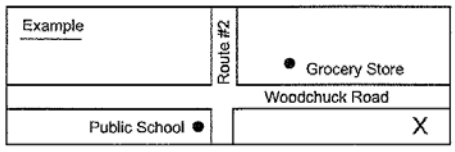
If you were **registered before but this is the first time you are registering from the address in Box 2,** what was your address where you were registered before?

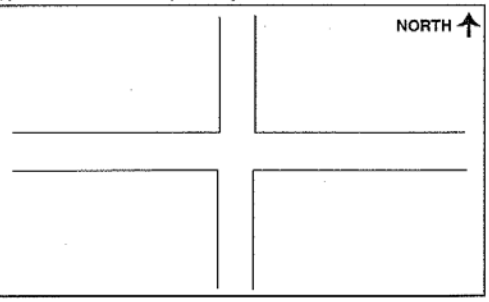
B	Street (or route and box number)	Apt. or Lot #	City/Town/County	State	Zip Code

If you live in a rural area but do not have a street number, or if you have no address, please show on the map where you live.

C

- Write in the names of the crossroads (or streets) nearest to where you live.
- Draw an **X** to show where you live.
- Use a dot to show any schools, churches, stores, or other landmarks near where you live, and write the name of the landmark.





If the applicant is unable to sign, who helped the applicant fill out this application? Give name, address and phone number (phone number optional).

D

Mail this application to the address provided for your State.

Revised 10/29/2003

No identification is required to register with an NVRA form. However, a new voter must vote in person at his/her first election. It will be possible to vote absentee for this first election, but only at the offices of an election authority or county clerk.

Persons participating in partisan political activities may distribute and collect NVRA forms for delivery to the appropriate election authority.

The NVRA forms are designed to be mailed by the voter, but experience shows that many forms are never mailed, if left with the voter. So, whether you are using the NVRA forms to register, change an address or a name, it is best to have the voter fill out the form, sign it, and return it to you.

Campaigns should keep track of those whom they assist to register. The Cook County Clerk provides submittal Sheets for the NVRA form, s so that a copy is given to you as is the case with Deputy Registrar submittals. The Chicago Board of Election Commissioners does not provide such a receipt. You should copy the cards before submitting them and provide your Precinct Workers with a form on which to keep track of these new voters.

REGISTRATION REPORT FORM

Use this form to record the names, addresses and phone numbers, if known, of anyone who should register, has registered through you, or should be dropped from the rolls.

- **R** designates anyone who should register
- **N** designates anyone for whom you turn in a National Voter Registration Act form
- **V** designates anyone who registered with a deputy registrar
- **D** designates anyone who should be dropped from the rolls

Note: 1. Everyone who registers with a deputy registrar must have two pieces of identification (one with an address) with her/him.
2. Any citizen can register if s/he will be 18 on or before the next election.

R N V D	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE

You need information about these new voters because new poll sheets will not be published until well after the last day for registration and you cannot afford to wait that long to start the canvass phase of the campaign. You will find that these new voters will be receptive to you and your candidate because you helped them to register. Be sure to add all of the new voters to your campaign master file (Chapter 3).

In addition to these two systems, voter registration is conducted on an on-going basis in Chicago at the Chicago Board of Elections and at public libraries. Suburban Cook County residents may register at any of the County Clerk's six offices, and at the offices of a city, village or township clerk. Throughout Illinois, voters can register at their city, village, township or county clerk's office, any Secretary of State driver's license facility, as well as public assistance and military recruitment offices. NVRA forms are also downloadable from the Chicago Board of Elections and several other websites.

Grace-Period Registration

State legislation enacted last year has established an additional grace period for voter registration where registrations will be taken at the main offices of the Cook County Clerk and the Chicago Board of Elections. Check with your county clerk outside of Cook County for locations. Also check with your governing Board of Elections for exact dates.

Two pieces of identification must be shown to register. Grace-period voters must vote absentee either by voting in person at the Election authority's office immediately after signing up to vote or requesting an absentee ballot by mail to complete at home and return to the Clerk's office before Election Day.

Grace-period registrants are not allowed to vote at the polls on Election Day or vote at any early voting site.

APPENDIX: How to Become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar

The information below pertains to the City of Chicago. Complete guidelines for Cook County and the rest of Illinois can be found at:
http://www.elections.il.gov/downloads/electioninformation/pdf/drguide.pdf

What is the Deputy Registrar Program?

The Volunteer Deputy Registrar Program offers a convenient method of voter registration for residents of the City of Chicago. It has proven to be the most effective and efficient means of reaching eligible citizens who are not yet registered to vote.

Who can serve as a Volunteer Deputy Registrar?

A Volunteer Deputy Registrar must be:

1. A registered voter in the City of Chicago or suburban Cook County;
2. Able to speak, read and write the English language; and
3. Sponsored by a qualified organization or agency, including:
    - The chief librarian or designation person(s) form any public library. Deputy Registrars sponsored by libraries may take registrations only at the library location,
    - The principal or designated person(s) from any high school or vocational school. Deputy Registrars sponsored by schools may take registrations only at the sponsor school,
    - The president or designated person(s) at any university, college, community college, academy or other institution of learning. Deputy registrars sponsored by the above learning institutions may take registrations only at the sponsor location,
    - An elected or appointed official of a bona fide labor organization or qualified member(s). Deputy registrars sponsored by labor organizations may take registrations anywhere in the city of Chicago,
    - An elected or appointed official of a bona fide Illinois civic organization certified by the Illinois State Board of Elections or qualified member(s). For

information on the certification process, contact the Illinois State Board of Elections at 312-814-6440. Deputy registrars sponsored by a certified civic organization may take registrations anywhere in the City of Chicago.

- Certain state agencies. The Director of the Illinois Department of Public Aid, the Director of the Illinois Department of Employment Security and the Secretary of State may designate employees to accept voter registrations at such offices,
- The president or designated employee(s) of any corporation. Deputy registrars sponsored by corporations may take registrations anywhere in the City of Chicago.

How long does a Volunteer Deputy Registrar Serve?

A deputy registrar is appointed for a two-year term which ends on the first business day of December in even-numbered years.

Volunteer Deputy Registrars must be trained by the Board and are issued registration materials. For additional information contact the Community Services Division of the Chicago Board of Elections at 312-269-7851.