

**Illinois
State Board of Elections**

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SPRINGFIELD, IL, February 2, 2000 - Over 650 campaign committees filed electronically the Semi-Annual Report of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures during the semi-annual reporting period, officials of the State Board of Elections said today.

Recent changes in campaign disclosure laws now require all political committees that have \$25,000 or more in fund balances, receipts or expenditures to file electronically. The semi-annual reporting period which ended January 31, was the first reporting period to come due under the new law.

Board Director Ron Michaelson said that the first electronic filing period was a success.

"For two years we have worked hard preparing for Internet filing of disclosure data," Michaelson said.

"We developed and made available at no cost to committees filing software. We have conducted over 40 workshops and trained hundreds of campaign treasurers and workers. And our award winning web site has been rated the best in the country."

"The response has been very positive. Over 650 political committees successfully filed this semi-annual report and the data was immediately available to anyone with access to the Internet," Michaelson said.

"We would like to thank the candidates, political workers and campaign treasurers for their cooperation in making this program a tremendous success and we will continue our efforts to make Illinois a model of campaign disclosure openness and accountability," Michaelson said.

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