

Vote by Mail (VBM) in Illinois for the November 3, 2020 General Election

Presented by
Jim McGrath & Ed Spire



In Partnership With

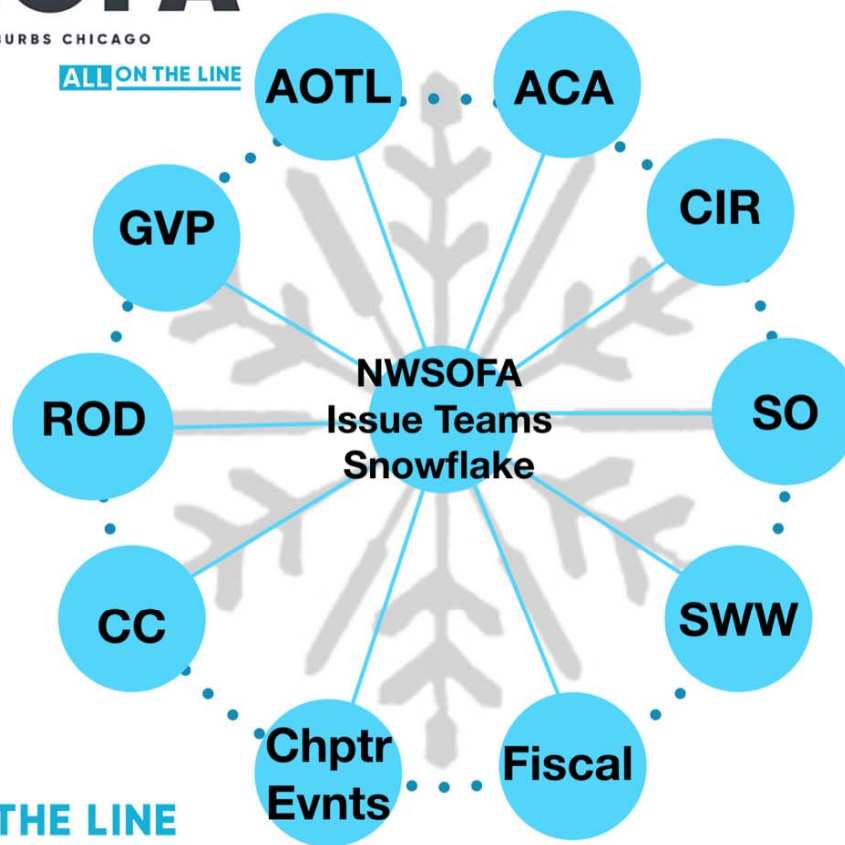
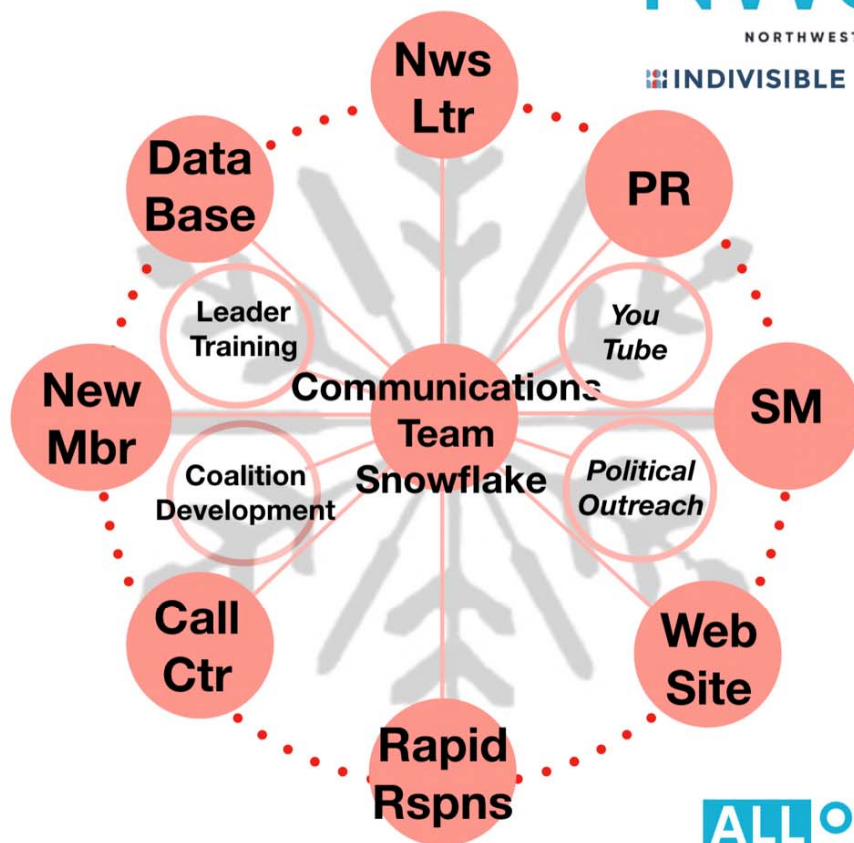


