



law to receive, mark, and submit their ballots and have those ballots counted in the upcoming special elections. The complaint also seeks relief to prevent such violations in future special elections to fill vacancies in the office of United States Representative in Illinois.

The United States and Defendants, through their respective counsel, have conferred and agree that this action should be settled without the delay and expense of litigation. This consent decree is similar in nature to a consent decree entered by the Court in *United States v. Illinois*, No. 13-cv-00189 (N.D. Ill. 2013) (consent decree provided measures to remedy the specific violations of UOCAVA during the 2013 special primary and special election for United States Representative from the State's Second Congressional District). The parties share the goal of providing UOCAVA voters with the opportunity guaranteed by Federal law to participate in the upcoming Eighteenth Congressional District special election, as well as future special elections for Federal office. The parties have negotiated in good faith and hereby agree to the entry of this consent decree as an appropriate resolution of the UOCAVA violations alleged by the United States. Accordingly, the United States and Defendants stipulate and agree that:

1. This action is brought by the U.S. Attorney General on behalf of the United States pursuant to UOCAVA, as amended by the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act, Pub. L. No. 111-84, Subtitle H, §§ 575-589, 123 Stat. 2190, 2318-2335 (2009) ("MOVE Act").

2. The U.S. Attorney General is authorized to enforce the provisions of UOCAVA, 52 U.S.C. § 20307, and this Court has jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 20307 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1345 and 2201.

3. UOCAVA provides that UOCAVA voters shall be permitted "to use absentee registration procedures and to vote by absentee ballot in general, special, primary, and runoff elections for Federal office." 52 U.S.C. § 20302(a)(1). UOCAVA requires the State of Illinois

to ensure that validly requested absentee ballots are transmitted to UOCAVA voters in accordance with the statute's requirements. 52 U.S.C. §§ 20302 and 20310.

4. Pursuant to amendments made by the MOVE Act, Section 102(a)(8)(A) of UOCAVA requires that states transmit validly requested ballots to UOCAVA voters not later than 45 days before an election for Federal office when the request is received at least 45 days before the election, unless a hardship exemption is obtained pursuant to Section 102(g) of UOCAVA. 52 U.S.C. §§ 20302(a)(8)(A) and 20302(g).

5. Defendant Illinois State Board of Elections is the state body with general supervisory powers over the administration of election laws in Illinois and is comprised of eight members appointed by the Governor. 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/1A-1. Steve Sandvoss is the Executive Director of the Illinois State Board of Elections and is sued in his official capacity.

6. Under Illinois law, depending on the jurisdiction, the county clerk or the Board of Election Commissioners serve as "election authorities" that are responsible for the conduct of elections, including the administration of absentee voting, in their respective jurisdictions. 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/1-1 *et seq.* Election authorities transmit ballots to UOCAVA voters, receive ballots returned by UOCAVA voters, and count the ballots as part of the election process. The State of Illinois, however, retains responsibility for ensuring compliance with UOCAVA. For purposes of this decree, the parties understand that although the local election authorities will continue to send, receive, and count UOCAVA ballots as provided for in state law, the State bears the responsibility of ensuring that the requirements of UOCAVA and this consent decree are met.

7. Pursuant to the Illinois Election Code, when a vacancy occurs in the office of United States Representative in Congress more than 180 days before the next general election, the

Governor shall issue a writ within five days following the vacancy setting a date within 115 days to hold a special election to fill the vacancy. 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/25-7(a).

8. Aaron Shock, the United States Representative from the State's Eighteenth Congressional District, resigned effective March 31, 2015, which is more than 180 days before the next election, thus triggering the Governor's obligation to issue a writ to hold a special election.

9. On March 31, 2015, the Governor issued writs ordering a special primary election and special election to fill the vacancy in the Eighteenth Congressional District. The Governor set the special election for July 24, 2015, and a special primary election, if necessary, for June 8, 2015.

10. Pursuant to the Illinois Election Code, the deadline for filing candidate nomination petitions must be at least 15 days after the issuance of the writ of election. *See* 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/7-61. Moreover, petitions for nominations to fill a vacancy in the office of United States Representative in Congress from the State must be filed between 54 and 50 days before a special primary election. 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/25-7(b). Additionally, objections to candidate nomination petitions may be made within five business days after the deadline for filing such petitions. 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/10-8.

