

Macoupin County Voter Information & Election Guide



2026 General Election

Tuesday, November 3

Polls Open: 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Prepared and Distributed by
PETE DUNCAN
MACOUPIN COUNTY CLERK



For additional information, contact:
P.O. Box 107 Carlinville, IL 62626
(217) 854-3214 ext 918
www.MacoupinVotes.gov
elections@macoupincountyil.gov



A Message to Voters

IT IS BOTH MY PRIVILEGE and my pleasure to provide this Voter Information and Election Guide publication for the 2026 General Election.

As your County Clerk, my goal is to provide as many voting opportunities as financially prudent and legally permitted, and to make sure each voter understands his or her responsibilities and rights. To that end, this guide includes not only the sample ballot but also detailed information about polling locations, early voting, vote-by-mail and correctly marking your ballot. It is part of our ongoing effort to make voting convenient, make sure voters are fully informed, and ensure our elections are fair and secure.

From maintaining and protecting the integrity of the voter registration list to managing the voting process, the work of the County Clerk's Election Office staff is virtually a year round responsibility. Apart from overseeing balloting on Election Day, we accept nominating petitions for local candidates prior to Election Day, recruit and train election judges, distribute and receive vote-by-mail ballots, and oversee early voting. We do these things to ensure that any eligible voter who wishes to vote has an opportunity to do so, ensure that their ballots are correctly counted, and ensure the integrity of the election process.

Despite our best efforts, a substantial percentage of our registered voters do not cast ballots for any given election. Voter apathy is disappointing to me and my staff because we recognize the right to vote is among the most precious of our American liberties. It is the thing that distinguishes us from other nations and other forms of government. It is enshrined by law and has been protected for generations by our military

ON THE COVER: Located at 227 E. First South Street in Carlinville, the Macoupin County Voting Center provides a central location for early voting, along with providing a secure location for storing and testing voting machines, and space for meetings and election judge training. The Voting Center was opened in 2024, using proceeds from a federal Centers for Election Excellence grant.

men and women, many of whom sacrificed their lives in the defense of liberty. The fact Election Day comes just one week ahead of Veterans Day is a sober reminder of the sacrifices made to protect this most basic of freedoms.

Coming in the middle of a Presidential term, the so-called midterm election often generates less voter interest than elections held during Presidential years. In 2022, the most recent Gubernatorial General Election, only about 58 percent of Macoupin voters bothered to cast a ballot. Compare that with the 2024 Presidential Election when more than 75 percent of the county's registered voters participated.

This year's Midterm General Election offers plenty of reasons for voters to participate. Macoupin voters will join voters statewide to choose a Governor for the next four years, and choose a U.S. Senator to step into the position held by Richard Durbin for the past three decades. At the local level, voters will cast ballots to choose who will serve on the County Board.

In addition to elected offices, this election will present four public questions to voters. A countywide advisory referendum will gauge the number of voters who favor separating from the State of Illinois. Bunker Hill voters will offer their opinion on whether or not the Bunker Hill Fire Protection District can increase the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), commonly referred to as tax caps. Medora voters will weigh in on whether or not to create a Special Ambulance Service District. And Staunton voters will advise the city government on whether or not it should be able to arrange electrical supply services for residents and businesses who do not opt out of the program.

With persistent questioning of election integrity at the national level, I am proud to say that the accuracy and integrity of our election results have never been questioned. Our voting machines create a paper trail so we can hand count ballots

if our reported results are ever called into question. Our voting machines are not connected to the internet in any way and, therefore, immune to cyberattack or hacking.

As County Clerk, it has been my pleasure to work with staff members, party officials, candidates and elected officials to make sure every aspect of the 2026 General Election runs smoothly.

If you have further questions or need additional information, I encourage you to contact my office at (217) 854-3214, extension 918, or visit our comprehensive election website at www.macoupinvotes.gov. The website allows voters to check their registration status, finding the polling place for their precinct view sample ballots and obtain other information. On election night, the website will be updated regularly with election results for Macoupin County.

As always, it has been an honor to administer the 2026 General Election in Macoupin County and I deeply appreciate the opportunity to serve the voters of this county.

Pete Duncan

Macoupin County Clerk





Notice of Election

Voter Bill of Rights

You have the right to:

- ❖ Cast your ballot in a non-disruptive atmosphere free of interference.
 - ❖ Vote if you're in line at the polling place by 7 p.m.
 - ❖ Be a provisional voter if there is a question about your registration status or your eligibility to vote in the election.
 - ❖ Vote a federal ballot at your old polling place if you have moved within 30 days of the election.
 - ❖ Request assistance in voting, if needed.
 - ❖ Bring this voter's guide or sample ballots into the voting booth, but take them with you when you finish voting.
 - ❖ Protect the secrecy of your ballot by using the ballot secrecy folder provided.
 - ❖ Receive a new ballot if you make a mistake or change your mind.
 - ❖ Check for voting errors (overvotes) after marking your ballot in a private and independent manner.
 - ❖ Have your ballot counted fairly and impartially.
- If you believe these rights have been violated, call the Macoupin County Clerk's Office at (217) 854-3214.