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Vote by Mail Vote Fraud? No Way!

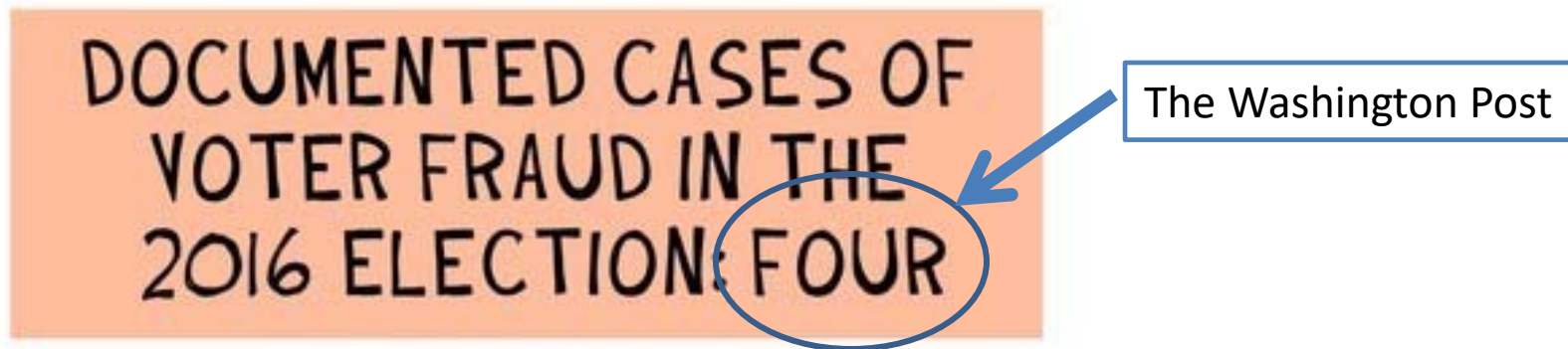
- Oregon, the pioneer in the VBM area, has sent out more than 100 million mail-in ballots since 2000, and has documented only about a dozen cases of proven fraud.”
- Rounded to the fifth decimal point, that’s **0.00001 percent** of all votes cast (or about 1 ballot in 8 million ballots cast)
- Data from the Brennan Center

