



ELGIN

THE CITY IN THE SUBURBS

November-December
City of Elgin
2021 Newsletter

Boletín en Español: Cada número del boletín está disponible en español en línea en cityofelgin.org/boletin.

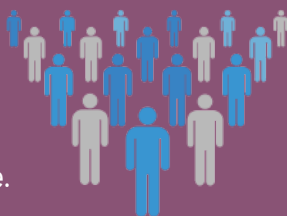


2020 Census Results are in

The 2020 U.S. Census data was released mid-August, and it is evident that the Elgin residents did their part to get counted.

Now with a population of 114,797, Elgin has moved from the eighth to sixth largest city in Illinois.

Of the eight largest cities in Illinois, all with populations over 100,000, Elgin was the fastest growing since 2010, with a 6.1% population increase.



Consistent with national and state trends, Elgin's population is more diverse than 10 years ago.

- Elgin's Hispanic/Latino population grew from 43.6% to 45.7%.
- Elgin's Asian population grew from 5.4% to 5.9%.

"The newly released data brings great news for Elgin," said Mayor David Kaptain. "Elgin is a city of choice, with the highest quality services and amenities. It's no wonder why so many are choosing to live here and do business. Elgin's growth will continue to attract new residential and commercial developments."

Getting an accurate count for Elgin in the 2020 Census was important to secure representation and federal funding for critical programs, services and infrastructure. Experts estimate that each individual counted represents \$1,500 in annual federal funding for the community.

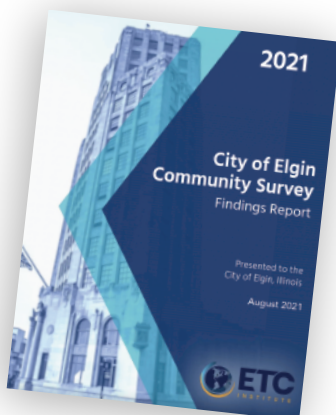
Thank you to all residents who got counted and helped their families get counted.

United States[®]
Census
Bureau

2021 Community Survey Results

Municipalities use community surveys to gather information on residents' level of satisfaction with City services and to gather residents' opinions regarding various other topics. Input received helps City leaders know where they are doing well and where they can improve, to make certain they are making decisions that align to the needs of residents and prioritizing services that will positively impact the community.

This year, ETC Institute administered a survey to a random, demographically and geographically representative sample of Elgin residents. The 2021 Elgin Community Survey Findings Report, video of ETC's presentation to city council, as well as an interactive data dashboard are all available at cityofelgin.org/survey. Highlights are provided to the right.



Elgin residents have a positive perception of the City

The survey showed 75% of residents rate Elgin as an "excellent" or "good" place to live, and only 8% gave a rating of "below average" or "poor."

Satisfaction with City services is higher in Elgin than in other communities

- Elgin rated at or above the national average in 40 of 54 areas.
- When it comes to customer service, Elgin rated 13% higher than the national average!

The community's top priorities have remained consistent with the 2017 community survey results:

- Maintenance of streets, sidewalks and infrastructure
- Enforcement of codes and ordinances

The top three issues residents believe the City will face over the next five years include:

- Homelessness (60%)
- Affordable City services (property taxes) (58%)
- Public safety (57%)



Get Involved in the 2022 Budget Discussions

You can share your opinions with city council members and staff by participating in discussions, submitting your budget questions and engaging in other input opportunities during the City's "budget season."

What goes into the development of a City budget and how are financial decisions made during the process? Learn about the City's budget, the various funds, revenues and expenditures, special taxing districts, user fees and much more on our dedicated budget website: cityofelgin.org/budget.

You can submit your budget input and questions to elgin311@cityofelgin.org or post on social media with **#ElginBudget** (make sure your post privacy is set to "public" so we can see it).

The Proposed 2022 Budget is presented to city council in early November, with adoption of the final budget mid-December.



