



**30th Annual
National Conference
San Francisco, CA**

2014 Professional Practices Program

Implementation of Decision Support within ePollbooks

Peoria Election Commission, Illinois

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Like so many states across the country, Illinois election law is complicated. Interpreting and explaining how to correctly implement that law to a pollworker is a challenge. Some of the most challenging laws to explain are those dealing with voter verification, including fail safe voters and provisional votes. Developing processes and tools to standardize how pollworkers verify voters, independent of their experience and knowledge, continues to be an overall goal.

In Illinois there are a dozen different affidavit options depending on the voter's circumstances (Appendix A is one of Illinois' state mandated affidavit forms). For example, if the voter moved within 28 days, within the same precinct, the voter can vote a full ballot after showing two forms of identification with the correct address *and* having another qualified voter vouch for them. There is a specific affidavit this voter must complete. However, if the voter moved within 28 days within the election jurisdiction, but to a new precinct, the voter can vote after showing two forms of identification with the correct address *or* having another qualified voter vouch for them. There is different affidavit this voter must complete. If the voter has changed their name but not their residence address, the voter can vote a full ballot after showing two forms of identification with the new name *or* having another qualified voter vouch for them. There is yet another affidavit this voter must complete. These complicated laws are difficult for a pollworker, who receives limited training on the topic, to grasp before being expected to administer them on Election Day.

In answer to this ongoing issue, a flowchart was created in 2008 to assist the pollworker with voter verification through a series of 'yes'/'no' questions (Appendix B is the flowchart from the 2012 General Election). The implementation of the flowchart helped to standardize voter verification throughout the election jurisdiction. As a result, there was a decrease in unnecessary affidavits and an increase in the number of correct affidavits completed. Positive feedback was received from pollworkers stating the flowchart was a valuable resource.

In 2010 the Peoria Election Commission began researching ePollbooks with the intention of merging decision support technology with standard voter check-in and voter history capabilities. Voter verification circumstances can differ from one election to the next. As a result the capability to customize the decision support technology to Illinois statute and from election to election was essential. In 2012, the Peoria Election Commission purchased Hart Intercivic ePollbooks.

For the Presidential election of 2012 a pilot program was administered. Three Polling Places were selected, each a different size and geographic location. The pilot program was intended to measure voter processing times during a high turnout election cycle. Full implementation of the ePollbooks occurred during the 2013 elections and continued

successfully into the 2014 election cycle (Appendix C is the 2012 flowchart in ePollbook formatting.)

When a voter walks into a City of Peoria Polling Place, they are asked to state their first and last name. The pollworker does a name search within the ePollbook. As soon as the pollworker finds the voter from the initial search, the flowchart questions begin. The voter is asked to verify their residential address. If what the voter states matches the address listed, the pollworker selects 'yes', if it is not correct, the pollworker selects 'no.' If the answer is 'yes', this is a qualified voter and an Application to Vote is printed. If the answer is 'no', the flowchart questions continue until the pollworker has properly determined the correct course of action for the voter. Possible solutions may be to send the voter to a different Polling Place to vote, cast a Provisional Ballot, or complete a specific affidavit (Appendix D is a selection of screen shots from ePollbooks).

The ePollbook was an adjustment for pollworkers as it was viewed as another piece of technology to learn. It was essential to stress the convenience of the ePollbooks during pollworker training. With this new technology, voter look-up time would decrease and voter verification would be a part of the check-in process through the built in flowchart. Post-election surveys, one on one discussions and overall feedback from pollworkers indicates the ePollbooks have been embraced as a valuable tool which helps to simplify the overall Election Day process. Developing processes and tools to standardize how pollworkers verify voters, independent of their experience and knowledge, continues to be an overall goal. It is important to continually research new possibilities, review those already in place, and work diligently to make the election cycle more manageable for pollworkers while providing an effective and efficient voting experience for the voter.