The Brennan Center

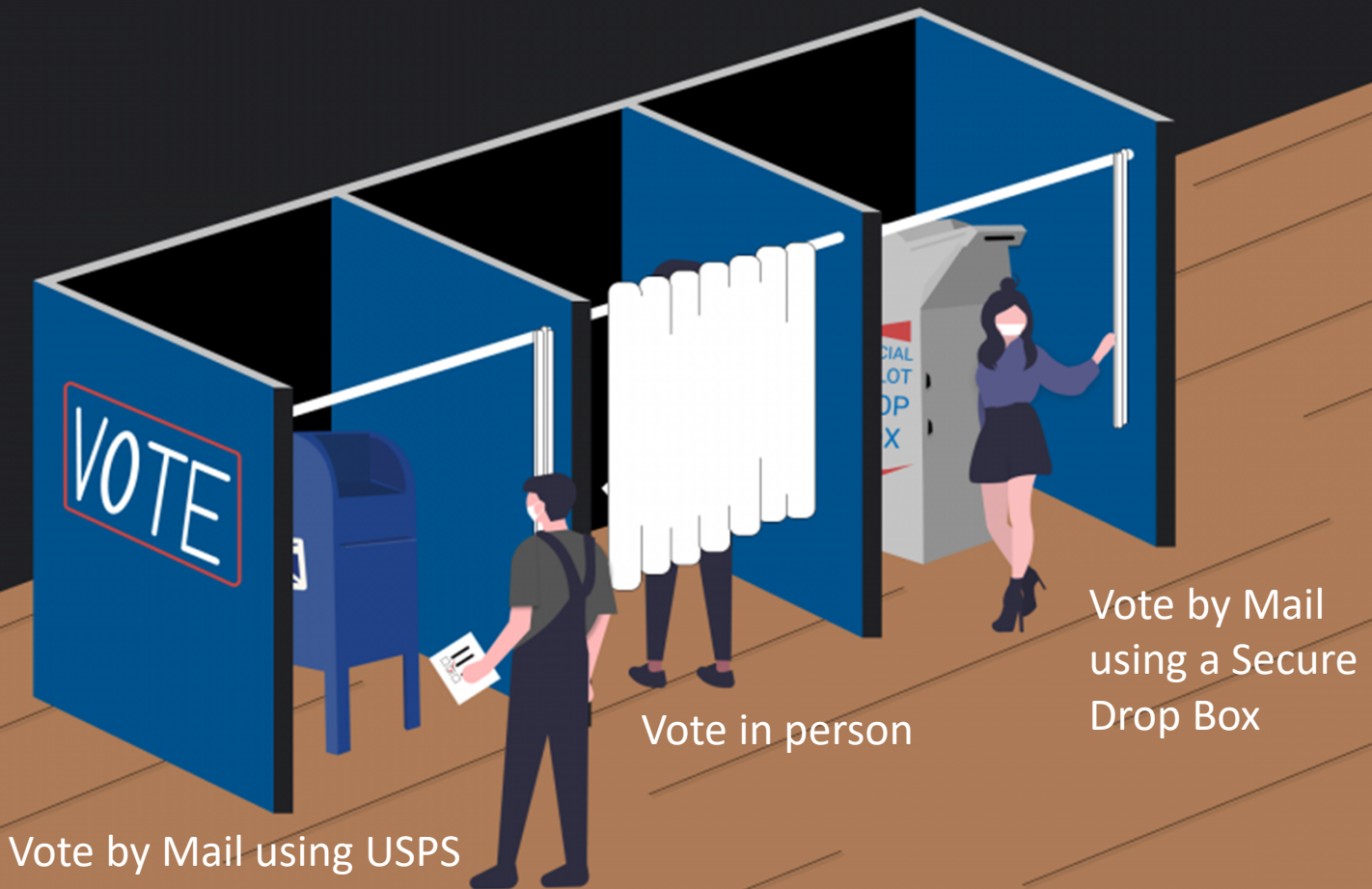
The False Narrative of Vote-by-Mail Fraud

- Mail ballots are essential for holding a safe election amid Covid-19, and security concerns can be easily addressed.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/false-narrative-vote-mail-fraud>



You can choose how you want to vote.



BGA

Step 1

- Register to vote: <https://ova.elections.il.gov/>
 - If you are already registered or not sure if you are registered, verify your registration at <https://ova.elections.il.gov/RegistrationLookup.aspx>
- Note: If you have recently moved or changed your name, you will need to update your information at the above website

What Happened In Springfield?

- Both Chambers passed SB1863 in late May during the abbreviated legislative session
- Governor Pritzker signed SB1863 into law on June 16, 2020
- The bill was effective immediately on June 16, 2020 as **Public Act 101-0642**
(<https://www.billtrack50.com/BillDetail/1072108>)

Justification for SB1863 VBM Included in the Bill

Sec. 2B-30. Public dissemination of information prior to the 2020 general election.

(b) The Secretary of State shall include in any pamphlet or materials produced in accordance with the Illinois Constitutional Amendment Act the following language, "**Due to COVID-19, all 2020 General Election voters are encouraged to cast a ballot prior to Election Day, either by mail or during early voting.** Voting by mail is an easy option for voters and you can request a vote by mail ballot through email, mail, or in person."



