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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 18, 2014

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, February 13, 2014 - The traditional deadline for registering to vote in the March 18, 2014 General Primary election is February 18, 2014.

7,520,722 Illinois residents were registered for the General Election in 2012. Registration totals usually decrease in Non-Presidential election years.

Voters in the March 18, 2014, General Primary Election will nominate candidates for United States Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller, Treasurer, Representatives in Congress, State Senators, Representatives in the General Assembly, certain County officers and Judges. In addition, some political party officials will be elected.

The registration requirements to be eligible to vote are: be a United States citizen, be at least 18 years old by Election Day, and have been a resident of the precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day. Public Act 98-051, effective January 1, 2014, allows a person who is 17 years old on the date of the General Primary Election to vote at that primary provided: (1) that person will be 18 years old on the date of the November 4, 2014, General Election; and (2) the person is registered to vote.

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When registering to vote, two forms of identification are required – one must show the current address of the applicant. Public Act 96-0317 adds identification that is acceptable for voter registration. A lease or contract for a resident is now an acceptable form of proof of a voter's residence. Also, a photo identification card issued by a university or college is acceptable only if accompanied by a copy of the voter's lease or mail postmarked to the voter's address.

Illinois residents may check their registration online by going to www.elections.il.gov and clicking "Voters" tab and then clicking "Am I Registered to Vote in Illinois" in the center of the page. The new service is made available through the Illinois Voter Registration System database, a requirement of the Federal Help America Vote Act. Eligible voters who miss the February 18, 2014, deadline may register during the Grace Period Registration that runs February 19, 2014 through the 3rd day before the election, to wit, March 15, 2014.

The law requires, during grace period registration, that people must register at the office of their election authority. If they desire to vote in the March 18, 2014, General Primary Election, they must vote at the same office, or by mail at the discretion of the election authority. Those who register during grace period are not allowed to vote at an Early Voting Center or polling place on March 18, 2014.

In a primary election, an Illinois resident can vote for candidates of one party only. There are two established state-wide political parties in Illinois, Republican and Democratic. The Green Party is established in the 5th and 12th Congressional Districts as well as in McLean and McHenry counties at those respective levels. In some cases, nonpartisan candidates or referenda may be voted upon in a primary election. If a voter does not want to declare a party affiliation, he or she may request a nonpartisan ballot.

The State Board of Elections is an independent state agency charged with the responsibility of having general supervision over the administration of election laws in Illinois. Elections are administered locally by the State's 110 election authorities.

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