11. Effective June 1, 2015, ballots from UOCAVA voters postmarked by midnight on election day will be counted if they are received by the 14th day following Election Day. *See* 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/20-8, as amended by S.B. 0172, 98<sup>th</sup> Gen. Assemb. (Ill. 2014) (enacted).

12. Compliance with the referenced Election Code provisions prevents the State from ensuring transmission of absentee ballots to UOCAVA voters at least 45 days before special elections for Federal office, including the recently scheduled special primary election and special

election. As a result, the Illinois statute violates Section 102(a)(8)(A) of UOCAVA, 52 U.S.C. § 20302(a)(8)(A).

13. To avoid the burdens, delays, and uncertainties of litigation and to efficiently and expeditiously promote the parties' shared goal of ensuring that Illinois's UOCAVA voters will have sufficient opportunity under Federal law to participate in the upcoming special election for Federal office, the parties agree that this Court should enter an order regarding the upcoming elections to fill the vacant office of Representative of the State's Eighteenth Congressional District: (1) enjoining the application of provisions of the Illinois Election Code governing the schedule for special elections to the extent they impede Defendants' compliance with UOCAVA's ballot transmission deadlines in the upcoming special elections; and (2) adopting the attached Election Calendar establishing July 7, 2015 as the date for the special primary election and September 10, 2015 as the date for the special election. The Election Calendar enlarges the time period for conducting such an election sufficiently to guarantee that special primary election and special election ballots can be transmitted to UOCAVA voters at least 45 days before the elections.

14. The parties reserve the right to modify this agreement as necessary, and to seek additional supplemental relief, if information regarding additional UOCAVA violations is discovered.

WHEREFORE, the parties having freely given their consent, and the terms of the Decree being fair, reasonable, and consistent with the requirements of UOCAVA, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED by the Court that:

- (1) Defendants are enjoined from applying the provisions of the Illinois Election Code governing the schedule for special elections to the

extent they impede Defendants' compliance with UOCAVA's ballot transmission deadlines in the upcoming special elections to fill a vacancy in the office of United States Representative from the State's Eighteenth Congressional District.

- (2) Defendants shall, upon entry of this decree, order the pertinent election authorities to adopt the attached Election Calendar, which requires that absentee ballots timely requested by UOCAVA voters for the July 7, 2015 special primary election and September 10, 2015 special election be transmitted on or before the 45<sup>th</sup> day before those elections.

Provided, however, that in any objection proceedings held pursuant to the Illinois Election Code, candidate nominating petitions drafted and/or circulated so as to comply with the writs of election issued by the Governor on March 31, 2015, shall not be ruled deficient by the Illinois State Board of Elections because of the new election dates required by this decree, nor because of any change in the petition circulation period imposed by the Illinois State Board of Elections to conform to the new election dates required by this decree.

- (3) The Defendants shall provide a report to the United States Department of Justice no later than forty-three days before the July 7, 2015 special primary election concerning the transmittal of UOCAVA ballots by local election jurisdictions for that election. The report shall:

- a. Certify whether absentee ballots were transmitted no later than the 45<sup>th</sup> day before the election to all qualified UOCAVA

voters whose applications for ballots were received and approved by that date; and

b. Indicate, by local election jurisdiction, the number of requests received and the number of UOCAVA absentee ballots transmitted by the 45<sup>th</sup> day before the election.

(4) The Defendants shall provide a report to the United States Department of Justice no later than forty-three days before the September 10, 2015 special election concerning the transmittal of UOCAVA ballots by local election jurisdictions for that election. The report shall:

a. Certify whether absentee ballots were transmitted no later than the 45<sup>th</sup> day before the election to all qualified UOCAVA voters whose applications for ballots were received and approved by that date; and

b. Indicate, by local election jurisdiction, the number of requests received and the number of UOCAVA absentee ballots transmitted by the 45<sup>th</sup> day before the election.

