

# VOTER GUIDE

#### **COUNCIL ON AMERICAN-ISLAMIC RELATIONS**

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CAIR-Chicago seeks to empower the Muslim American community with its 2018 Primary General Election Voter Guide, providing general information about the election such as candidate positions and biographies.

CAIR-Chicago encourages Muslims to support candidates whose positions they agree with. Further, as a nonpartisan organization, CAIR-Chicago encourages Muslims and all eligible voters to participate in national and state elections, conduct voter registrations, candidate forums, volunteer in campaigns, and "get out the vote" drives. Nonprofits designated as 501(c)(3) organizations cannot engage in political activities that support one candidate or party over another, but we are committed to making our community's voice heard. **Therefore, CAIR-Chicago does not endorse any campaigns or candidates.** 

For this election guide, CAIR-Chicago focuses on general civil rights and sociopolitical issues on state and federal levels of government. For a complete list of candidates running for public office in the 2018 Primary Elections, visit the Illinois State Board of Elections website at: elections.il.gov.



# Credits

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Basic Information

### Forward

It is crucial for all U.S. citizens over the age of eighteen to participate actively in the political process. Voting is a right that every citizen possesses in order to make a difference in the political process and to help their community. Before the coming election you should make sure that you are registered to vote. You can click here to check if you are registered and learn how you can get registered.

As part of an ongoing project toward empowering the American-Muslim community and enabling it to solve its problems proactively, CAIR-Chicago has complied a profile of the candidates running for major office throughout Illinois, and in the U.S. Congress. We have made the effort to highlight the issues we think are important not only to Muslims, but to all Americans.

The CAIR-Chicago Voter Education Guide for the 2018 General Primary Elections is designed to make voting easier for you by informing you of your choices and the backgrounds of candidates. We have also made an effort to connect you to the candidate's personal website so that you may take a closer look at each candidate.

This year voting is as important as it has ever been. The districts in Illinois have been redrawn and established politicians will have new challengers. There are major issues at all levels of government with the National Defense and Authorization Act, End Racial Profiling Act, health care reform and anti-Sharia legislation efforts. It is your job to educate yourself and others so that your voice can be heard.

### How to Use the Voter Guide

The 2018 General Primary Election Voter's Guide consists of information and links about civil rights and sociopolitical issues of high importance to the Illinois executive branch, Illinois House of Representatives, Illinois Senate, Illinois judges, and United States House of Representatives. Each of the topics listed has become a central issue to both the state and federal governments in the last year, which will have a direct impact on the upcoming election season. In nearly all cases, recent legislative efforts have been made at both levels of government that we have compiled here. Though this voter guide offers insight into a few key topics, the list is not exhaustive of all issues facing the American public today.

In this guide, we provided a short summary of each topic, as well as supporting legislation that the Illinois General Assembly and the United States federal government has implemented towards addressing these issues. We made the effort to provide the most informative descriptions and implications of each issue. If you want to learn more about the issues and supporting legislation that we cite, click on the name of the specific bill or resolution. It will take you either to the the governmental website where updates are given on the legislation and its implications.

As this is a guide for the General Primary Election, it acts as a precursor to a Legislative Scorecard that will provide more information on the candidates and their platforms. CAIR-Chicago will publish that scorecard prior to the general election in November.

### How do primaries work?

Primary elections decide which candidate will run for each party during the general election. Illinois holds a closed primary, which means voters must formally affiliate with parties on the day of a primary election. You can vote in either the Republican or the Democratic primary, but not both. You cannot vote in the Republican primary for president but in the Democratic primary for congressional races, for example. Voters can be challenged as not being genuine members of a party. Voters declare their party affiliation at the polling place to a judge who must then announce it "in a distinct tone of voice, sufficiently loud to be heard by all persons in the polling place." If there is no "challenge," the voter is given the primary ballot for his or her declared party.

When: Illinois hold its primary elections on March 20th. The polls are open 6 AM – 7 PM.