GENERAL ELECTION NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that on
Tuesday November 3, 2026

at the usual polling places in the various precincts in the County of Macoupin and the State of Illinois, a General Election will be held for the purpose of electing candidates to the following offices:

TO BE ELECTED

- 1 U.S. Senator
- 2 Governor/Lieutenant Governor
- 3 Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller, and Treasurer
- 4 Representative in Congress
 - 13th Congressional District
- 5 State Senator
 - 50th State Senate District
 - 54th State Senate District
- 6 Representatives of the General Assembly
 - 100th State Representative District
 - 108th State Representative District
- 7 County Clerk, County Treasurer, and County Sheriff
- 8 County Board Member
 - Districts 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 (2 members per district)
 - District 2—1 member 2 year unexpired term
- 9 Regional Superintendent of Schools
 - Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Macoupin Counties
 - Adams, Brown, Cass, Morgan, Pike and Scott Counties
 - Bond, Christian, Effingham, Fayette and Montgomery Counties
- 10 Appellate Judge and Circuit Judge Retention

The polls of said General Election shall be open continuously from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday November 3rd, 2026.

PETE DUNCAN
MACOUPIN COUNTY CLERK



Dated: August 25, 2026



Am I Eligible to Vote?

Am I eligible to vote?

In order to be eligible to vote in Macoupin County, you must register. The County Clerk's Office processes all voter registration applications for Macoupin County residents. The last day to register for this Election is October 6. See the "Grace Period Balloting" section on page 5 for more information.

Who can register to vote?

You may register to vote if:

- You are a U.S. citizen and 18 years of age by date of next election and

- Lived at your current Macoupin County address for at least 30 days immediately prior to the next election.

Two forms of identification are required when registering with a deputy registrar.

At least one of the two forms must show your current name and address.

Only one form of identification may be a piece of mail postmarked within the past 30 days which has been addressed and delivered to you.

Acceptable forms of identification include, but are not limited to the following:

- Driver's License
- Birth Certificate
- State ID Card
- Social Security Card
- Utility Bill
- Employee ID Card
- Checkbook
- Student ID Card
- Library Card
- Insurance Card
- Credit Card

Check Your Voter Registration Status

To check your voter registration status:

- Go to www.macoupinvotes.gov
- Hit 'Voter Lookup' underneath the photos of Macoupin sites.

- Enter the information required to check if you are registered to vote.

If your information appears on screen, you are registered to vote. If it does not, try your legal name or previously used name to see if your registration is outdated.





Grace Period Balloting

If I Didn't Register or Forgot to Change My Registration Before the Deadline, Can I Still Vote?

If you were unable to register to vote or change your address prior to the close of registration, you can still register and vote through grace period voting. The close of registration for this election is October 6.

Grace period individuals may register to vote or change their address starting October 7 through Election Day.

Grace period voting is only available at the Macoupin County Voting Center, east of the Old Jail. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Two forms of identification are required to register or change your registration during grace period voting:

- At least one of the two forms must show your name and current address,
- And only one form of identification may be a piece of mail addressed and delivered to you.

The second form must show your name. These forms of identification shall include, but not be limited to:

- ❖ Driver's License
- ❖ Social Security Card
- ❖ Birth Certificate
- ❖ Employee ID
- ❖ Student ID Card
- ❖ Credit Card

- ❖ Library Card
- ❖ Insurance Card
- ❖ Utility Bill
- ❖ Checkbook
- ❖ Telephone Bill
- ❖ State ID Card

Grace period voters must vote on the same day they register to vote. They may not vote at the polls on Election Day.

For more information, contact the Macoupin County Clerk's office at (217) 854-3214 ext 918 or at ***elections@macoupincountyil.gov***.





Three Ways to Vote

Vote Early

Cast your ballot at the County Voting Center before Election Day. See “Early Voting” on page 10 for more information.

Vote By Mail

Simply call our office at (217) 854-3214 ext 918 or visit our website at www.macoupinvotes.gov to request your vote-by-mail ballot and vote in privacy before

Election Day. See page 11 for more information.

Vote at Your Precinct on Election Day

Election Day is your last chance to vote! To find your polling place, see ‘Where Do I Vote on Election Day?’ on page 8.

Be sure we have your current

information on your registration. See “Am I Eligible to Vote?” on page 4 for more information.

Make sure to show up from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. to vote. To avoid lines and congestion at your precinct, you may want to vote in the 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. non rush hour time frame of the day.



Voter Responsibilities

Each registered voter in this state should:

1. Familiarize herself or himself with the candidates and issues.
2. Maintain with the Elections Office their registration with a current name and address.
3. Know the location of her or his polling place and its hours of operation.

4. Bring proper identification to the polling station in case it is needed.
5. Familiarize herself or himself with the operation of the voting equipment in his or her precinct.
6. Treat precinct workers with courtesy.

7. Respect the privacy of other voters.
8. Report any problems or violations of Election laws to the County Clerk’s office.
9. Ask questions, if needed.
10. Make sure that her or his completed ballot is correct before leaving the polling place.



Casting Your Ballot

Optical Scan Voting: As Easy as 1,2,3

1. Receive your ballot

Enter the polling place and give your name and address to an election judge. Complete and sign an Application to Vote. Upon verification, the election judge will give you:

- ❖ A paper ballot
- ❖ A privacy cover
- ❖ A pen

2. Enter the voting booth and mark your ballot

Enter the next available voting booth. To vote the optical scan ballot, completely fill in the oval to the left of the candidate or public question of your choice. Be sure to mark both sides of your ballot if needed. If you make a mistake marking your ballot, return it to an election judge to receive a new ballot.

