



New election reforms become law, ushering in new period for urgent action

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CHICAGO - The Just Democracy Illinois coalition, a statewide coalition of non-partisan and community-based organizations, welcomed Governor JB Pritzker's signing today of SB 1863 and HB 2238, a set of election reforms that are the first step toward ensuring that every eligible voter can exercise their fundamental right to vote in a safe manner in November.

The reforms, which include promotion of voting by mail, recruitment of younger election judges, as well as expanded curbside and early-voting options, are important as advocates and local elected officials continue to work toward ensuring that access, health, and secure elections are not curtailed during the current pandemic.

"Governor Pritzker's signature sets into motion the next critical phase for protecting voters in November," said Jay Young, Chair of the Just Democracy Illinois coalition and Executive Director of Common Cause Illinois. "Now, local election officials must build upon this initial set of reforms to urgently address issues such as language access, adequate and equitable polling place locations, and more. We all want to see an election in which every eligible voter can exercise their right in a safe and efficient manner, and that goal requires collaboration between local election officials and community organizations as we sprint toward November."

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Just Democracy Illinois is a broad-based non-partisan coalition of community groups striving to protect and promote the value of every vote, no matter the geographic, racial, ethnic, or party affiliation of the voter. Our steering committee is comprised of Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago, CHANGE Illinois, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, Chicago Votes, Common Cause Illinois, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and Illinois PIRG. The coalition is working to ensure that every eligible voter can exercise their fundamental right to vote in a safe manner in November. Learn more at www.justdemocracyillinois.org