Appendix A
Eight of the twelve Illinois state mandated affidavits, Affidavit of Voters

10 ILCS 5/4-15, 4-16, 4-22, 5-23, 5-29, 6-53, 6-54
6-66, 7-48, 17-9, 17-10(a), 17-14, 18-5, 19A-35, 29-20

Revised September, 2006
Mandated SBE No. C-3

AFFIDAVIT OF VOTERS

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
COUNTY OF PEORIA)

_____ TOWNSHIP, _____ PRECINCT _____ WARD

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am a citizen of the United States; that I am 18 years of age or over; that I have resided in this State and in this election district 30 days next preceding this election; that I have not voted at this election; that I am a duly qualified voter in every respect; that I now reside at _____, town, city or village of _____, in this election district.

MARK APPLICABLE STATEMENT AND FILL IN ANY BLANKS IN THAT STATEMENT:

1. _____ I have changed my residence to the above address within the past 28 days from _____
Address Change both of which are in this election district (precinct); Supporting affidavit required or two forms of I.D. required. (10 ILCS 5/4-16).

Identification: If used, both must show current residence address.

1. _____ 2. _____
Supporting Affidavit required only in counties over 500,000 population and Boards of Election Commissioners (10 ILCS 5/5-23, 6-53)

2. _____ I changed my name from _____ to the name signed below. I am
Name Change the same person now registered from the above address in this election district (precinct). Supporting affidavit or two forms of I.D. required.
(10 ILCS 5/4-16).

Identification: If used, both must show current residence address.

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ My name appears on the printed pollsheet of voters and my name has not been erased or withdrawn from the register of voters, however my name
Name on list is not on the pre-printed application, and I do possess a valid voter's I.D. (in counties under 500,000 population) Supporting affidavit or two forms of
I.D. required. (10 ILCS 5/4-15, 4-22).

Identification: If used, both must show current residence address.

1. _____ 2. _____
Two supporting affidavits required only in counties over 500,000 population and Boards of Election Commissioners (10 ILCS 5/5-29, 6-66).

4. _____ I cannot read or write the English language and hereby request assistance. (10 ILCS 5/7-48, 17-14). Complete assisted voter affidavit.
Assisted Voter

5. _____ By reason of a physical disability of _____, I am unable to mark
Assisted Voter my ballot and hereby request assistance (10 ILCS 5/7-48, 17-14). Complete assisted voter affidavit.

6. _____ I applied for, but never received an absentee ballot. (10 ILCS 5/17-9, 18-5). No Supporting affidavit required.
Absentee Ballot
Not Received
By Voter