Where: To find your polling place, contact your county clerk or visit www.vote411.org/pollfinder.

#### **Eligibility Requirements:**

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years of age by Election Day
- Have been a resident of the precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day

#### **ID Needed for Voting**

In general, identification is not required to vote at the polls, although you will be required to verify your signature. However, there are individual circumstances that may require that identification be shown. In those cases, you must present a photo ID, and if the photo ID has an address, it must match the registration address. If a photo ID is not used, the document (examples of which are listed below) must show your name and address. This must be presented to an election judge before being permitted to vote.

If you registered to vote by mail after January 1, 2003, and you did not submit a copy of the required identification with the registration application at that time, and you will be voting in a jurisdiction for the first time, then you will be required to submit a copy of one of the following:

- Current and valid photo identification
- Utility bill
- Government check
- Paycheck
- Government document

#### **Early Voting**

Early voting is available from the 22nd day through the 5th day preceding the election. Illinois voters who vote during the early voting period must vote in person and must provide a valid identification. Valid forms of identification for this purpose include a current driver's license, state-issued identification card, or another government-issued identification card.

For the 2018 primary elections, Illinois is holding early voting from Febraury 8 to March 19.



#### **Provisions for Voters with Disabilities**

Numerous provisions are available to aid voters with disabilities. If you are a disabled voter you may request the opportunity to register at home and have registration materials brought to you. You may also request to register to vote by mail. If you are permanently physically disabled, in a nursing home or in a hospital, you may also be eligible for absentee voting.

The Help America Vote Act requires that election authorities have voting equipment in place for voters with disabilities to vote privately and independently, and Illinois is no exception. Additionally, there are options for a seated voting booth, voting assistance from a friend, relative, or two election judges (one from each party), and curbside voting. Language assistance is also available where required under amendments to the Federal Voting Act of 1992.

#### **Time Off To Vote**

Employers must grant employees two hours to vote during their regular working shift. This time off is unpaid unless specified otherwise by the employer.

#### **Provisional Voting**

An election judge will issue you a provisional ballot at your polling place if:

- Your name does not appear on the lists of registered voters for the precinct
- Your voting status has been challenged by an election judge, poll watcher or another voter and a majority of election judges agree
- A court order is issued instructing your polling place to remain open after 7:00 pm (if this occurs everyone voting after 7:00 pm must cast a provisional ballot)
- You are required to show identification because you registered by mail, but you did not bring ID to the polling place on Election Day or early voting site. In this instance you must supply the election authority with a copy of acceptable identification by 7:00 pm the Thursday after Election Day.

By law, you must vote in your assigned precinct for all votes on your provisional ballot to count. Provisional ballots are counted after Election Day. The election authority receives all provisional ballots and determines the registration status for each provisional voter within two weeks after the election. If it is determined that you are registered and eligible to vote, your vote will be counted. If you are not registered, your vote will not be counted, but the information you supplied on the affidavit form will serve as a registration application for the next election.

If your name is not in the registration book or your registration is challenged, you should verify that you are at the correct polling place. If you are in the wrong polling place, then poll workers will help direct you to the correct location.

To find out where your polling place is, click on your voting jurisdiction below:

