

# SUPPORT HB 4469

Sponsors: Stratton-Gabel-Cassidy-C. Mitchell-Gordon-Booth- Currie-Guzzardi-Turner- Wallace-Evans-Mah-Welch-Jones-Fine-Hernandez-Ford-Smith-Harper-Mayfield-David-Conyears-Ervin-Greenwood-Ammons-Thapedi-Rita-Slaughter-Lilly-Flowers-Soto-Chapa LaVia-Sente-Riley

## 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.

→ This bill 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.

→ This bill 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.

→ This bill 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, as required by this bill, the Illinois Department of Corrections and the county jails will help these populations successfully re-enter into society, while also reducing the recidivism rate.

### **Several 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  
Heartland Alliance  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
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

## Counties With a Voting Program

Coles  
Cook  
DuPage  
Lake  
Piatt  
Sangamon  
Tazewell

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