

EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING

[This model bill may be used in combination with Project Vote's model bill on No-Excuse Absentee Voting.]

EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING

1. During any regularly scheduled primary or general election or any special election any registered voter of the State may vote:
 - A. In the voter's assigned precinct on Election Day; or
 - B. At an early voting center in the voter's county of residence on any early voting day in accordance with this section; or
 - C. By absentee ballot in accordance with the provisions of [code section on absentee voting].
2. Each county shall have at least one early voting center as prescribed in this subsection.
 - A. In each county, the county board of election office shall be an early voting center, except that the county board of elections may designate an alternate site in order to comply with federal or state law or to increase voter access.
 - B. Any county with a population of 150,000 or more must have at least one additional early voting center per 75,000 people.
 - C. Early voting centers shall permit any registered voter in that county to vote at the center.
3. The Early voting centers designated in accordance with this provision shall be geographically distributed and located near public transportation routes, so as to provide all voters in the county with an equally convenient opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as practicable. Non-traditional, public or private locations that best accommodate voters shall be considered.
4. No later than 60 days before any regularly scheduled primary, general election, or special election, the local board of elections in each county shall designate each early voting center in that county, and report such designations to the [Chief Election Official] [State Board of Elections]. The [Chief Election Official] [State Board of Elections] may object to any such designation and cause the local board of elections to propose alternate locations in order to comply with federal or state law or to increase voter access.
5. Each early voting center shall be open for voting as follows:
 - A. Early voting shall begin on the 15th day before any regularly scheduled primary, general election, or special election and continue through 6 P.M. on the Sunday before an election; and
 - B. For both special elections and regularly scheduled primary or general elections, early voting shall be provided from 10 A.M. to 8 P.M. on weekdays and from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. on both Saturdays and Sundays during the early voting period.

- C. Upon written request to the [Chief Election Official] [State Board of Elections] and public notice, a local board of elections may seek a waiver to the required number of hours of operation for early voting centers on the grounds that such hours clearly exceed the needs of the local population of eligible voters.
6. Beginning 30 days prior to each early voting period the [Chief Election Official] [State Board of Elections] and each local board of elections shall undertake steps to inform the public about early voting and the location of early voting centers in each county, particularly reaching out to segments of the electorate with historically lower rates of voter participation, including:
 - A. A series of public service media announcements;
 - B. Mailings to all registered voters in each county; and
 - C. Other measures intended to inform the public about the availability of early voting, as appropriate.
 7. Except as expressly provided in this section, any provision of this article [or this state's laws] that applies to voting on Election Day also applies to early voting.
 8. The Chief Election Official / State Board of Elections shall adopt regulations and guidelines in accordance with the requirements of this section for the conduct of early voting and selection of early voting locations.
 9. A list of voters who voted early shall be updated daily throughout the early voting period and shall be a matter of public record.
 10. The results or tabulation of votes cast during early voting may not be made before the close of the polls on Election Day.

PROJECT VOTE'S MODEL BILLS ARE DESIGNED TO BE GENERIC EXAMPLES AND MAY BE CUSTOMIZED TO FIT WITH INDIVIDUAL STATE ELECTION CODES. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ESTELLE ROGERS, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, AT EROGERS@PROJECTVOTE.ORG, IF YOU'D LIKE ASSISTANCE IN DRAFTING YOUR OWN STATE BILL.