**City of Chicago** 312-269-7900

**Cook County** 312-603-0906

**DuPage County** 630-407-5600

Kane County 630-232-5990

**Kendall County** 630-553-4104

**Lake County** 847-377-2410

**McHenry County** 815-334-4242

Will County 815-740-4782

All Illinois Residents 217-782-4141

or visit vote411.org/pollfinder.php



# Voter Rights

- Voters whose names do not appear on the poll list, or are unable to comply with the identification requirements for mail-in registrants, are entitled to vote by provisional ballot if they declare they are registered to vote in the jurisdiction and eligible to vote in the election.
- Voters who vote by provisional ballot are entitled to written information describing how they may learn, through a free access system, whether their provisional ballot was counted by election officials, and if it was not counted, why not.
- Voters who vote after the established time for polls to close due to a court order requiring the polls to remain open for extended hours will have to vote by provisional ballot (unless those voters were in line at the time polls closed).
- Voters whose voting status has been challenged by an election judge, a pollwatcher, or any legal voter and that challenge has been sustained by a majority of the election judges may vote provisionally.
- Voters who are registered to vote and who have moved within their election authority's
  jurisdiction more than 30 days before an election for federal office may vote in that election
  (for federal offices) under the failsafe procedures set forth in NVRA. Such voters must vote in
  the polling place for the residence from which the voter most recently registered even if they
  did not advise the election authority of the move.
- Voters who have submitted to the appropriate election authority (either in-person or by mail) their completed registration application by the close of registration as permitted by state law, and such registration application has been determined to be valid by the election authority, are entitled to be registered and vote in that election.
- Voters are entitled to notice of the disposition of their voter registration application.
- Voters who are otherwise qualified to vote may be entitled to register and vote absentee in an election for if they are in the military or are residing overseas.
- Voters in jurisdictions with a statutorily-specified minimum number of voters who speak a primary language other than English may be entitled to receive a written ballot or other election materials or assistance in a language other than English.
- Voters who require assistance due to blindness, disability or inability to read or write may receive assistance from a person of the voter's choice other than the voter's employer or union (or agent thereof).
- Voters who are confined or detained in a jail or prison pending a trial are not disqualified from voting.
- Jurisdictions must not apply standards or practices which deny or abridge the right to vote in violation of the U.S. or Illinois Constitution (denial on the bases of race, religion, gender, etc.).
- Jurisdictions must take steps to make the registration and voting process accessible to the elderly and to individuals with disabilities.
- Persons must not intimidate, threaten or coerce any other person for registering or voting; for urging or aiding persons in registering or voting; for purposes of interfering or influencing how a person chooses to vote; or for purposes of preventing a person from voting.
- Election officials must not unlawfully fail or refuse to permit a person to vote who is entitled to vote and must not refuse to tabulate, count and report such person's vote.



# Prohibited Acts of Fraud and Misrepresentation

- Persons must not make any false statement or falsely claim that they are citizens of the United States in order to register or vote in any Federal, State, or local election.
- Persons must not vote more than once in any election (note: this does not include voting a replacement ballot after a spoiled ballot was invalidated).
- Persons must not procure or submit materially false, fraudulent or fictitious voter registration applications in any election.
- Persons must not submit false information as to name, address or period of residence in a voting district for the purpose of establishing eligibility to register or vote in any election.
- Persons must not procure, cast or tabulate materially false, fraudulent or fictitious ballots in any election.
- Persons must not pay, offer to pay or accept payment for voting, registering to vote, withholding their vote, or voting for or against any candidate in any election.

# Violation of Voting Rights

- If you have witnessed efforts to commit any kind of fraud or corruption in the voting process, you may report this to your local United States Attorney's Office, the nearest office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Illinois State Board of Elections complaint hotline at 1-866-513-1121, the Illinois Attorney General's office or the office of your election authority.
- The administrative complaint procedure applies to alleged violations of Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Any alleged violation(s) of Title III that have occurred, is occurring, or is about to occur may be reported to the IL State Board of Elections. Alleged violations under Title III include, but are not limited to, voting systems standards, accessibility for those persons with disabilities, and voter registration.
- If you have witnessed actual or attempted acts of discrimination or intimidation in the voting process, you may report this to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice at 1-800-253-3931.