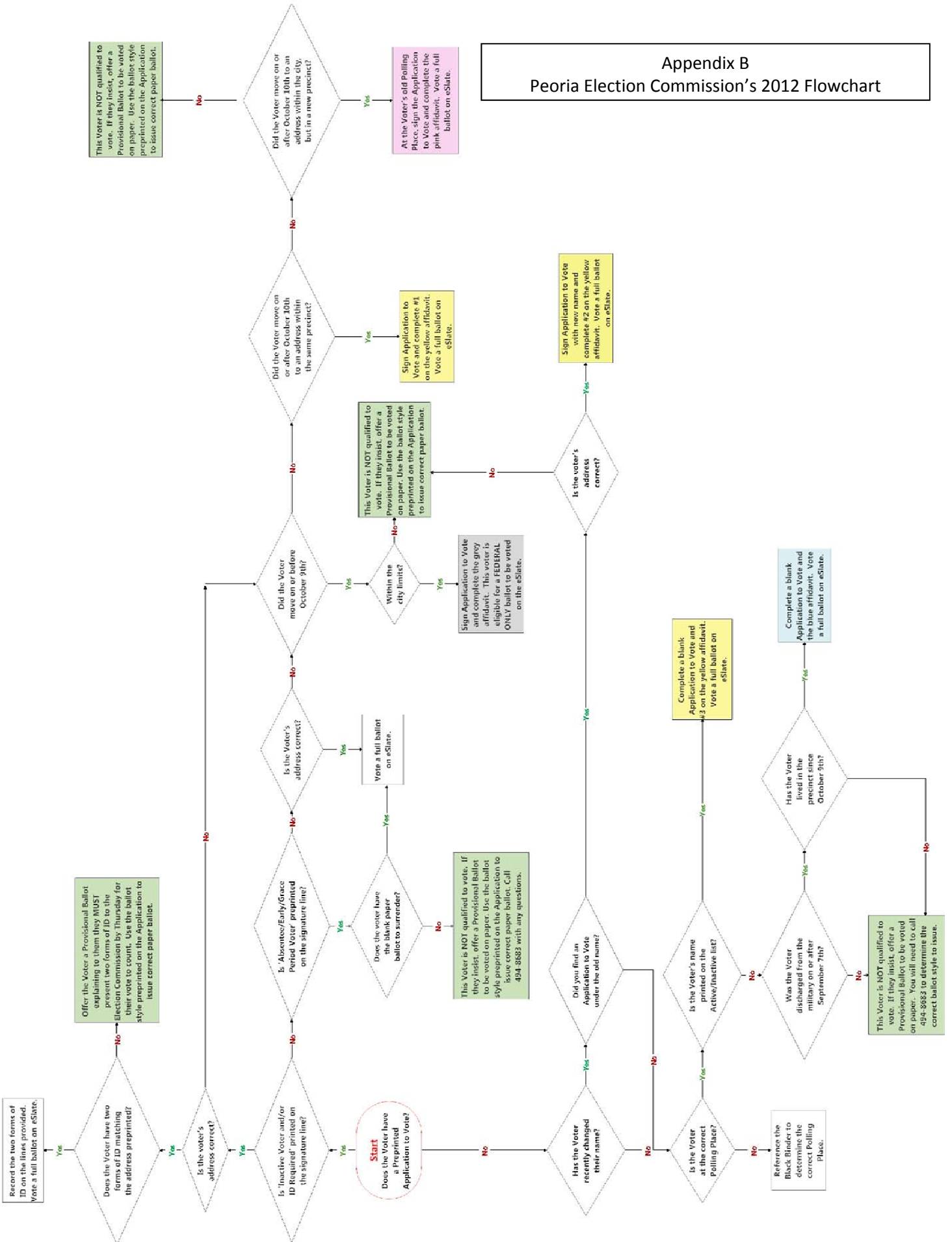
7. _____ I completed and returned an absentee ballot and was informed that the election authority did not receive my absentee ballot. No supporting affidavit
Absentee Ballot required.
Not Received by
Voter

8. _____ I have not changed my residence, but my address has changed as a result of implementation of a 9-1-1- emergency telephone system.
Residence not
changed, 9-1-1-
address change

So help me God, (or "This I do solemnly and sincerely affirm", as the case may be). _____
Signature of Voter

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) by _____ before me, this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Appendix B Peoria Election Commission's 2012 Flowchart



Appendix C

Peoria Election Commission 2012 flowchart in ePollbook formatting

Beginning Question:		Q1		
Question	Answer	Go To/ Display		
Q1	Is the voter's address correct?	YES	Ready to post	
		NO	Q2	
Q2	Did the Voter move on or before October 9th?	YES	Q3	
		NO	Q4	
Q3	Within the city limits?	YES	SI1	
		NO	SI5	
Q4	Did the Voter move to an address within the same precinct?	YES	SI2	
		NO	Q5	
Q5	Within the city limits but in a new precinct?	YES	SI3	
		NO	SI4	
	Special Instructions	Special Action Check Box	Special Action Detail	Help Text Code
SI1	Grey Affidavit Required	Station 2B Grey Affidavit	MOVED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 9TH WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS. The voter must sign the Application to Vote and complete the grey affidavit. This voter is eligible for a FEDERAL ONLY ballot to be voted on the eSlate.	GREY_AFFIDAVIT
SI2	#1 on Yellow Affidavit Required	Station 2B #1 Yellow Affidavit	MOVED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 10TH WITHIN THE SAME PRECINCT. The voter must sign the Application to Vote and complete #1 on the yellow affidavit in order to vote a full ballot on eSlate. Two forms of ID with new address and witness are required.	YELLOW_AFFIDAVIT
SI3	Pink Affidavit Required	Station 2B Pink Affidavit	MOVED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 10TH TO A NEW PRECINCT WITHIN THE CITY. The voter must sign the Application to Vote and the pink affidavit in order to vote a full ballot on eSlate. Two forms of ID with new address or witness is required.	PINK_AFFIDAVIT
SI4	Provisional Ballot Only		MOVED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 10TH OUTSIDE OF THE CITY. This voter is not qualified to vote. If they insist, offer a Provisional Ballot to be voted on paper.	none
SI5	Provisional Ballot Only		MOVED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 9TH OUTSIDE OF THE CITY LIMITS. This voter is NOT qualified to vote. If they insist, offer a Provisional Ballot to be voted on paper.	None