FILL IN THE OVAL NEXT TO THE CANDIDATE'S NAME



3. Vote!

Cover your ballot with the privacy sleeve and insert the ballot into the ballot tabulator. The Optical Scan System complies with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to provide voters an opportunity to check for and correct ballot errors (for example, casting more votes for an office than allowed results in an overvote). If an error is detected, the system will gently beep and give you the option to accept the ballot as is (the overvoted office will not count) or you may return the ballot to an election judge and receive a new ballot.

- ❖ The ballot tabulator will notify you if you have overvoted an office or undervoted an office. Many voters intentionally skip offices which they do not care to vote in, but rarely intentionally vote for more candidates than allowed in any given office. You can either count the ballot as is or go back and check your ballot.
- ❖ The ballot tabulator will notify you if you have inserted a blank ballot or one that is perceived to be blank because it was not marked properly.
- ❖ The “paper trail” provided by this system of voting is not a receipt for the voter, but instead an actual ballot which can be recounted when necessary to insure the integrity of the system.

Visit the Macoupin County Clerk's website: macoupinvotes.gov for additional information on the Optical Scan Voting System.

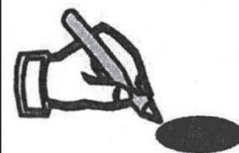
How to Cast a Write-In Ballot

1. Find the office for which the write-in candidate is running.
2. Print the candidate's name on the write-in line.
3. Fill in the oval next to the candidate's name.

FOR MAYOR

- ☐ John Adams
☐ Martha Washington
☐ _____
Write-In

☐ Ben Franklin
Write-In



Ben Franklin
Write-In



Where Do I Vote?

During early voting, you can vote at the Macoupin County Voting Center, 227 East First South St., Carlinville (directly south of the Macoupin County Courthouse). Find out more about early voting opportunities on page 10.

On Election Day you should vote where you live. If your

voting registration is up-to-date, you can refer to your voter information card for your precinct number and the polling place location, or use the voter look-up feature at macoupinvotes.gov.

However, if you've moved and have not updated your voter registration information,

you will be required to vote a provisional ballot at your new polling place. You also can come to the Macoupin County Voting Center during the grace period, change your registration and vote at the same time. See page 5 for more information.



Find Your Polling Place Online

1. Go to www.macoupinvotes.gov.
2. Click on the "Voter Look-up" button beneath the Welcome banner.
3. Enter your voter registration information. You must enter the information exactly as it appears on the voter

file, which is exactly as you wrote it when you register. If your registration information does not immediately appear, try your legal name or old address

4. Your polling place, its address and the ability to Google map the location

will appear on the screen. Clicking on the name of the polling place (it appears in red), will take you to a photo of your polling place and Google Maps directions to location.



Polling Places

Barr	Barr Township Building, 330 W. Main Street, Hettick	:	Honey Point	Honey Point Town Hall, 21082 Woodland Road, Carlinville
Bird	Charity Baptist Church, 21964 Charity Church Road, Carlinville	:	Mount Olive 1 & 2	Immanuel Education Building, 111 E. Main, Mount Olive
Brighton 1 & 2.....	Christian Life Center, 918 North Main Street, Brighton	:	Mount Olive 3.....	Sawyerville Village Hall, 300 Mine Road, Sawyererville
Brighton 3	Brighton Municipal Building, 206 South Main Street, Brighton	:	Mount Olive 4.....	White City Village Hall, 884 S. Main Street, Mount Olive
Brushy Mound.....	Brushy Mound Town Hall, 16270 Brushy Mound Road, Carlinville	:	Nilwood	Nilwood Town Hall, 27 Morean Road, Nilwood
Bunker Hill 1, 2 & 3....	Bunker Hill Municipal Building, 801 South Franklin, Bunker Hill	:	North Otter	Hanauer Hall-Sunset Lakle, 130 East Lake Drive, Girard
Cahokia 1	East Gillespie Village Hall, 605 Springfield Road, Gillespie	:	North Palmyra.....	Modesto Community Building, 102 East Grand Street, Modesto
Cahokia 2	Benld Civic Center, 201 East Central Avenue, Benld	:	Polk	Boente Seed Shed, 7545 Macoupin Station Road, Carlinville
Carlinville 1	St. Paul's Church, 202 East Main Street, Carlinville	:	Scottville	Scottville Township Building, 209 E. Locust St., Scottville
Carlinville 2	Federated Church, 122 East 2nd South Strreet, Carlinville	:	Shaws Point	Atwater Town Hall, 22839 Main Street, Atwater
Carlinville 3	Emmanuel Activity Center, 125 West First South, Carlinville	:	Shipman 1.....	Shipman Town Hall, 105 Keating, Shipman
Carlinville 4	Macoupin County Housing, 504 West Nicholas., Carlinville	:	South Otter	South Otter Township Hall, 15252 Township Road, Girard
Carlinville 5	Bothwell Auditorium, Blackburn College, 700 College, Carlinville	:	South Palmyra.....	Palmyra Municipal Building, 114 East State Street, Palmyra
Chesterfield.....	Medora Fire Station, 316 Washington Street, Medora	:	Staunton 1 - 4	St. Michael's Church Gym, 428 E. North Street, Staunton
Dorchester.....	Wilsonville Community Center, 317 Wilson Street, Wilsonville	:	Virden 1 & 2	Virden Township Hall, 232 North Masterson, Virden
Gillespie 1, 2 & 3	Gillespie Civic Center, 115 N. Macoupin Street, Gillespie	:	Western Mound	Hagaman Town Hall, 3640 Hagaman Road, Hagaman
Girard 1 & 2	Girard City Hall, 111 W. Madison Street, Girard	:		
Hilyard	Hilyard Township Hall, 481 E. Shipman Road, Royal Lakes	:		





How Do I Vote Early?