### To Remember

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

Early Voting Begins: Thursday, February 8th, 2018
Last Day to Register to Vote: Sunday, March 4th, 2018
Last Day for Early Voting: Monday, March 19th, 2018
Primary Election Date: Tuesday, March 20th, 2018

### **WHAT TO BRING:**

These Items or Documents can/will suffice as a form of identification if required at the polls:

- State Issued ID/Driver's License
- City Issued ID
- Voter Registration Card
- Utility bill
- Government check
- Paycheck
- Government document

# Summary of Issues

### **Immigration**

Civil Rights & Hate Crimes

Law Enforcement

Gun Control

Healthcare

Education

Economy

**Net Neutrality** 





## Immigration

- Since coming into office, President Trump attempted to deliver on campaign promises of cracking down on illegal immigration and increasing border security.
- However, critics argue that his policies have argued his policies are not only costly and ineffective, but purposefully discriminatory, specifically towards Muslims.
- These actions have included a proposed border wall with Mexico, ending DACA, and three versions of a travel ban aimed at primarily Muslim countries.

### Federal Action

#### Proposed Border Wall with Mexico

- President Trump has proposed building a border wall between the US and Mexico.
- This is meant to increase border security and help prevent the illegal movement of goods and people between Central and South America and the US.
- The project is conservatively estimated to cost at least \$21.6 billion.

#### Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was originally an executive action by President Obama meant to protect people who were brought to the United States as children, from deportation.
- Though the program does not provide a pathway to citizenship, it offers work permits which allows many "DREAMers" to access health insurance and pay for higher education.
- Under President Trump's initial proposal for gradual withdrawal, Dreamers would begin to be deported in May 2018,
- The White House has recently offered a pathway to citizenship for these immigrants in exchange for funding for a border wall to reduce future illegal immigration.

#### Executive Order 13769 (Muslim Ban 3)

- Throughout 2017, the Trump administration attempted on three occasions to implement Executive Orders that would place 90-day bans on foreign nationals from seven predominantly Muslim countries, indefinitely suspend the entry of Syrian refugees, and place a 120-day ban on refugees from all other countries.
- Each attempt was contested in federal courts, arguing that these orders were religiously discriminatory while being presented under the guise of national security.

#### Senate Bill 1979

Senators Murphy and Feinstein have introduced Senate Bill 1979 in October 2017 that would, essentially, prohibit any government funds from being used to implement the Muslim Bans.



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### State Action

#### Sanctuary Cities (HB 3739 and 3698)

- There have been two bills proposed by the IL House in regards to Sanctuary City.
- HB 3739 prevents the reduction of state funds to entities that refuse to detain non-criminal undocumented immigrants.
- HB 3698 prohibits the use of state or federal funds to detect or apprehend non-criminal undocumented immigrants.

#### TRUST Act (HB 0031)

 The Illinois Senate passed the TRUST Act in August 2017, which prohibits law enforcement officers from stopping, arresting, searching, or detaining a person specifically due to one's immigration status

#### Illinois Bill SR0131

 This bill condemns President Trump's executive orders barring refugees from the United States as well as calls on him to uphold and protect the values of religious freedom and the notion that all people are welcome and created equal. Senate Sponsors include Daniel Bliss, Ira I. Silverstein, Julie A. Morrison, and Cristina Castro.







- With the rise of President Trump and his administration, new data has shown that there have also been an increase in hate crime rates across the country.
- The Illinois State Senate has passed a number of resolutions in August 2017 meant to limit religious-based hate crimes and discrimination.
- US Congress has been slower to pass such legislation; however, new bills and resolutions have been introduced in recent months to limit such crimes.

### Federal Action

#### S. Res. 118

 This resolution was passed in the U.S. Senate in April 2017 that condemns hate crimes and all other forms of racial, religious, or ethnic discrimination that aims to target minority groups.

#### Hate Crimes Commission Act of 2017 (H.R. 3980) and Hate Crime Victim Assistance Act of 2017 (H.R. 4065)

 As of October 2017, Congress has introduced a few anti-hate crime bills that are in the process of being reviewed.

### State Action

#### SB 1697

 This bill amends the Illinois Human Rights Act in which it is made illegal for an employer to prohibit an employee from wearing any attire, clothing, or facial hair in accordance with the requirements of his/her religion.

