

SUPPORT HB 4469

Senate: Aquino-Bennett-Collins-Van Pelt-Raoul-Hunter-Lightford-Hutchinson-Koehler-Martinez-Castro

VOTING IN JAIL & A “KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS” RESOURCE UPON RELEASE

There are approximately 20,000 people detained in jail pre-trial in Illinois. Those who are citizens have the right to vote in elections. However, without a formal process in place, *voting in jail is nearly impossible for pre-trial detainees.*

HB 4469 requires county jails and election authorities to collaborate in creating a process that ensures that pre-trial detainees can also cast their ballot during elections.

In any given year, there are approximately 30,000 people who return from prison, all of whom are citizens are eligible to vote in Illinois upon release. Yet many of these citizens do not register to vote because they *believe that their past criminal conviction disqualifies them.*

HB 4469 requires the Illinois Department of Corrections and each county jail to provide eligible citizens released from their custody a voter registration application.

There are approximately 4 million people in Illinois who have a past felony conviction, all of whom are eligible to vote in Illinois. Yet, many of these citizens are *not aware of their right to vote.*

HB 4469 requires the Illinois Department of Corrections to provide citizens released from their custody detailed information about their voting rights.

VOTING IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF LIFE.

- Research indicates that re-enfranchising people with criminal convictions cuts the rate of recidivism.
- By increasing voter access for pretrial detainees and educating people with criminal convictions of their right to vote in this state, this bill increase voting amongst pre-trial detainees and the formerly incarcerated, cutting the rate of recidivism.

REGISTERING TO VOTE IS THE GATEWAY TO BEING CIVICALLY ENGAGED.

- By providing individuals with a voter registration application upon release from their custody, IDOC and the county jails can help these populations successfully re-enter into society, while also reducing the recidivism rate.

Currently, 8 of 102 counties already ensure that citizens detained in jail pre-trial can vote during elections
This bill builds on their good experience to make sure that all eligible citizens who want to vote get to vote.

For more information contact:

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Supporting Organizations

ACLU of Illinois Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Chicago Business and Professional People for the Public Interest Cabrini Green Legal Aid Change Peoria Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice Chicago Bar Association Chicago Board of Election Commissioners Chicago Books to Women in Prison Chicago Coalition for the Homeless Chicago Community Bond Fund Chicago Council of Lawyers Chicago Jobs Council Chicago Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights Chicago Urban League Chicago Votes Common Cause Illinois Community Renewal Society Equality Illinois Evanston Action Partners Faith in Place	Heartland Alliance Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights Illinois Environmental Council Illinois Federation of Teachers Illinois Public Interest Research Group Indivisible Illinois John Howard Association League of Women Voters of Chicago League of Women Voters of Cook County League of Women Voters of Illinois Legal Council for Health Justice Local 881 UFCW Backbone Films LLC National Rainbow PUSH Coalition North Side Action and Resistance Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law Solidarity Sundays Uptown People’s Law Center Western Front Resist
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Counties With a Voting Program

Champaign
Coles
Cook
DuPage
Lake
Piatt
Sangamon
Tazewell

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