What is Early Voting?

Registered voters may cast a ballot prior to Election Day without having to provide a reason for wanting to vote early. This ballot is cast by personal appearance at the Macoupin County Voting Center office or at a location set up by the County Clerk.

When does Early Voting Occur?

Early voting runs through November 2.

Where can people vote?

People may vote at the Macoupin County Voting Center, located east of the Old Macoupin County Jail, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., September 24 through November 2. Special evening and Saturday hours are listed below.

If I Vote Early, but change my mind, may I vote on Election Day?

No. The law prohibits a person who voted during the early voting period from voting again on Election Day.

Are pollwatchers allowed at Early Voting sites?

Yes. Just as with a regular polling place on Election Day, pollwatchers may be appointed to observe early voting. by personal appearance at each permanent and temporary polling place where early voting is conducted.

What are the safeguards against voter fraud?

Election judges will compare the voter's signature with the signature from when the voter registered.

The votes cast during the early voting period will not be counted until after the polls close on Election Day.

What is the reason for Early Voting?

A major reason for early voting is to encourage greater participation in the election. People who travel for business, work long hours or are otherwise inconvenienced by the hours the polls are open may find it easier to vote early.



Early Voting Dates & Times

DATES	LOCATION	TIMES
September 24 through November 2 (Monday-Friday)	Macoupin County Voting Center 227 E. First South, Carlinville	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Closed Oct 12
October 19, 20, 22, 26, 27, 28	227 E. First South, Carlinville	Extended Hours 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday, October 24 and and Saturday, October 31	Macoupin County Voting Center 227 E. First South, Carlinville	9 a.m. - 12 noon



Vote-by-Mail Now Permanent

The state has approved giving voters the choice of receiving a mail ballot for each election without applying each time.

Voters wanting to be placed on the permanent vote-by-mail list are required to apply for inclusion on the list. Once they apply, they will remain on the list and have a ballot mailed to them for each election going forward. If the voter requests to be removed from the list, there is a change to their registration, or they move out of the county, they will be removed from the list and will no longer receive a vote-by-mail ballot for future elections.

Those wanting to apply, can choose to just

apply to receive a ballot for general elections and consolidated elections, or they can choose to also receive a primary ballot for the party they indicate on their application.

“I’m very happy that voters who have been voting by mail for years will now have the option of requesting a ballot automatically if they so choose,” said County Clerk Pete Duncan. “I’m all for giving voters more choices on how they want to vote. Those who want only to vote in person at their polling place on Election Day can continue to do that. For those who do apply to vote-by-mail for each election, this is an option that may make sense for you.”

This will be more cost-efficient for elections going forward. There are quite a few voters in Macoupin County who have voted by mail in each election for many years. Each election, the Election Office probably has mailed them an application, and they’ve mailed it back to get their ballot. While it’s not a lot of postage and costs, eliminating that step by adding the voter to the permanent vote-by-mail list does save some money. It also helps our Election Office, since we will have a head start on vote-by-mail ballot mailing. Since it will be known going in how many permanent mail ballots are going out, we can get them to voters right away.



Vote-by-Mail Ballot Processing

How are Vote-By-Mail ballots processed?

- ❖ The voter requests an application for a vote-by-mail ballot.
- ❖ The Election Office sends the voter an application with instructions.
- ❖ The voter fills out the application and sends it back to the Election Office.
- ❖ The Election Office enters the vote-by-mail application into the voter registration system.

- ❖ The Election Office sends the voter a vote-by-mail packet with instructions.
- ❖ The voter votes the ballot and seals it in the ballot envelope.
- ❖ The voter uses the postage-paid return envelope to send the sealed ballot envelope along with applicable affidavits to the Election Office.
- ❖ The Election Office receives the envelope and logs receipt of the ballot into the voter registration system.
- ❖ The Election Office keeps the ballot in the sealed envelope until election judges

review it.

- ❖ Election judges open the sealed ballot envelope.
- ❖ The ballot is scanned into the vote-by-mail system.
- ❖ After the polls close on Election Day, the scanned vote-by-mail ballots are tabulated.
- ❖ Preliminary vote-by-mail ballot results are reported to the public as part of the precinct results after the polls close on Election Day.



Vote-by-Mail Balloting

Who can vote by mail?

Any registered voter in Macoupin County is eligible to cast a vote by mail ballot, without specifying a reason why they will not be able to vote in person on Election Day. Voters who registered by mail and did not provide sufficient proof of identity will be notified by the County Clerk that their registration is not complete. They will be ineligible to vote until they provide the required proof of identity at their polling place on Election Day, or when requesting a vote by mail ballot.

Can I vote absentee?

Illinois law has changed the name of “absentee voting” to “voting by mail.” If you want to vote absentee, you will now cast a vote-by-mail ballot.

How Do I Apply to Vote by Mail?

You can request an application to vote by mail in many different ways. You can come in person to the Macoupin County Voting Center, 227 East First South St., Carlinville, send in a request by mail, call (217) 854-3214, ext. 918, or apply online at macoupinvotes.gov.

The Election Office will need the voter’s name, residential address, mailing address, and date of birth at the time of the request.