Appendix D

2013 ePollbook configuration screen shots

[Return to search](#)

Training Election
Election Day
North Branch Library

NW (06,Thu 14:44)
PP (06,Thu 14:44)

Admin ? About X

Troy, James G

VUID: 9560
Date of birth: 11/24/1937
Precinct: 93

Status: ACTIVE

Special Instructions:
PARTY SELECTION REQUIRED ?

Special Actions:
 DEM
 REP
 NP

Voter Details | Signature | Comments

PARTY SELECTION REQUIRED
Select the voters Party of choice.

Street Address: 11517 N Brooklyn Pl, Dunlap
Ballot Style: 136

Is the voter's address correct?

[Return to search](#)

Training Election
Election Day
North Branch Library

NW (07,Fri 07:27)
PP (07,Fri 07:27)

Admin ? About X

White, Ann L

VUID: 5563
Date of birth: 05/30/1963
Precinct: 95

Status: ACTIVE

Special Instructions:
PARTY SELECTION REQUIRED ?

Special Actions:
 DEM
 REP
 NP

Voter Details | Signature | Comments

PARTY SELECTION REQUIRED
Select the voters Party of choice.

Street Address: 2811 W Windflower Ct, Peoria
Ballot Style: 138

Did the Voter move on or before February 18th?

[← Return to search](#)

Gootee, Michael J

VUID: 23333
 Date of birth: 07/17/1963
 Precinct: 95

Status: **ACTIVE**

Special Instructions:
Yellow Affidavit Required ?
PARTY SELECTION REQUIRED ?

Special Actions:
 Station 2B Yellow Affidavit
 DEM
 REP
 NP

[Post voter](#)

Training Election
 Election Day
 North Branch Library

- NW (10, Mon 13:02)
- PP (10, Mon 13:02)

Voter Details | Signature | Comments

MOVED AFTER FEBRUARY 18TH IN A DIFFERENT PRECINCT WITHIN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AND HAS TWO FORMS OF ID OR A REGISTERED VOTER TO VOUCH FOR THEM.

Voter is eligible to vote a full ballot on eSlate after completing #3 on the YELLOW Affidavit.

PARTY SELECTION REQUIRED
 Select the voters Party of choice.

Street Address: **10530 N Osage Ct, Peoria**
 Ballot Style: **138**

[Provisional](#) [Help](#)

[← Return to search](#)

Troy, James G

VUID: 9560
 Date of birth: 11/24/1937
 Precinct: 93

Status: **ACTIVE**

Special Instructions:
PARTY SELECTION REQUIRED ?

Special Actions:
 DEM
 REP
 NP

Training Election
 Election Day
 North Branch Library

- NW (06, Thu 14:44)
- PP (06, Thu 14:44)

Voter Details | Signature | Comments

PARTY SELECTION REQUIRED
 Select the voters Party of choice.

Street Address: **11517 N Brooklyn Pl, Dunlap**
 Ballot Style: **136**

The voter has been posted successfully.

[New Search](#) [Reprint](#)