#### SB 0889

This bill amends the Jury Act that prohibits the discrimination of participation in jury service based upon race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, marital status, order of protection status, disability, military status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or unfavorable discharge from the military.





### Law Enforcement

• In the wake of ongoing national controversy regarding the use of lethal force against unarmed communities of color, the Illinois State legislature has attempted to hold its police accountable.

### Federal Action

#### Back the Blue Act 2017

- The federal government recently introduced the Back the Blue Act of 2017 that would protect the lives and reputations of law enforcement officers who may be taken to court regarding conduct while on the job.
- Proponents of the bill say it will protect police officers who may resort to violent action when on duty.
- Opponents argue that this bill would inhibit victims from seeking and receiving justice if unwarranted violence by law enforcement officers was instituted.
- Though this bill has only been introduced, it offers insight into how the nation views modern-day law enforcement operations.

### State Action

#### Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera Act (50 ILCS 706)

• In 2015, Governor Bruce Rauner signed a policy body camera bill into law as a strategy to maintain greater accountability.







- In recent years, the United States witnessed two of the five deadliest mass shootings in modern US history at the Las Vegas Strip (2017) and the Pulse nightclub in Orlando (2016). Most recently, the school shooting in Parkland, Florida on February 14th has reignited the debate around gun laws.
- The response by states and cities has differed widely. The first gun-related legislation following the Las Vegas shootings proposed allowing concealed-carry permit holders from one state to legally carry their guns to any other states.
- The federal government, on the other hand, has not passed any gun control measures since the 1994 Brady Bill, but new bills have been introduced to improve background checks.

### Federal Action

#### Fix NICS Act of 2017 (S. 2135)

- The National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS) bipartisan bill, introduced in the Senate late last year, has received recent attention due to the school shooting in Florida.
- If passed, this bill would strengthen state and federal background checks that could prohibit someone from purchasing a gun.
- Most recently, President Trump has shown support for increased federal background checks for firearm purchases.

### State Action

# Amends the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act (SB2314)

 The state legislature is in the process of passing the Amends the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act, which would bring greater restrictions to access to purchasing of firearms and firearm accessories without the possession of a Firearm Owner card.





### Healthcare

- Though the Republican-lead Congress was unable to officially repeal the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), there have still been a number of efforts to bring about change within the national healthcare system. Thus, the debate over the expansion of Medicaid has remained a prominent issue on Capitol Hill.
- Illinois was one of 32 states to expand Medicaid in 2013 to insure hundreds of thousands of low-income residents, despite the Supreme Court ruling forced expansion was unconstitutional.
- Because healthcare affects everyone in the United States, it has become a top priority for many voters, particularly because of this potential change in coverage and funding that could greatly affect millions of Americans.

### Federal Action

#### American Health Care Act of 2017 (H.R. 1628)

- In July 2017, the House of Representatives has passed the American Health Care Act of 2017, which aims to shift the power of health insurance to the states rather than the federal government, cut Medicaid spending, as well as cut taxes for the ultra-wealthy.
- Some of the newfound power that the states would receive if this bill were to pass through the Senate would include giving insurers the option to charge people more for pre-existing conditions.

#### ObamaCare Repeal Act (HB 175)

 This bill is currently in the process of being passed in the US Congress that would effectively repeal the Affordable Care Act.

### State Action

# Medicare For All Health Care (HB 2436)

- Introduced in 2017, this bill would provide all individuals within Illinois coverage under the Illinois Health Services Program for health insurance.
- HB 2436 would provide universal healthcare for all citizens of Illinois.





### Education

- A current debate in Illinois surrounds the question of whether the city needs more charter schools, offering students a quality education for a higher price, or, whether that funding should go back into public schools, thus introducing the Private School Tax Credit Plan.
- In the federal government, changes have been made regarding the Every Student Succeeds Act that President Obama implemented, and new developments that President Trump has added to it.