What’s the deadline to apply to Vote by Mail

The deadline to apply for a vote-by-mail ballot is October 29 by 4:30 p.m. The Election Office cannot mail a ballot after that deadline.

How to vote by mail

Step 1: Once you have applied and returned your signed application, the Election Office will mail you your vote-by-mail ballot packet. The packet—containing a ballot, instructions on how to complete your vote-by-mail ballot, a certificate envelope, and a return mailing envelope with postage paid—will be mailed to the voter.

Step 2: Upon receipt of the vote-by-mail ballot, follow all instructions on how to vote and return the ballot to the County Clerk’s Election Office. Make sure to seal just your ballot in the secrecy envelope, and place the secrecy envelope and certification card in the return envelope before mailing to the Election Office.

What is the deadline to return my vote-by-mail ballot?

Returned vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked by Tuesday, November 3, and must be received by the Election Office within 14 days of Election Day. If you want to personally deliver your ballot to the Election Office, it must be received no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day. You may authorize any person to return your ballot to the election authority, as long as you have signed the affidavit on the ballot envelope affirming that authorization was given to deliver the ballot.

Can I receive assistance in voting my ballot?

If you receive assistance in voting your ballot, the name and address of the person providing the assistance must be placed on the ballot certification card. Remember that

a candidate is NOT allowed to assist a voter unless the candidate is a spouse, parent, child or sibling of the voter.

Military and overseas voting

Members of the Uniformed Services and their family members or U.S. citizens residing overseas whose last known address was in Macoupin County and who wish to vote by mail may do so by completing and mailing an FPCA (Federal Post Card Application). By completing this application, you will automatically be sent a vote-by-mail ballot for one calendar year.

Vote-by-Mail ballot integrity

It is illegal to:

- ❖ Make a false statement to obtain a vote-by-mail ballot or solicit someone to do so.
- ❖ Vote a vote-by-mail ballot unless you qualify for one.
- ❖ Have a candidate assist you in voting unless the candidate is the voter’s spouse, parent, child or sibling.

Do not let anyone:

- ❖ Mark your ballot, or unduly influence your ballot selections, unless you require assistance. Individuals who cannot assist voters include the voter’s employer or an agent of that employer, or an officer or agent of the voter’s union.
- ❖ On your behalf, sign your name to the application for a vote-by-mail ballot and/or certificate envelope. By law, the Macoupin County Clerk’s Office compares the facsimile signature at registration with the signature provided on the application for a vote-by-mail ballot and the certificate envelope.



Track Your Vote-by-Mail Ballot

Track Your Ballot's Return To Election Office And See If It Was Counted

1. Visit www.macoupinvotes.gov/checkmyballot.
2. Click "Ballot Tracking Signup Page."
3. Enter your name, date of birth and zip code.

4. You will be able to see notifications on when your ballot will be mailed to you, delivered back to the Election office and then the date it is received.
5. You will also be able to see if your ballot was counted (accepted) or rejected.
6. If you would like, you can also

sign up for email, text and/or phone call notifications regarding your ballot's delivery back to the office and whether it was counted or not. Just check the box next to the statement that you would like to receive those notifications and enter your email and/or phone number.



Find Your Sample Ballot Online

To find your sample ballot online:

- ❖ Go to www.macoupinvotes.gov
- ❖ Click the 'Voter Lookup' button
- ❖ Enter your name and birthdate
- ❖ Once your voter information is brought up, there will be a yellow button on the right. Click the yellow button to open and view your sample ballot.



Election Security

Election security is a top priority for all election authorities and the Macoupin County Clerk's office has continued to employ effective and forward-thinking cybersecurity measures to further strengthen our county's elections systems and safeguard our elections infrastructure against any malicious cyber activity.

Since the 2016 Presidential Election, there have been many questions and stories about how secure our Elections are and can our votes be hacked. When it comes to Macoupin County, we wanted to give you the hard facts about how our elections are secure.

■ None of our voting machines are ever connected to the internet, either in the polling place or when votes are being counted, meaning they can never be hacked.

■ All machines are locked and sealed to

prevent any kind of tampering or system interference.

■ All ballots cast have a paper trail. Whether you vote a paper ballot or on the touchscreen, there is a paper trail of how your vote was cast.

■ All voting machines are tested before the Election with a test deck of ballots being voted on machines and then tabulated to ensure the machine results are correct and match the test deck of ballots.

■ While voting is occurring, Election judges periodically inspect the equipment to ensure there has been no tampering or damage.

■ Election judges at the polling place confirm that there are zero votes cast at the opening of voting and must compare the number of ballots cast to the number of voters

that applied to vote at the end of the day.

■ Poll watchers are allowed to observe all early voting and Election Day polling locations.

■ After the Election, a retabulation of selected precincts by the State Board of Election will be done to ensure that the reported results match up to the ballots cast.

The Macoupin County Clerk's office takes ensuring every vote is counted and counted correctly seriously in Macoupin. When it comes to cyber security, the County Clerk's office has taken numerous steps to enhance our security processes. While we don't want to detail them all publicly for those who may want to interfere to see, we have and will continue to try and stay one step ahead of any attempts to disrupt Macoupin's Elections.

County earns elections funding and budgets certification

The Macoupin County Clerk's Office is proud to report it has earned certification in the Funding and Budgets Standard for Excellence through the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence.

The standard looks at how election offices plan for what it takes to run elections, budget for future needs, find outside funding when possible and make responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

Those are things we've worked hard on here in Macoupin County.

