Students, Here is information for you about registering and voting in the Illinois Primary. I very much hope you will get registered to vote and participate in the Primary Election.

Why vote in the Primary Election?

- **It’s the Monmouth College Thing to do.** Monmouth College expects students to be participants and leaders in their communities. Voting (in primaries and general elections, for school board, etc.) is one way you show you care and support our democracy. Get registered to start becoming and engaged citizen.

- **Primaries determine who we will be able to vote for in November.** You can’t complain about the choices you have in the general election if you didn’t help choose them in the spring primary.

- **The race for the Presidential Nomination of both parties is very competitive this year.** The 2016 Illinois primary more than ever will be important in determining who will be the nominee for each party. The race is likely to be close and you’ll want to be involved.

When you vote in the Illinois Primary you will need to decide which political party’s primary contests you want to vote in. Choose either Democrat or Republican. You can decide when you arrive at the polls. No advance decision required.

The Links that will Get You Voting

**Illinois On-line Voter Application** [https://ova.elections.il.gov/](https://ova.elections.il.gov/) The place to go to Register to Vote on-line or to determine if you are already registered or to update your registration. You can also register in person at the County Clerk’s office or the Board of Elections Office in your home county or at the County Court House on the square in downtown Monmouth. (MC students can use Monmouth as their official residence for voting purposes and vote here in the primary and in the general election in the fall instead of registering in your hometown.) The last day to register to vote in the Illinois March 15th primary election is February 16

**Illinois State Board of Elections** [http://www.elections.state.il.us/InfoForVoters.aspx](http://www.elections.state.il.us/InfoForVoters.aspx) Voter Information and answers to questions about elections in Illinois.

**Locations for Early Voting in Illinois** [http://www.elections.state.il.us/votinginformation/earlyvotinglocations.aspx](http://www.elections.state.il.us/votinginformation/earlyvotinglocations.aspx) This link will help you find an “Early Voting” location so that, if you are registered at home, you can vote over spring break or at another time when you are home. In Illinois you can vote early up to 40 days before an election without getting an absentee ballot or filling out any paperwork. Just walk in and vote. That means registered voters can vote NOW and any time up to the weekend before the Primary Election date of March 15. Many locations allow voting on weekends as well as during normal weekday hours.

**Information for Students living in states other than Illinois** from the Brennan Center at New York University.

Feel you don’t know enough to vote in the Primary? You likely already know more than many people who will vote and you can easily find out about the Presidential and State-wide candidates. We’ve got your Back!! (see the next page)
Candidate and Voter Information

Many web sites can provide information on candidates and politics for the primary election. Here are a few.

**VOTE-IL** [http://vote-il.org/](http://vote-il.org/) Non-partisan Information on Candidates and their positions on issues for both Democratic and Republican voters.


**ALSO, use the search box found on most local media web sites** (TV stations, local newspapers, etc.) **to find information on the “Illinois Primary Election”** (for example the [Chicago Tribune](http://www.chicagotribune.com))

QUESTIONS? Contact Professor Lee McGaan ([lee@monmouthcollege.edu](mailto:lee@monmouthcollege.edu)) in Communication Studies.