### Federal Action

#### Every Student Succeeds Act (2015)

- In 2015, President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) into law, which would allow states to set their own academic standards as they see fit for their respective schooling systems in order to improve how the educational system works for students of color and students from low-income households.
- In March 2017, President Trump signed a couple of resolutions that would rollback previous regulations that President Obama put into place in order to successfully implement the ESSA.
- Proponents of this change advocate that states should have as much flexibility in implementing their respective education plans, and the previous version of ESSA did not accommodate that.
- Opponents, however, argue that without some federal influence, there will be little regulation in the states' obligations to use this act to help empower marginalized students.

### State Action

# Student Loan Servicing Rights Act (SB 1351)

- This act would help ensure students and families receive clear information about how their student loans are serviced.
- Student loan services are required to provide specialized employees to assist borrowers with questions. Servicers must provide accurate information on billing statements and may not charge unreasonable fees

#### Private School Tax Credit Plan

- There are many families in Chicago that cannot afford the tuition of private schools, and so the Illinois private school tax credit plan was created. Corporate and individual donors can make contributions for private school scholarships and receive a 75% state tax credit.
- Thus, their state income taxes would be reduced; thereby, the portion of taxes that would go to fund public schools is then decreased.



## Economy

- A major economic change within the last year has been President Trump's Federal Income Tax reform.
- In Illinois, unemployment rates have steadily decreased over the last few months.

  However, state budget issues continue to persist, making state tax reform a point of discussion.

### Federal Action

#### Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1):

- On December 22, 2017, the President signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, in which permanent tax cuts to corporations and businesses would be enacted in the beginning of 2018.
- The bill also included deductions and tax cuts for individuals, although these will decrease overtime and expire by 2025.
- Supporters of the Act indicate that tax cuts to corporations offer the opportunity for job creation and growth for many Americans.
- Those who oppose the bill argue that corporations rarely use tax cuts to create jobs and that this tax reform will only benefit upper-income households while simultaneously increasing the national deficit.



### State Action

#### Illinois Budget Crisis

- In July 2017, the IL State Legislature voted to override Gov. Rauner's veto of a new budget plan.
- The override ended an impasse that began in July 2015.
- The plan included a 32 percent income tax increase.

#### IDES Unemployment Reports

- According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), Illinois showed 4.8% unemployment (as of December 2017).
- Unemployment rates have been steadily decreasing and have remained low, particularly in the latter half of 2017.

#### Illinois Policy Institute's 2018 Budget Solutions

 In order to amend Illinois' fiscal issues, the Illinois Policy Institute aims to balance the state budget without tax hikes, provide tax relief to homeowners through a comprehensive property tax reform, as well as implement pension reforms



### Net Neutrality

- Net neutrality is the principle that internet service providers (ISPs) should treat all data on the internet equally.
- Proponents of net neutrality laws argue that they balance the rights and duties of individuals--as well as governments and corporations--while ensuring that the Internet continues to be an open and decentralized network. In addition, net neutrality allows for easy access to all information and prevents internet providers from gaining excessive power and control over internet data and operation.
- Opponents include internet companies who argue that the law would increase their costs and create barriers to the free flow of information, creative output, and freedom of expression.

### Federal Action

#### FCC Repeals Net Neutrality

- Most recently, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has voted, along party lines in a 3-2 vote, to renounce these net neutrality rules in December 2017.
- This new development foreshadows a great change in how the internet, a commodity that many access on a daily basis, continues to operate.

### State Action

N/A







# Civic Engagement Checklist

# ARE YOU READY TO VOTE?



<b>READ OUR VOTER GUIDE!</b>
------------------------------

**READ ABOUT THE CANDIDATES** 

REGISTER TO VOTE (March 4)

FIND YOUR POLLING LOCATION!

**VOTE ON MARCH 20!** 





# DEFENDING CIVIL RIGHTS. FIGHTING BIGOTRY. PROMOTING TOLERANCE.

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