In the time since County Clerk Pete

Duncan took office, Macoupin County has secured more than \$1.4 million in grant funding for elections. Those dollars have helped replace voting equipment, improve technology and security, and establish our Voting Center without putting the full cost on local taxpayers.

At the same time, the combined County Clerk & Recorder and election-related General Fund budget has grown just 11.3 percent since 2010 — less than 1 percent per year on average.

"There's always more work to do, but I'm proud of what those numbers say

about how we've tried to balance investing in our elections with being careful about how we spend public dollars," according to Duncan.

Macoupin County was one of the nation's first ten Centers for Election Excellence in 2022, and we'll keep working toward certification in other areas of election administration.

Learn more about the Funding and Budgets Standard:

<https://electionexcellence.org/stand.../funding-and-budgets/>



Become an Election Judge

What are judges of election?

Judges of election are responsible for the administration of election procedures in the polling place on election day. They are in the position of ensuring that the election process is administered fairly and in accordance with our laws.

What qualifications are needed to be an election judge?

- ❖ Be a citizen of the United States.
- ❖ Be of good repute and character.
- ❖ Be able to speak, read and write the English language.
- ❖ Be of good understanding and capable.
- ❖ Not be an elected committeeman.
- ❖ Be registered to vote in Macoupin County.
- ❖ Each Election Judge is required to declare their party preference so they can be assigned accordingly. (See how judges are selected in the following section.)

How are judges selected?

Election Judges are chosen by the County Clerk and by the Party Chairpersons. The party which cast the highest average number of votes at the most recent three gubernatorial elections in the precinct shall be represented by three judges, the party which casts the second highest number of votes at the most recent three gubernatorial elections in the precinct shall be represented by two judges.

How are election judges trained?

Before each election, several election judge training schools will be held. This course covers the duties and responsibilities of election judges and an examination which tests reading skills, ability to work with poll lists, ability to add and knowledge of election laws governing the operation of polling places is given every two years. Judges who have attended and completed the class will receive \$220 for their duties on election day. Judges who have not attended and completed the class will receive \$190 for their duties on election day.

What are some of the duties of judges of election?

- ❖ Open and close the polls.
- ❖ Be responsible for election materials.
- ❖ Ensure that only qualified voters are permitted to vote and that each qualified voter is permitted to vote once and only once.
- ❖ Give instructions in the method of voting when requested by a voter.
- ❖ Give assistance to illiterate and physically disabled voters.
- ❖ Maintain order in the polling place throughout the day.
- ❖ Tally the votes after the polls are closed; and to certify the election results in that precinct.

How may I become an election judge?

Contact the County Clerk's office by phone or email and express your interest in serving as a Judge of Election. Election judges are vital to ensure efficient and honest elections to which voters are entitled in a democratic society.

**Call us at (217) 854-3214, extension 918;
or email us at
elections@macoupincountyil.gov.**





Public Questions

NOTICE OF PUBLIC QUESTION

Public notice is hereby given that at the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026, the following proposition will be submitted to the voters of Macoupin County, Illinois;

Shall the board of Macoupin County correspond with the boards of the other counties of Illinois outside of Cook County about the possibility of separating from Cook County to form a new state, and to seek admission to the Union as such, subject to the approval of the people?

The polls of said General Election shall be open continuously from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026.

**PETE
DUNCAN**
MACOUPIN COUNTY CLERK



Dated August 21, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC QUESTION

Public notice is hereby given that at the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026, the following proposition will be submitted to the voters of Bunker Hill Fire Protection District in Macoupin County, Illinois;

Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for the Bunker Hill Fire Protection District, in Macoupin County, Illinois and Madison County, Illinois be increased by an additional amount equal to .18% above the limiting rate for the purpose of fire department operations for levy year 2026 and be equal to .43097% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year 2026?

The polls of said General Election shall be open continuously from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026.

**PETE
DUNCAN**
MACOUPIN COUNTY CLERK



Dated August 21, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC QUESTION

Public notice is hereby given that at the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026, the following proposition will be submitted to the voters of the proposed Special Service Area #6 in Macoupin County, Illinois;

Should a Special Service Area to provide ambulance service be created in the same area as Medora Area Ambulance Service so those residents pay property taxes for the service at a rate of .103%?

The polls of said General Election shall be open continuously from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026.

**PETE
DUNCAN**
MACOUPIN COUNTY CLERK



Dated August 21, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC QUESTION

Public notice is hereby given that at the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026, the following proposition will be submitted to the voters of City of Staunton in Macoupin County, Illinois;

Shall the municipality have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such a program?

The polls of said General Election shall be open continuously from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026.

**PETE
DUNCAN**
MACOUPIN COUNTY CLERK



Dated August 21, 2026





Sample Ballot

**SPECIMEN BALLOT
MACOUPIN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 3, 2026**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS SPECIMEN BALLOT IS
A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE OFFICES AND
CANDIDATES TO BE VOTED IN THE GENERAL ELEC-
TION TO BE HELD IN MACOUPIN COUNTY ON TUES-
DAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026.