(5) Upon entry of this consent decree, the Defendants shall issue a press statement for immediate release, posted immediately on the Illinois State Board of Elections website and distributed to the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP); International Herald Tribune (<http://www.ihf.com>); USA Today International (<http://www.usatoday.com>); Military Times Media Group ([cvinch@militarytimes.com](mailto:cvinch@militarytimes.com)); Overseas Vote Foundation

(<http://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/intro/>); Stars and Stripes (<http://www.estripes.com>); and any other newspaper or news media within Illinois that Defendants determine appropriate to reach UOCAVA voters in the Eighteenth Congressional district. The news release shall, at a minimum: (a) summarize this order, clarifying the correct election dates; (b) identify the deadlines relevant to UOCAVA voters; and (c) provide appropriate contact information for the State Board of Elections for assistance.

- (6) The Defendants shall take such actions as are necessary to assure that all future special elections for Federal office are conducted in accordance with UOCAVA, including proposing legislation and taking any administrative actions needed to alter Illinois' statutorily imposed timetable for conducting special elections for filling vacancies in the office of United States Representative in Congress. Specifically, the State Board of Elections will recommend amendments to the Election Code as required to enlarge the time period for conducting such elections sufficiently to guarantee that special primary election and special election ballots can be transmitted to UOCAVA voters at least 45 days before the date of the election. The parties agree to confer on the progress of this effort, and Defendants shall file with the Court a status report on this proposed legislation no later than June 2, 2015.

The Court shall retain continuing jurisdiction over this action until the State has adopted a UOCAVA-compliant timetable for conducting all future special primary elections and special elections to fill vacancies in the office of United States Representative in Congress. The Court may enter further relief as necessary for the effectuation of the terms of this consent decree and to abate any UOCAVA violation with respect to future Federal special elections.

The undersigned agree to entry of this consent decree.

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Date: April 6, 2015

For the Defendants:

State Board of Elections

By: 

Title: Executive Dir.

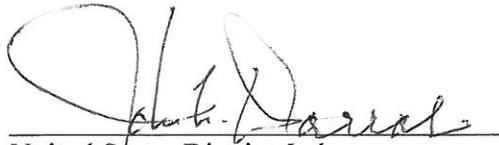
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Date: April 6, 2015

SO ORDERED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.

  
United States District Judge

**SPECIAL ELECTION CALENDAR  
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

**SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION  
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015**

**Wednesday, April 8, 2015**

First day for registered voters within the confines of the United States to make application by mail or in person for “Vote by Mail” Ballot for the Special Primary Election. (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

**Wednesday, April 15, 2015**

First day for candidates of established political parties to file original nomination papers in the principal office of the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/25-7)

**Monday, April 20, 2015**

Last day for candidates of established political parties to file original nomination papers in the principal office of the State Board of Elections. Nomination papers must be time stamped by 5:00 p.m. in order to be accepted. (10 ILCS 5/25-7)

**Monday, April 27, 2015**

Last day to file objections to nomination papers of candidates who filed nomination papers from Wednesday, April 15, 2015 through Monday, April 20, 2015. Objections may be filed in the principal office of the State Board of Elections in Springfield, or the Board’s permanent branch office in Chicago. Objections must be time stamped by 5:00 p.m. in order to be accepted. (10 ILCS 5/7-12.1, 5/10-8)

**Wednesday, April 29, 2015**

Last day for the State Board of Elections to conduct a lottery to determine ballot position for candidates when 2 or more petitions are filed simultaneously as of the opening hour for filing nominating petitions on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 and between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2015. The State Board of Elections will give written notice to each candidate filing petitions simultaneously at 8:00 a.m. on April 15, 2015 and between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on April 20, 2015, of the time and place for conducting a lottery to determine ballot position for such candidates. In addition, seven days written notice shall be given to the chairman of each established political party and to each organization of citizens within the election jurisdiction entitled to have pollwatchers present at the last preceding election. Notice will also be posted at the entrance to each office of the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6))

**Friday, May 8, 2015**

Last day (by 5:00 p.m.) a person may file a notarized Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate (Exception: If an objection to the person’s nominating papers or petitions for the office is sustained after this date and the decision to sustain the objection has not been reversed by a reviewing court, the person may file a Declaration of Intent not later than 7 days prior to the Special Primary Election). Such Declarations must be filed in the offices of the appropriate election authorities. Declarations received by an election authority after 5:00 p.m. shall not be valid. Write-

in votes shall only be counted for persons who have timely filed valid declarations of intent to be write-in candidates. (10 ILCS 5/7-59(b))

