

Illinois
State Board of Elections

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SPRINGFIELD, IL, MARCH 1, 2004 - 371 questions of public policy will be voted on at the March 16th primary election, officials of the State Board of Elections announced today. Only once within the last 10 years (23 elections) have there been more referenda on the ballot. In the 1994 General Election 424 questions were on the ballot.

Board Director Dan White said that in addition to federal, state and local candidates, voters in Illinois will decide a number of important questions.

"While the presidential and U.S. Senate races may be the focus of attention, there are many significant local issues on the ballot as well," White said.

"Of three hundred seventy one questions, 202 are tax and 52 are bond measures," White said. "Decisions on most of these matters, bonds for buildings, taxes for schools and libraries may impact communities for years to come. In a small community the difference between approval and rejection may hinge on the votes of a handful of electors," he said.

White urged voters to take advantage of the opportunity to be heard.

"High profile candidates may grab the headlines, but referenda should not be lost in the mix. Many ballot questions will be the final opportunity for local residents to voice their opinions on debates that have been ongoing for months," White said.

"Please take a few moments before the primary election to examine questions on your regional ballot. Explore the consequences of your options and don't let this opportunity pass - vote on March 16th," White said.

A summary of referenda is attached. All referenda being submitted to voters in each jurisdiction throughout the state are now available on the Board's website www.elections.state.il.us. The pass/fail results should be posted approximately three weeks after the election.

Additional information about local election ballots can be obtained from local election authorities.

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