Pete Duncan

PETE DUNCAN, COUNTY CLERK
MACOUPIN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FEDERAL

FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR

(Vote for one)

- ☐ Don Tracy REPUBLICAN
☐ Juliana Stratton DEMOCRATIC
☐ Whitfield Harrington Jr AMERICAN CENTER

STATE

**FOR GOVERNOR AND
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

(Vote for one)

- ☐ (Darren Bailey
(Aaron B. Del Mar) REPUBLICAN
☐ (JB Pritzker
(Christian Mitchell) DEMOCRATIC
☐ (Collin Corbett
(Carolyn Schofield) INDEPENDENT
☐ (Write-in
()

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

(Vote for one)

- ☐ Robert W. Fioretti REPUBLICAN
☐ Kwame Raoul DEMOCRATIC

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE

(Vote for one)

- ☐ Diane M. Harris REPUBLICAN
☐ Alexi Giannoulas DEMOCRATIC

NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST

Notice is hereby given that the Public Test of the
tabulating equipment, Unisyn OVO and FVT, to be
used at the General Election on November 3rd,
2026 will be conducted at the Macoupin Voting
Center at 227 E. First South St., Carlinville, IL on
Monday, October 26th at 1:00 p.m.

The public test is open to everyone.

**PETE
DUNCAN**
MACOUPIN COUNTY CLERK



Pete Duncan

Dated: August 13, 2026

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE

(Vote for one)

- ☐ Diane M. Harris REPUBLICAN
☐ Alexi Giannoulas DEMOCRATIC

FOR COMPTROLLER

(Vote for one)

- ☐ Bryan Drew REPUBLICAN
☐ Margaret Croke DEMOCRATIC
☐ Write-in

FOR TREASURER

(Vote for one)

- ☐ Max Solomon REPUBLICAN
☐ Michael W. Frerichs DEMOCRATIC
☐ Write-in

CONGRESSIONAL

**FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS
THIRTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

(Vote for one)

- ☐ Jeff Wilson REPUBLICAN
☐ Nikki Budzinski DEMOCRATIC

**FOR REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS
(BOND, CHRISTIAN, EFFINGHAM,
FAYETTE AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES)**

(Vote for one)

- No Candidate REPUBLICAN
☐ Julie Wollerman DEMOCRATIC

**FOR REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS
(CALHOUN, GREENE, JERSEY AND
MACOUPIN COUNTIES)**

(Vote for one)

- No Candidate REPUBLICAN
☐ Ryan Wamser DEMOCRATIC

COUNTY BOARD	
FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT ONE	
(Vote for not more than two)	
☐ Holly Klausing	REPUBLICAN
☐ Joe Bateman	REPUBLICAN
☐ No Candidate	DEMOCRATIC
FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT TWO (FOR AN UNEXPIRED 2-YEAR TERM)	
(Vote for one)	
☐ Derek Spudich	REPUBLICAN
☐ Tom Ament	DEMOCRATIC
FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT THREE	
(Vote for not more than two)	
☐ Kristi Dunnagan	REPUBLICAN
☐ John P Trevino Sr	REPUBLICAN
☐ No Candidate	DEMOCRATIC
FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT FIVE	
(Vote for not more than two)	
☐ William Heyen	REPUBLICAN
☐ Larry Schmidt	REPUBLICAN
☐ Kimberly Rossini	DEMOCRATIC
FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT SIX	
(Vote for not more than two)	
☐ Aaron Stayton	REPUBLICAN
☐ Leann Barr	REPUBLICAN
☐ No Candidate	DEMOCRATIC
FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT SEVEN	
(Vote for not more than two)	
☐ Bernard C Kiel	REPUBLICAN
☐ James Ibberson	REPUBLICAN
☐ Nancy M. Bitner	DEMOCRATIC

FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT EIGHT	
(Vote for not more than two)	
☐ Harry Starr IV	REPUBLICAN
☐ Robert "Tony" Wiggins	DEMOCRATIC
☐ Eleanor (Young) Harms	INDEPENDENT
JUDICIAL RETENTION	
BALLOT FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES SEEKING RETENTION IN OFFICE	
<i>"Vote on the Proposition with respect to all or any of the Judges listed on this ballot. No Judge listed is running against any other Judge. The sole question is whether each Judge shall be retained in his or her present office."</i>	
APPELLATE COURT JUDGE	
SHALL James A. Knecht be retained in office as JUDGE OF THE APPELLATE COURT FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT?	
☐ Yes ☐ No	
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE	
SHALL Christopher E. "Chris" Reif be retained in office as JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT?	
☐ Yes ☐ No	
SHALL John M. "Mo" Madonia be retained in office as JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT?	
☐ Yes ☐ No	
SHALL Adam Giganti be retained in office as JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT?	
☐ Yes ☐ No	

SHALL Gail L. Noll be retained in office as JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT?
☐ Yes ☐ No
SHALL Allison Lorton be retained in office as JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT?
☐ Yes ☐ No
SHALL Zachary A. Schmidt be retained in office as JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT?
☐ Yes ☐ No
PROPOSITION
PROPOSITION TO CREATE SPECIAL AMBULANCE SERVICE
"Should a Special Service Area to provide ambulance service be created in the same area as Medora Ambulance Service so those residents pay property taxes for the service at a rate of .103%?" ☐ Yes ☐ No
CITY OF STAUNTON PROPOSITION TO ARRANGE FOR SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY
"Shall the municipality have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such a program?" ☐ Yes ☐ No

**COUNTYWIDE NEW STATE
ADVISORY QUESTION**

"Shall the board of Macoupin County correspond with the boards of the other counties of Illinois outside of Cook County about the possibility of separating from Cook County to form a new state, and to seek admission to the Union as such, subject to the approval of the people?"