Current Information on the Illinois State Board of Elections (ISBE) Website

Information

Voting by mail is an option for voters to cast their ballot prior to Election Day. Voters can request a vote by mail ballot through the mail or in person. (or online in some jurisdictions)

The first day to file an application for a vote by mail ballot with the Election Authority is 6/16/2020.

was August 5

All requests by mail must be received by the Election Authority by 10/29/2020.

All in-person early voting requests must be made by 11/2/2020.

<https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/VotingByMail.aspx?MID=ELGeUv9wLSI%3D&T=637266160439663299>

Why is Vote By Mail (VBM) Important?

- It is also called “absentee voting”
- Anticipating a return of Covid-19 in the fall of 2020, it is imperative that voting can be as safe and **virus free** as possible for all voters and election judges
- To avoid what happened in Wisconsin on April 7 from happening in Illinois on November 3 where many election judges refused to serve due to Covid-19 fears causing 180 polling places to be consolidated into just 5 in the Milwaukee area, and 32 to 2 in Green Bay
 - For more background on why we need to prepare
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/news/2020/04/27/484013/wisconsin-primary-shows-states-must-prepare-elections-coronavirus/>
- Allows voters who may not be able to travel to a polling place to have their vote counted.

Vote by Mail - SB1863

- This bill sunsets January 1, 2021
- Requires the ISBE to set up a VBM application request capability on their Illinois state website
- Requires all election jurisdictions to mail or email a vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot application by **August 1** to anyone who:
 - voted in 2018, 2019 and 2020,
 - **or** registered to vote after the March 17 primary
 - **or** changed address after the March 17 primary
- Requires the Secretary of State to mail a reminder by September 15 to all who received a VBM ballot application but have not responded