**Monday, May 11, 2015**

Last day the election authority shall provide public notice, calculated to reach the elderly and handicapped voters, of the registration and voting aids under the Federal Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act and of the availability of assistance in marking the ballot, and procedures for voting a “Vote by Mail” ballot. (10 ILCS 7-15)

**Monday, May 18, 2015**

Last day for the State Board of Elections to certify to the appropriate county clerks the names of candidates for the Special Primary Election. (10 ILCS 5/7-14)

**Thursday, May 21, 2015**

First day for the election authority to publish a schedule of the dates and times that early voting will be conducted and the location of each permanent and temporary polling place for early voting and the precincts served by each location. The election authority shall publish a similar schedule at least once a week during the early voting period and post a copy of the schedule at each location to be used for early voting and on the election authority’s Internet web site. (10 ILCS 5/19A-25)

**Friday, May 22, 2015**

Last day for the election authority to have in his office a sufficient number of ballots printed and available for mailing to persons in the United States Service or their spouse and dependents, citizens temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and nonresident civilians. (10 ILCS 5/7-16, 16-5.01)

**NOTE:**

**Pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), as amended by the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (the MOVE Act), “Vote by Mail” ballots requested by military and overseas voters must be transmitted at least 45 days before a federal election. 42 U.S.C. § 1973(ff)-1(a)(8)(A). Please be advised that the 45 day UOCAVA deadline may not be extended under any circumstances; therefore, although the 45 day deadline falls on a Saturday, May 23, 2015, military and overseas “Vote by Mail” ballots MUST be mailed by that date. An election authority that waits until the first business day following the 45 day deadlines to mail military and overseas ballots will be considered in violation of UOCAVA.**

**Monday, May 25, 2015**

Last day for the election authority to post a schedule for early voting at each location where early voting will be conducted. The schedule shall remain posted continuously until the end of early voting. (10 ILCS 5/19A-25(b))

**Thursday, May 28, 2015**

Last day for organizations of citizens which have among its purposes the investigation or prosecution of election fraud and State non-partisan civic organizations to register their names and addresses and the names and addresses of their principal officers in order to be eligible for pollwatcher credentials for the Special Primary Election. Such registration shall be in the office of the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/7-34)

**Thursday, May 28, 2015**

First day for mailing or delivery of "Vote by Mail" Ballots for the Special Primary Election. (10 ILCS 5/19-4)

**Thursday, May 28, 2015**

First day for early voting at the offices of the election authority and at permanent polling place locations designated by the election authority. Early voting shall be conducted at such locations between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. A permanent early voting location must remain open for a total of at least 8 hours on any holiday during the early voting period and a total of at least 14 hours on the final weekend during the early voting period. (10 ILCS 5/19A-15)

**Monday, June 8, 2015**

Last day for unregistered citizens temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States who are otherwise qualified to vote and who expect to be absent from their county of residence to apply for a ballot to the election authority having jurisdiction over their precinct of residence. Application must be made on the Federal Post Card Application or on forms provided by the election authority. If application is received not less than 10 days before the election, the applicant shall be sent a ballot and registration is waived. (10 ILCS 5/20-2.1)

**Tuesday, June 9, 2015**

Last day for registration or transfer of registration in the office of the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/4-6, 4-16, 5-5, 5-23, 6-29,6-50,6-53, 6-54)

**Wednesday, June 10, 2015**

First day of Grace Period registration or change of address in the office of the election authority or at a location designated for this purpose by the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/4-50, 5-50, 6-100)

**Wednesday, June 10, 2015**

First day for Grace Period voting in the office of the election authority or at a location designated for this purpose by the election authority, or by mail if the election authority has no ballots prepared at the authority's office. (10 ILCS 5/4-50, 5-50, 6-100)

**Wednesday, June 17, 2015**

Last day to publish notice of primary. Notice shall include the primary date, poll hours, offices to be listed on the ballot and the political parties entitled to participate. (10 ILCS 5/7-15)

**Tuesday, June 23, 2015**

Last day for election authority or State Board of Elections to have pollwatcher credentials available for distribution. (10 ILCS 5/7-34)

**Tuesday, June 23, 2015**

First day a qualified voter admitted to a hospital, nursing home or rehabilitation center not more than 14 days before the Special Primary Election may make application for personal delivery of "Vote by Mail" Ballot. (10 ILCS 5/19-13)