2022 Budget Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, November 3, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, November 10, 5 p.m.
Wednesday, November 17, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, December 1, 5 p.m.
Wednesday, December 15, 6 p.m.

Can't attend a city council budget meeting in person?
Watch the meeting video live or later at
cityofelgin.org/videocenter or on the
City's Facebook page: facebook.com/cityofelgin

Shop Local this Holiday Season

Column written by Madison Bishop, Marketing & Experience Specialist for the Explore Elgin Area tourism bureau.

It's almost time to ring in the holidays, which means hitting the stores. Local businesses in Elgin are here to help you find the perfect gifts. Check out this gift-guide to navigate your holiday list.

Discover local artisan goods at Meraki Market Hub where multiple vendors set up shop to sell a variety of goods like home decor, candles and apparel. Got a constantly caffeinated friend? Arabica Cafe features a selection of teas and whole bean coffees from Cafés Richard. For a retro-vibe, browse the vinyl selection at Rediscover Records or vintage apparel at Able Shoppe. Or for antiques, visit Whatnots and Whimsies, State Street Market Shops and Elgin Antiques and Uniques.

Stockings practically stuff themselves in Elgin. Mama Lee's Gourmet Popcorn offers different taste experiences throughout their homemade popcorn selection. Cheddar bacon, caramel apple and cheesy jalapeno are just a few fan-favorite flavors.

Fischer Nuts also provides a variety of flavor profiles, which makes it easy to pick a new, fun or favorite flavor. And if you're looking for some really sweet gifts (pun intended), you can find a collection of treats and baked goods at the one and only Herb's Bakery.

Send your Yogi friends to unwind at Goat Yoga Chicago (in Elgin) to combine the peace of mind from yoga with the uncontainable joy of animals for the ultimate rejuvenation experience.

No matter who you're shopping for, you can find some truly unique gifts right here in Elgin!





November Events

- 5 Greenroom Productions presents First Friday Improv, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 6 Pumpkin Smash Composting Event, Hawthorne Hill Nature Center
- 6, 7 Elgin Symphony Orchestra presents Tchaikovsky Symphony Number 5, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 11 Midwest Philharmonic Orchestra presents Russian Spectacular, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 12-14 Children's Theatre of Elgin presents Shrek Jr., Hemmens Cultural Center
- 13 Elgin History Museum's Annual Gala Fundraiser 2021: Experience Elgin - Virtual Gala, online ONLY event (*online auction open November 7-13)
- 17 Kane County Division of Transportation (KDOT) hosts the Randall Road at US Route 20 Virtual Public Meeting #2 (via Zoom), Find Zoom link on KDOT's Facebook page or the study webpage (<https://tinyurl.com/RandallUS20Study>)
- 20, 21 Elgin Symphony Orchestra presents The Film Music of John Williams, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 27 Small Business Saturday, citywide, find more information on how you can shop small at elginchamber.com and downtownelgin.com
- 27 Holiday Cheers, beverage crawl at various downtown locations
- 28 Elgin History Museum's Museum Store Sunday, online ONLY event
- 30 Giving Tuesday, find local nonprofits to support with time or donations at elgingives.org

December Events

- 3 Greenroom Productions presents First Friday Improv, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 4 "An Elgin Christmas" with Linda Rock, Elgin History Museum (in person and on Zoom)
- 4 Tree Lighting Ceremony, location TBA at cityofelgin.org/events
- 4,5 M3 Dance presents The Nutcracker, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 6 Chief's Bi-Monthly Community Meeting, Elgin Police Department
- 11,12 Elgin Symphony Orchestra presents Holiday Spectacular, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 27 Holiday tree collection begins

Find more information on all City events at cityofelgin.org/events. For more community events and things to do, visit ExploreElginArea.com.

Find an extensive list of Elgin Parks and Recreation winter programs at cityofelgin.org/recreation.