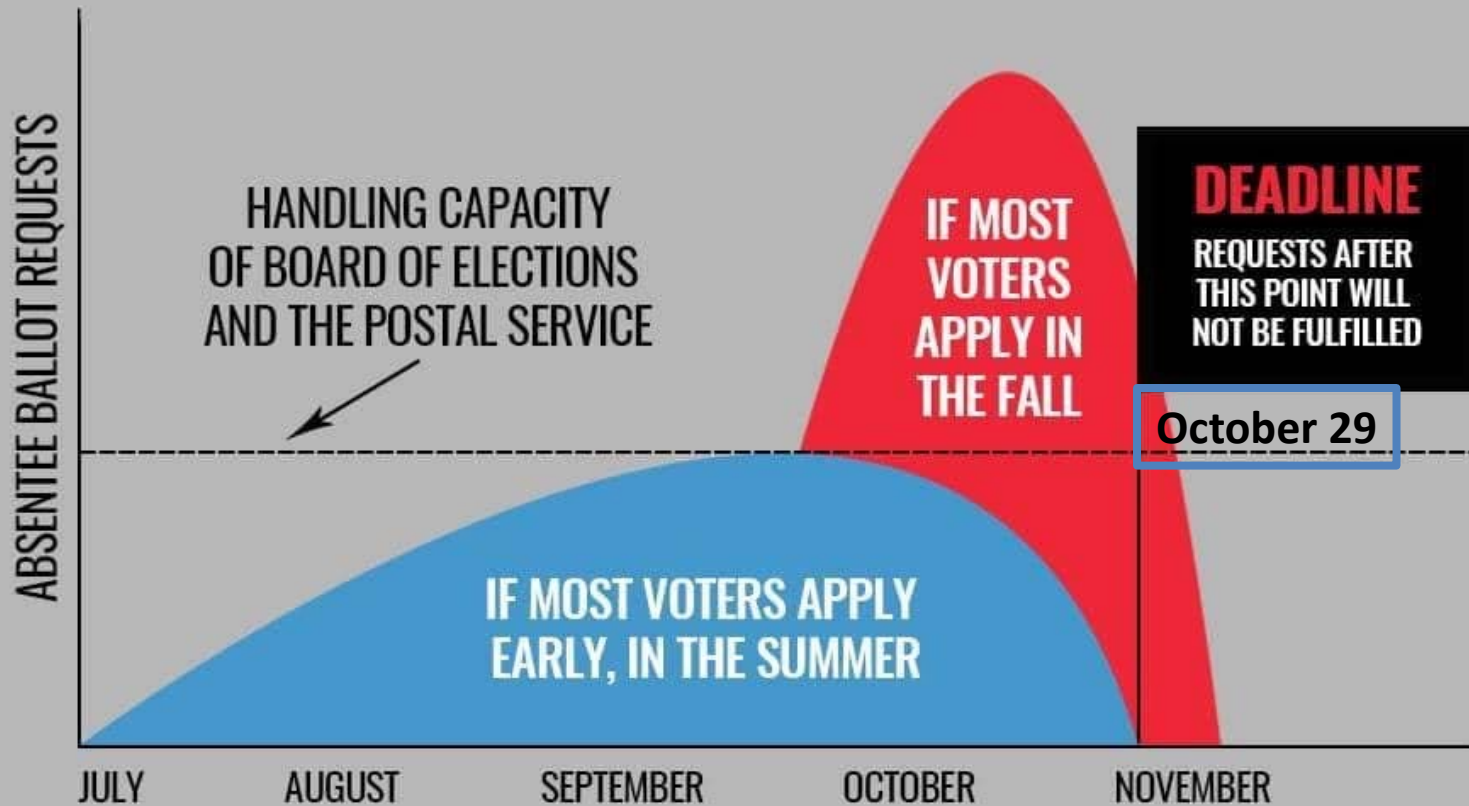
Vote by Mail - SB1863

- Completed VBM ballots are to be returned by mail (USPS) or at new optional “collection sites” consisting of locked metal boxes placed at a location at the discretion of local election officials.
 - **If mailing ==> Post mark by end of day November 3**
- Adds an option for curbside voting. Check with your county clerk to see if it is offered in your jurisdiction
- Early voting sites must open by October 19, 2020 and be open, at a minimum, from 8:30 am- 7 pm weekdays and from 9 am - 5 pm on weekends and holidays
- Makes election day a holiday for all K-12 public schools, post-secondary institutions governed by the State Universities Civil Service Act and for all government offices except for offices of election authorities

Vote by Mail - SB1863

- Allows local election officials to extend early voting, i.e. open before October 19
- Requires at least one voting supersite per election jurisdiction to be open on Nov 3, where anyone located in the election authority's jurisdiction can vote.
 - Locations must be established by September 24, 2020
- Allows for election judges to be as young as 16 years old who must declare party affiliation
- Requires 3 of 3 election judges to disqualify a VBM ballot based on signature comparison

Flatten the ballot request curve!



Ballots will be mailed starting September 24



Apply for your absentee ballot TODAY

General Election Timeline

Apply online NOW

June 16
Applications Available Online
Vote By Mail applications are available [here](#). If you live in Chicago, apply [here](#).



Aug. 1
Applications Sent
Applications for mail ballots will automatically be sent to anyone who voted in the 2018 general election, the 2019 municipal election, or the 2020 primary election



Sept. 24
Ballots Sent
Mail ballots start going out and early voting period begins



Oct. 19-Nov. 2
Extended Early Voting
Early in-person voting at designated locations, 8am-7pm weekdays, 9am-5pm weekends.



Disregard this date
It's too late
Apply online NOW

Oct. 29
Application Deadline
Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot



Nov. 3
Election Day
If you choose to vote by mail, your ballot must be postmarked by this day.



Graphic from the BGA

Apply online
NOW

Actions

- Make sure your registration is up to date. You must be registered to vote where you live
- Go to your County Clerk's website to apply for a Vote by Mail Ballot online (links provided on following pages) **–OR–**
 - Complete and return the VBM ballot application if you receive one via email or in the mail
- Track your VBM ballot application status online
- Inform other Illinois voters how to apply for a VBM ballot online using this website
www.virusfreevotingillinois.org

Your VBM Ballot

- VBM ballots will be mailed starting September 24. Make sure you know when your ballot was mailed
- If you don't have your VBM ballot by October 10, call your county clerk for status
- Using the return mail envelop provided, sign and date the envelop, seal the envelop and use a secure drop box or deliver it to your county clerk's office. If you use the USPS, get it postmarked by a counter clerk.
- You may have to vote on Nov 3 in person using a provisional ballot if you do not get your VBM ballot

OFFICIAL BALLOT
CONSOLIDATED ELECTION
APRIL 4, 2017

Greg Woolard

Greg Woolard, County Clerk & Recorder

PUBLICATION

Judges Initials _____

FRANKLIN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

To vote, darken the oval to the LEFT of your choice, like this ☒. To cast a write-in vote, darken the oval to the LEFT of the blank space provided and write the candidates name in that space. For specific information, refer to the card of instruction posted in the voting booth. If you tear, spoil, deface or erroneously mark this ballot, return it to the election judge and obtain another.