**Monday, June 29, 2015**

Last day any voter who is a member of the United States Service (members of the Armed Forces while on active duty, members of the Merchant Marine, and United States government employees serving outside the territorial limits of the United States) and his/her spouse and dependents of voting age who expects to be absent from his/her county of residence on election day to apply by mail, by facsimile machine or by other methods of electronic transmission for an official ballot to the election authority having jurisdiction over their residence. No registration is required to vote. Application must be made on the Federal Post Card Application or on forms provided by the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/20-2, 5/20-2.3, 5/20-3)

Last day for non-resident civilian citizens, otherwise qualified to vote, to make application to the election authority having jurisdiction over his/her precinct of former residence for a "Vote by Mail" ballot. Registration is not required. Application may be made on the Federal Post Card Application or by facsimile or electronic transmission. (10 ILCS 5/20-2.2)

**Tuesday, June 30, 2015**

Last day (by 5:00 p.m.) a person may file a notarized Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate if an objection to the person's nominating papers or petitions for the office is sustained and the decision to sustain the objection has not been reversed by a reviewing court after the date of certification. Such Declarations must be filed in the office of the appropriate election authority. Declarations received by the election authority after 5:00 p.m. will not be valid. Write-in votes shall only be counted for persons who have timely filed valid declarations of intent to be a write-in candidate. (10 ILCS 5/7-59(b))

**Thursday, July 2, 2015**

Last day for the election authority to receive an application by mail for a "Vote by Mail" Ballot for the Special Primary Election and the last day for the election authority to mail such a ballot. (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

**Thursday, July 2, 2015**

Last day for election authority to publish in 2 or more newspapers published in and having general circulation in the county a true and legible copy of the specimen ballot containing the names of offices and candidates to be voted on, as near as may be, in the form in which they will appear on the official ballot on election day. (10 ILCS 5/24B-18, 5/24C-18)

**Thursday, July 2, 2015**

Last day to post (by noon) the names and addresses of nursing home facilities from which no applications were received and in which no supervised “Vote by Mail” voting will be conducted. (10 ILCS 5/19-12.2)

**Thursday, July 2, 2015**

Last day for the election authority to conduct a public test of the automatic tabulating equipment (optical scan voting devices, direct recording electronic voting devices, touch screen voting devices, vote tallying software and equipment). The election authority must give public notice and notify the State Board of Elections of the date, time and location of the test at least 48 hours prior to such test. (10 ILCS 5/24A-9, 5/24B-9, 5/24C-9)

**Monday, July 6, 2015**

Last day for the election authority to have official ballots available for inspection by candidates or their agents. (10 ILCS 5/16-5)

**Monday, July 6, 2015**

Last day for early voting at the offices of the election authority and at permanent polling place locations designated by the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/19A-15)

**Friday, July 3, 2015****Saturday, July 4, 2015****Sunday, July 5, 2015****Monday, July 6, 2015**

Dates that may be scheduled by the election authority for “Vote by Mail” voting on the premises of facilities licensed or certified pursuant to the Nursing Home Care Act for the sole benefit of the residents of such facilities who have made prior application not later than 5 days before the election. Such voting shall be conducted during any continuous period sufficient to allow all applicants to cast their ballots between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on any one of these days. (10 ILCS 5/19-4, 5/19-12.2)

**Monday, July 6, 2015**

Last day any registered voter presently within the confines of the United States may apply in person for a “Vote by Mail” for the Special Primary Election. (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

**Monday, July 6, 2015**

Last day for any temporarily or permanently physically disabled voter to request the election authority that two (2) judges of election of opposite political party affiliation deliver a ballot to him/her at the point where he/she is unable to continue forward motion toward the polling place. (10 ILCS 5/7-47.1(b))

**Monday, July 6, 2015**

Last day for the election authority to deliver (prior to the opening of the polls) to judges of election in each precinct a list of registered voters in that precinct to whom “Vote by Mail” ballots have been issued by mail and a list of grace period and early voters. (10 ILCS 5/4-50, 5/5-50, 5/6-100, 5/19-4, 5/19A-5(c))

**SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION**  
**TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015**  
**Polling Places open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (10 ILCS 5/7-5, 5/25-7)**

**Thursday, July 9, 2015**

Registration re-opens in the office of the election authority and for all deputy registrars. (10 ILCS 5/4-6, 5/5-5, 5/6-50)