Find the latest events and programs offered by the Elgin Police Department (EPD) in the events tab of the EPD Facebook page: facebook.com/elginpolice

Holiday Celebrations

Letters to Santa

Not sure where to send your child's letter to Santa? The City of Elgin is collecting your letters and will send them to the North Pole for you! Place them in the drop box outside the main entrance of the Edward Schock Centre of Elgin between November 12 and December 7. No postage necessary! Santa will send a letter back, so be sure to include a mailing address.



Holly Days

Holly Days, presented by the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA), kicks off on Small Business Saturday and continue throughout the month of December. This month-long event includes family friendly holiday window art created by local artists and special events, Santa sighting, caroling, a pop-up market and more.

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Friday, December 4
Location to be announced on the City's website: cityofelgin.org/events





Holiday Waste Reminders

There can be a lot of extra waste around the holidays. Here are some reminders of what can and what cannot go in your curbside carts.

- Cardboard boxes are recyclable (please flatten).
- Wrapping paper is recyclable (unless it has glitter).
- Absolutely no plastic bags in your recycling bin.
- Holiday lights CANNOT be recycled in your curbside bin; they CAN be recycled through the At Your Door service (information to the right) or at a Kane County Recycles location.
- Toys do not go in the recycling cart. Donate toys in good condition to a local charity or use the Simple Recycling service (information to the right).

Christmas Tree Collection

Christmas tree collection begins December 27: Trees are collected on your regular trash pickup day. This service is free to Elgin residents December 27 through Friday, January 14, after which one garbage sticker is required.

- All decorations, stands, etc. must be removed
- Do NOT place trees in plastic bags
- Must be free of snow/ice for curbside disposal
- Must be placed on parkway (the area generally located between the street and sidewalk)



Holiday Schedule - Delayed Pickups

- During the week of Thanksgiving, Thursday and Friday collections will be delayed by one day.
- There will be no delays during the week of Christmas or New Years this year, as those holidays fall on a Saturday and do not disrupt the regular collection schedule.

At Your Door Special Collection

Elgin residents have an easy way to dispose of household hazardous waste and to recycle electronics. You do not need to sign up for this program—it is offered as part of your regular residential waste and recycling service. To dispose of home-generated special materials, simply schedule a collection at your home by contacting Waste Management online at wmatyourdoor.com or over the phone at 800-449-7587 (Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.). Accepted materials are listed below.



Automotive Products

Antifreeze, batteries, brake fluid, motor oil and filters, fuels, and more.



Garden Chemicals

Fertilizers, insect sprays, herbicides, pesticides, and weed killers.



Paint Products

Paint, caulk, glue, stain, stripper, thinner, and wood preservative.



Household Cleaners

Ammonia, heavy-duty cleaner, rust remover, tile/shower cleaner, upholstery cleaner, and more.



Electronics

Computers, monitors, keyboards, MP3 players, televisions (limit one per call), DVD/CD players, tape players, VCR, cell phones, desktop printers, fax machines, and microwaves.



Mercury Containing Items

Batteries, compact fluorescent lamps, fluorescent tubes, thermometers, and thermostats.



Sharps, Needles and Lancets
Must be placed in a sealed, rigid, puncture resistant container.

Did you know?

This program was new in 2020. Prior, household hazardous waste collections were limited - it did not include electronics recycling and households could only schedule one pickup per year. At Your Door doesn't limit pickups. For reference, in 2019 a total of 13,923 pounds of materials was collected, and 81.5% (11,347 pounds) was recycled. In 2020, a total of 225,995 pounds was collected, and 90.8% was recycled—that's 18 times the recycled material!

Recycle Textiles at the Curb



Simple Recycling is a FREE service that collects many categories of items that aren't recyclable through your regular curbside recycling program; things like clothing, shoes, lamps and more. Simply fill up the orange Simple Recycling bags with acceptable items, and place it at your curb for pickup on your regular garbage collection day. Learn more at cityofelgin.org/textiles.

Need bags? Request bags by calling 866-835-5068 or by emailing lloffic@simplerecycling.com.