

**Illinois
State Board of Elections**

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SPRINGFIELD, IL., May 25, 1999 - The State Board of Elections last week voted to accept an interpretation of campaign finance reform legislation that requires political committees with more than \$25,000 to electronically file reports beginning January, 2000.

At the same time, the Board praised committees that have already begun filing electronically and encouraged others to follow suit for the Semi-Annual Report of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures due by August 2.

Director Ron Michaelson said that the board's aggressive program to make campaign finance data available on the Internet has been well received and is nearing fruition.

"This month we have been conducting workshops instructing campaign committees how to file reports electronically," Michaelson said. "In fact, several groups voluntarily participated in the program prior to the April Consolidated Election."

Michaelson said that early reports indicate that the program is already a big success.

"Feedback at training workshops and from those who have used our software this past April have been very positive. We believe that many committees will jump-start the program and voluntarily file electronically this August," he said.

The board's actions last week clarifies that mandatory filing for committees that have \$25,000 or more in fund balances, receipts or expenditures, during the prior six months, does not begin until January, 2000.

The board acted in response to questions raised about effective date of electronic filing legislation.

The filing software, which is available free of charge on the board's web site, by CD ROM and disk, has been well received and provides committees the necessary tools for electronic filing.

The board's web site is www.elections.state.il.us. Free software may also be ordered on disk or CD ROM by calling (217) 782-4141 in Springfield or (312) 814-6440 in Chicago.

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