**Tuesday, July 14, 2015**

Last day a person casting a provisional ballot may submit additional information to the election authority to verify or support his/her registration status. Material must be received by the election authority by this date. (10 ILCS 5/18A-15(d))

**Tuesday, July 21, 2015**

Last day for the election authority to complete the validation and counting of provisional ballots. (10 ILCS 5/18A-15(a))

**Tuesday, July 21, 2015**

Last day for the election authority to process and count "Vote by Mail" ballots (1) mailed and postmarked by election day but received after the close of the polls and by this date, or (2) not postmarked at all, but having a certification date prior to election day on the certification envelope and received after the close of the polls and by this date. (10 ILCS 5/19-8(c))

**Wednesday, July 22, 2015**

Last day for the election authority to conduct final canvass of election returns and certify the names of candidates nominated at the Special Primary. (10 ILCS 5/18A-15(a))

**Thursday, July 23, 2015**

Last day for the State Board of Elections to complete its final canvass of the vote. (10 ILCS 5/22-7, 5/18A-15(a))

**Thursday, July 23, 2015**

Last day for the State Board of Elections to certify to the County Clerk the names of all established political party candidates whose names have been nominated as shown by the proclamation of the State Board of Elections or have been nominated to fill a vacancy in nomination, directing the County Clerk to place upon the official ballot the names of such candidates in the same manner and in the same order as shown upon the certification.

**Tuesday, July 28, 2015**

Last day for the election authority to transmit to the State Board of Elections the following information with respect to the election: (1) the number, by precinct, of "Vote by Mail" ballots requested, provided, and counted; (2) the number of rejected "Vote by Mail" ballots; (3) the number of voters seeking review of rejected "Vote by Mail" ballots; and (4) the number of "Vote by Mail" ballots counted following review. (10 ILCS 5/19-20)

SPECIAL ELECTION  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015  
(10 ILCS 5/27-5)

**Friday, June 12, 2015**

First day for registered voters within the confines of the United States to make application by mail or in person for “Vote by Mail” Ballot for the Special Election. (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

**Monday, June 22, 2015**

First day for independent and new political party candidates to file original nomination papers in the principal office of the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/25-7)

**Thursday, June 25, 2015**

Last day for independent and new political party candidates to file original nomination papers in the principal office of the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/25-7)

**Thursday, July 2, 2015**

Last day to file objections to independent and new political party candidate nomination papers filed during the period Monday, June 22, 2015 through Thursday, June 25, 2015. Objections to petitions may be filed in the principal office of the State Board of Elections in Springfield or in the Board’s permanent branch office in Chicago. (10 ILCS 5/10-8)

**Monday, July 6, 2015**

Last day for State Board of Elections to conduct a lottery to determine ballot position for candidates where 2 or more independent candidate petitions or two or more new political party candidate petitions were filed simultaneously as of the opening hour of Monday, July 6, 2015 and between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8, 2015. The State Board of Elections will give written notice to each candidate filing petitions simultaneously at 8:00 a.m. on July 6, 2015 and between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on July 8, 2015 of the time and place for conducting a lottery to determine ballot position for such candidates. In addition, seven days written notice shall be given to the chairman of each established political party and to each organization of citizens within the election jurisdiction entitled to have pollwatchers present at the last preceding election. Notice will also be posted at the entrance to each office of the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/10-6.2)

**Monday, July 13, 2015**

Last day (by 5:00 p.m.) a person may file a notarized Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate (Exception: If an objection to the person’s nominating papers or petitions for the office is sustained after this date and the decision to sustain the objection has not been reversed by a reviewing court, the person may file a Declaration of Intent not later than 7 days prior to the Special Election). Such Declarations must be filed in the offices of the appropriate election authorities. Declarations received by an election authority after 5:00 p.m. shall not be valid. Write-in votes shall only be counted for persons who have timely filed valid declarations of intent to be write-in candidates. (10 ILCS 5/17-16.1; 10 ILCS 5/18-9.1)

**Monday, July 13, 2015**

Last day the election authority shall provide public notice, calculated to reach the elderly and handicapped voter, of the registration and voting aids under the Federal Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act and of the availability of assistance in marking the ballot, and procedures for voting by “Vote by Mail” ballot. (10 ILCS 5/12-1)

