

**You're registered! Now make a difference and VOTE!**



You've taken an important first step towards helping children be their best. On November 6<sup>th</sup>, take the next step and vote. Send a strong message to your elected officials. Let them know that our children should be healthy, eager to learn, and ready to succeed when they enter school.

**Don't forget these important dates:**

**10/9/2012 – Last day to register to vote**

**10/10/2012 – First day of grace period registration and voting**

**10/22/2012 – First day of early voting**

**11/3/2012 – Last day of early voting and Grace Period registration and voting**

**11/6/2012 – Election Day!**

**Here are some answers to common questions you may have:**

**When can I consider myself officially registered to vote?**

You should receive a voter ID card in the mail within 3 weeks of when you register.

**I have not received my voter registration card. What do I do?**

If you have not received your voter registration card, call the State Board of Elections at (312) 814-6440 in Chicago or (217) 782-4141 to get the number of your County Clerk's office. Even if you do not receive your voter registration card by Election Day, GO TO THE POLLS to vote. Your local polling place should have your information.

**What do I need to bring to the polling place on November 6<sup>th</sup>?**

If you are registering and voting for the first time, you will need to **provide identification** when you vote. Acceptable ID includes your voter ID card, a driver's license, other current valid photo ID, a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address.

**Where do I go to vote?**

You should receive a notice in the mail that gives your voting place. If you have not received this notice, call your local county clerk's office. Contact information by county can be found below.

<http://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionAuthorities/ElecAuthorityList.aspx>



## How Do I Know Who to Vote For?

Illinois Action for Children is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization and does not endorse candidates for elected office. However, we do feel it is important to know exactly where each candidate stands on the issues that confront low-income families and children in Illinois. Below is a list of programs that support children and families. Be sure to find out where the candidates stand on these issues.

### **State Budget Issues:**

**Child Care Assistance Program** supports low-income working parents' ability to access quality, affordable child care. It is critical that the state continues its investment to support children's learning while also supporting their parents' ability to work and reach economic self-sufficiency.

**Preschool for All** is Illinois' nationally recognized high-quality prekindergarten program for 3-5 year olds. During its funding peak three years ago, Preschool for All provided nearly 95,000 children a high-quality early learning experience. After a series of cuts, Preschool for All will only serve 77,000 kids this year.

### **Federal Budget Issues:**

**Head Start and Early Head Start** provide comprehensive early education services to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in poverty. Head Start and Early Head Start currently serve 962,000 children, including 114,000 infants and toddlers.

**The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)** provides a portion of the funding to Illinois' Child Care Assistance Program which helps low-income families afford child care while they work or attend education or training programs and supports activities to improve the quality of care for all families.

**Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge** provides competitive grants to states to improve the quality of early learning programs and state early education systems to ensure children enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

**Not sure who's running in your area?** Along with the Presidential race, state offices including your State Senator, State Representative and Congressional Representative in Washington, D.C. are up for election on Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012. You can find out who is running for all these offices at the website [www.evoter.com/il](http://www.evoter.com/il).

If you do not have the Internet, call the Illinois State Board of Elections at (312) 814-6440 in Chicago or (217) 782-4141 in Springfield and ask who is running in your district. Your registration card will tell you your voting district.