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

**BUNKER HILL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
PROPOSITON TO INCREASE LIMITING RATE**

Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for the Bunker Hill Fire Protection District, in Macoupin County, Illinois and Madison County, Illinois be increased by an additional amount equal to .18% above the limiting rate for the purpose of fire department operations for levy year 2026 and be equal to .43097% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year 2026?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

(1) The approximate amount of taxes extendable at the most recently extended limiting rate is \$293,717 and the approximate amount extendable if the proposition is approved is \$537,653.

(2) For the 2026 levy year the approximate amount of the additional tax extendable against property containing a single-family residence and having a fair market value at the time of the referendum of \$100,000 is estimated to be \$60.

(3) If the proposition is approved, the aggregate extension for 2026 will be determined by the limiting rate set forth in the proposition, rather than calculated under the provisions of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (commonly known as the Property Tax Cap Law).

Local Election candidates can get on ballot now for 2027

While attention is focused on the Nov. 3 midterm election, some people are already looking ahead to the spring.

Next year's Consolidated Election, which includes municipal and village offices, library and park districts, school districts, and other local offices, is set for April 6. Candidates have been able to circulate nominating petitions since Aug. 25, according to Macoupin County Clerk Pete Duncan.

Next year's election includes mayoral races — sometimes referred to as village president — in most Macoupin communities.

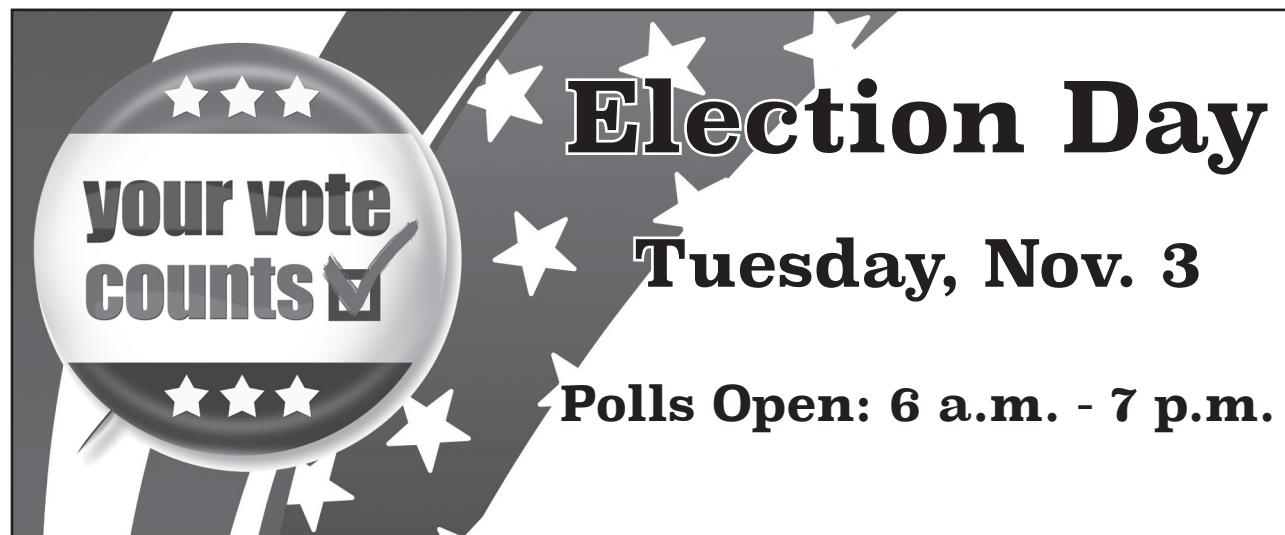
Nominating petitions must be filed Nov. 16–23. Petition packets for school district seats are available from the Macoupin County Clerk's Office. Candidates for other local offices should obtain their packets from the appropriate local government office.

Petition packets are also available online at MacoupinVotes.gov under "Get on the Ballot" and "Petition Packets."

The election cycle also includes a potential Feb. 23 Consolidated Primary Election for the City of Carlinville. A primary will be held if five or more candidates file for the same office.

Carlinville candidates follow an earlier schedule. Their nominating petitions must be filed Oct. 19–26.

Those interested in running for local office can find additional information, petition packets, filing dates and other candidate resources at MacoupinVotes.gov.



Election Day

Tuesday, Nov. 3

Polls Open: 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.

your vote counts



Important Dates

Sept. 24 – Ballots being mailed and Early

Voting begins

Oct. 6 – Voter registration deadline

Oct. 7 – Grace Period Voting begins

Oct. 29 – Last day to apply for ballot by mail

Nov. 2 – Last business day to vote early

Nov. 3 – Last business day to grace period

vote

Nov. 3 – ELECTION DAY



Don't forget with *MacoupinVotes.gov*, you can:

- ❖ Check Your Voter Registration
- ❖ See Your Sample Ballot
- ❖ Find Your Polling Place
- ❖ See Your Elected Officials and Their Contact Info
- ❖ Track Your Absentee Ballot
- ❖ Get Up To Minute Election Results

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT THE ELECTION OFFICE

Pete Duncan,

Macoupin County Clerk

201 E. Main, Carlinville, IL 62626

First Floor of the Macoupin County Courthouse

HOURS:

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

(217) 854-3214 ext 918

elections@macoupincountyil.gov

www.macoupinvotes.gov

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www.facebook.com/MacoupinCountyClerk