**Thursday, July 23, 2015**

Last day for State Board of Elections to certify to the County Clerk the names of independent candidates and new political party candidates whose nomination papers were filed with the State Board of Elections and to direct the County Clerk to place upon the official ballot for the Special Election the names of such candidates in the same manner and in the same order as shown upon the certification. (10 ILCS 5/10-14)

**Monday, July 27, 2015**

Last day for the election authority to have in his office a sufficient number of ballots printed and available for mailing to persons in the United States Service or their spouse and dependents, citizens temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and nonresident civilians. (42 U.S.C. § 1973(ff)-1(a)(8)(A), 10 ILCS 5/7-16, 16-5.01)

**Saturday, August 1, 2015**

First day for mailing or delivery of “Vote by Mail” Ballots for the Special Election. (10 ILCS 5/19-4)

**Monday, August 3, 2015**

First day for early voting at the offices of the election authority and at permanent polling place locations designated by the election authority. Early voting shall be conducted at such locations between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. A permanent early voting location must remain open for a total of at least 8 hours on any holiday during the early voting period and a total of at least 14 hours on the final weekend during the early voting period. (10 ILCS 5/19A-15)

**Monday, August 3, 2015**

Last day for organizations of citizens which have among its purposes the investigation or prosecution of election fraud and State non-partisan civic organizations to register their names and addresses and the names and addresses of their principal officers in order to be eligible for pollwatcher credentials for the Special Election. File in the office of the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/17-23(5), 5/18-6)

**Tuesday, August 11, 2015**

Last day for unregistered citizens temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States who are otherwise qualified to vote and who expect to be absent from their county of residence on election day to apply for a ballot to the election authority having jurisdiction over his/her precinct of residence. Application should be made on the Federal Post Card Application or on forms provided by the election authority. If application is received not less than 10 days before the election, the applicant shall be sent a ballot and registration is waived. (10 ILCS 5/20-2.1)

**Thursday, August 13, 2015**

Last day for registration or transfer of registration in the office of the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/4-6, 4-16, 5-5, 5-23, 6-29,6-50,6-53, 6-54)

**Friday, August 14, 2015**

First day of Grace Period registration or change of address in the office of the election authority or at a location designated for this purpose by the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/4-50, 5-50, 6-100)

**Friday, August 14, 2015**

First day for Grace Period voting in the office of the election authority or at a location designated for this purpose by the election authority, or by mail if the election authority has no ballots prepared at the authority's office. (10 ILCS 5/4-50, 5-50, 6-100)

**Friday, August 21, 2015**

Last day to publish notice of Special Election. (10 ILCS 5/12-1)

**Thursday, August 27, 2015**

Last day for election authority or State Board of Elections to have pollwatcher credentials available for distribution. (10 ILCS 5/17-23, 5/18-6)

**Thursday, August 27, 2015**

First day a qualified voter admitted to a hospital, nursing home or rehabilitation center not more than 14 days before the Election may make application for personal delivery of a "Vote by Mail" Ballot. (10 ILCS 5/19-13)

**Monday, August 31, 2015**

Last day any voter who is a member of the United States Service (members of the Armed Forces while on active duty, members of the Merchant Marine, and United States government employees serving outside the territorial limits of the United States) and his/her spouse and dependents of voting age who expects to be absent from his/her county of residence on election day to apply by mail, by facsimile machine or by other methods of electronic transmission for an official ballot to the election authority having jurisdiction over their residence. No registration required to vote. Application should be made on the Federal Post Card Application or on forms provided by the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/20-2, 5/20-2.3, 5/20-3)

Last day for non-resident civilian citizens, otherwise qualified to vote, to make application to the election authority having jurisdiction over his/her precinct of former residence for a "Vote by Mail" ballot. Registration is not required. Application may be made on the Federal Post Card Application or by facsimile or electronic transmission. (10 ILCS 5/20-2.2)

Last day for election authority to publish precinct polling place addresses, if not included in notice of election. (10 ILCS 5/12-4)

**Thursday, September 3, 2015**

Last day (by 5:00 p.m.) a person may file a notarized Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate if an objection to the person's nominating papers or petitions for the office is sustained and the decision to sustain the objection has not been reversed by a reviewing court after the date of certification. Such Declaration must be filed in the office of the appropriate election authority. Declarations received by the election authority after 5:00 p.m. shall not be valid. Write-in votes shall only be counted for persons who have timely filed valid declarations of intent to be write-in candidates. (10 ILCS 5/17-16.1; 10 ILCS 5/18-9.1)

