

LAW OFFICES
WEBSTER, CHAMBERLAIN & BEAN, LLP
1747 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

(202) 785-9500
FAX: (202) 835-0243

October 27, 2016

Via Email

Cara Hendrickson
Chief, Public Interest Division
Office of the Illinois Attorney General
100 West Randolph Street, 12th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601
chendrickson@atg.state.il.us

Ms. Hendrickson:

I am in receipt of your letter sent last evening regarding mailers being distributed by the Illinois Opportunity Project informing citizens that they are entitled to submit applications to vote-by-mail. Both during our telephone call last evening, and in your letter, you have expressed a concern that the returned applications be delivered promptly to the appropriate county clerk's office. While you demanded during our phone conversation that those delivering applications this morning have an escort, your letter does not make such a request and I assume you are no longer requesting that representatives from your office escort the applications to the various clerks' offices.

The goal of the Illinois Opportunity Project is to inform citizens that they may submit applications to vote-by-mail and assist them in the process, if they so choose, by turning in their application to vote-by-mail to their county clerk so that they are able to vote. Thus, the ultimate goal is to ensure vote-by-mail applications are promptly turned and they received a vote-by-mail ballot so that they can vote.

As I mentioned several times during our phone conversation last evening, I have a hearing this morning beginning at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time. Although I offered to speak prior to leaving for the hearing this morning or later this afternoon, you were unwilling to do so. I agreed to speak this morning at 10:30 a.m. CST if I am available, and I made no guarantees that I would be available at this time. I understand your desire to be assured that applications are promptly

delivered, but the lack of professional courtesy in scheduling the phone conversation and the less than sixteen hours' notice to comply with your requests makes a full response very difficult. I have advised Illinois Opportunity Project to preserve all potentially relevant material.

As of the evening of October 26, 2016, 154,433 applications have been sent out to citizens in six counties (some citizens in a 7th county may have received applications as a result of being within a district which includes a portion of that county): Lake County; Cook County; DuPage County; Will County; Kankakee County; and Rock Island County.

Rock Island County - Illinois Opportunity Project hand delivered return postal payment on October 22, 2016. Mail in the post office box was not released to Illinois Opportunity Project until October 26. Approximately 1,511 applications were picked up on October 26 and approximately 271 applications were delivered on October 26 to John Brown, Deputy Clerk of Rock Island County. The remaining applications will be delivered to the clerk by 10:30 a.m. CST this morning.

Cook County - No applications have been received as of October 26, 2016.

DuPage County - Approximately 560 applications were picked up on October 26, 2016 and will be dropped off this morning to the clerk.

Will County - Illinois Opportunity Project began picking up applications on October 24. Of the approximately 800 picked up since October 24, approximately 800 were dropped off on October 26 directly to the DuPage County clerk, Nancy Schultz Booth.

Kankakee County - Illinois Opportunity Project has been informed that any mail in the post office box will not be released until cleared by the USPS Postal Inspector. Illinois Opportunity Project paid return postage on October 26, 2016.

Lake County - No applications have been received as of October 26, 2016.

The purpose of the program of the Illinois Opportunity Project is that citizens get a mail ballot and vote, and therefore, Illinois Opportunity Project will check these post office boxes daily and will deliver applications (which are

Letter to Ms. Hendrickson
Page 3

available and not being held by the post office) within one business day of being picked up, assuming such mail has been released/available for pick-up.

A sample mailer is attached.

I trust these assurances will alleviate any concern you might have.

Sincerely,


Heidi K. Abegg

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR DUPAGE COUNTY



The outcome of *this year's* state and local elections are especially important because they will determine the future of Illinois. Changes to Illinois election law now makes it **EASIER THAN EVER FOR YOU TO CAST YOUR BALLOT** and have your voice heard in the November 2016 election. Voting by mail is an **EASY, SAFE AND SECURE WAY TO MAKE SURE YOUR VOTE COUNTS**.

Applying to vote by mail is as easy as A, B, C:

- A. Sign and date the enclosed pre-printed application.
- B. Place the completed application in the enclosed self-addressed, self-stamped envelope.
- C. Drop it in the mail **NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 17*** to make sure you receive your ballot.

It's that **EASY AND CONVENIENT**. The DuPage County Clerk's office will send your ballot to you in the next few days, and you can make your voice heard in this important election.

Thank you,

DuPage County Vote by Mail Center

COMPLETE YOUR FORM, SIGN IT AND MAIL IT IN TODAY!

*NOTE: The final day election officials can accept your application by mail is November 3, 2016.