MUNICIPAL

CITY OF BENTON

FOR COMMISSIONER
TO SERVE AN UNEXPIRED 2-YEAR TERM
(Vote for ONE)

- ☐ DONALD STOREY
☐ MELVIN DIXON

CITY OF ORIENT

FOR MAYOR
(Vote for ONE)

- ☐ PETE WITKEWIZ Independent

FOR CITY CLERK
(Vote for ONE)

- ☐ TAMMY DONOVAN Independent

CITY OF CHRISTOPHER

FOR MAYOR
(Vote for ONE)

- ☐ GARY BARTOLOTTI Independent

FOR CITY TREASURER
(Vote for ONE)

- ☐ ERMA DANANAY Independent

FOR CITY CLERK
(Vote for ONE)

- ☐ STEPHEN GILBERT Independent

FOR ALDERMAN AT LARGE
(Vote for not more than THREE)

- ☐ MARVIN MIZE
☐ FRED BOWLING

FOR CITY TREASURER
(Vote for ONE)

- ☐ MICHAEL DEATON Independent
☐ KATRINA CLAXTON Independent

FOR ALDERMAN AT LARGE
TO SERVE AN UNEXPIRED 2-YEAR TERM
(Vote for ONE)

- ☐ JACOB WACH

CITY OF CHRISTOPHER

FOR ALDERMAN
WARD ONE
(Vote for ONE)

- ☐ THOMAS BORGRA Independent

CITY OF ORIENT

FOR ALDERMAN
WARD ONE
TO SERVE UNEXPIRED 2-YEAR TERM
(Vote for ONE)

Completely fill in the oval but stay within the oval. Do not put an "X" in the oval.

Do not try to change your vote once you have filled in an oval.

If using a mail ballot, use the envelop that came with the ballot.

Insert the completed ballot into the envelop.

Seal the envelop

Sign and date the envelop where indicated

Your Voice Is Your Vote

Remember

Democracy is not a spectator sport

Don't stand on the sidelines

Understand the issues and candidates

then use your voice and **VOTE**

Commit to vote: [Http://Bit.ly/chicagovotemail](http://Bit.ly/chicagovotemail)



Links to Voter Registration & Chicago Metro Area VBM Applications

Election Authority	Link
Voter Registration	https://ova.elections.il.gov/
Registration Lookup	https://ova.elections.il.gov/RegistrationLookup.aspx
ISBE	https://elections.il.gov/electionoperations/VotingByMail.aspx
Chicago BoE	https://chicagoelections.gov/en/vote-by-mail.html
Suburban Cook County	https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/agency/vote-mail
Lake County	https://www.lakecountyil.gov//4321/Voting-by-Mail
McHenry County (scroll down to see application form)	https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov/county-government/departments-a-i/county-clerk/elections/vote-by-mail
Kane County	https://www.kanecountyclerk.org/Elections/Pages/Vote-by-Mail.aspx
DuPage County	https://www.dupageco.org/Election/Voting/37064/
Kendall County	https://www.co.kendall.il.us/offices/county-clerk-recorder/election-voter-information/vote-by-mail

A Few Resources on VBM Fraud

- <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/false-narrative-vote-mail-fraud>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/04/opinion/coronavirus-vote-by-mail.html>
- <https://siepr.stanford.edu/news/new-research-voting-mail-shows-neutral-partisan-effects>
- <https://nonprofitquarterly.org/its-time-to-dispense-with-the-myths-and-have-fair-elections/?fbclid=IwAR1eNUV98g0tegi3hnzQbfq320pqqX2kmOebRjyFGptNP01bOsf5ZCnIrHs>

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Thank you for attending