**Tuesday, September 8, 2015**

Last day for the election authority to receive an application by mail for a "Vote by Mail" Ballot for the Special Election and the last day for the election authority to mail such a ballot. (10 ILCS 5/19-2, 5/19-4)

**Tuesday, September 8, 2015**

Last day for election authority to publish in 2 or more newspapers published in and having general circulation in the county a true and legible copy of the specimen ballot containing the names of offices and candidates to be voted on, as near as may be, in the form in which they will appear on the official ballot on election day. (10 ILCS 5/24B-18, 524C-18)

**Tuesday, September 8, 2015**

Last day (by noon) to post the names and addresses of nursing home facilities from which no applications were received and in which no supervised "Vote by Mail" voting will be conducted. (10 ILCS 5/19-12.2)

**Tuesday, September 8, 2015**

Last day for election authority to conduct a public test of the automatic tabulating equipment (optical scan voting devices, direct recording electronic voting equipment, touch screen voting devices, vote tallying software and equipment). The election authority must give public notice and notify the State Board of Elections of the date, time and location of the test at least 48 hours prior to such test. (10 ILCS 5/24A-9, 5/24B-9, 5/24C-9)

**Friday, September 4, 2015****Saturday, September 5, 2015****Sunday, September 6, 2015****Monday, September 7, 2015**

Dates that may be scheduled by the election authority for “Vote by Mail” voting on the premises of facilities licensed or certified pursuant to the Nursing Home Care Act for the sole benefit of the residents of such facilities who have made prior application not later than 5 days before the election. Such voting shall be conducted during any continuous period sufficient to allow all applicants to cast their ballots between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on any one of these days. (10 ILCS 5/19-4, 5/19-12.2)

**Wednesday, September 9, 2015**

Last day any registered voter presently within the confines of the United States may apply in person for a “Vote by Mail” Ballot for the Special Election. (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

**Wednesday, September 9, 2015**

Last day for early voting at the office of the election authority and permanent locations designated by the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/19A-15, 19A-20)

**Wednesday, September 9, 2015**

Last day for any temporarily or permanently physically disabled voter to request the election authority that two (2) judges of election of opposite political party affiliation deliver a ballot to him/her at the point where he/she is unable to continue forward motion toward the polling place. (10 ILCS 5/17-13, 5/18-5.1)

**SPECIAL ELECTION**  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015**  
**Polling Places open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (10 ILCS 5/17-1, 5/18-2, 5/25-7)**

**Saturday, September 12, 2015**

Registration re-opens in the office of the election authority and for deputy registrars. (10 ILCS 5/4-6, 5/5-5, 5/6-50)

**Thursday, September 17, 2015**

Last day a person casting a provisional ballot may submit additional information to the election authority to verify or support his/her registration status. Material must be received by the election authority by this date. (10 ILCS 5/18A-15(d))

**Thursday, September 24, 2015**

Last day for the election authority to complete the validation and counting of provisional ballots. (10 ILCS 5/18A-15(a))

**Thursday, September 24, 2015**

Last day for the election authority to process and count "Vote by Mail" ballots (1) mailed and postmarked by election day but received after the close of the polls and by this date, or (2) not postmarked at all, but having a certification date prior to election day on the certification envelope and received after the close of the polls and by this date. (10 ILCS 5/19-8(c))

**Thursday, October 1, 2015**

Last day for the election authority to conduct final canvass of election returns. (10 ILCS 5/18A-15(a))

**Thursday, October 1, 2015**

Last day for the election authority to transmit to the State Board of Elections the following information with respect to the election: (1) the number, by precinct, of "Vote by Mail" ballots requested, provided, and counted; (2) the number of rejected "Vote by Mail" ballots; (3) the number of voters seeking review of rejected "Vote by Mail" ballots; and (4) the number of "Vote by Mail" ballots counted following review. (10 ILCS 5/19-20, 5/20-20)

**Tuesday, October 13, 2015**

Last day for the State Board of Elections to complete its final canvass of the vote. (10 ILCS 5/22-7, 5/18A-15(a))