

**Illinois
State Board of Elections**

ELECTION NEWS ELECTION NEWS ELECTION NEWS

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Springfield, Illinois, July 29, 2002 - The Illinois State Board of Elections and the Illinois State Board of Education today announced a revival of a joint effort to aid students in understanding the electoral process.

The program, MOCK ELECTION 2002, is an election-education publication for grades 4 through 12, which provides teachers with materials and background information on how to conduct a mock election that corresponds to this year's November General Election.

The program, which was originated in 1976 and suspended for lack of funds several years ago, is now available on the Board's website at www.elections.state.il.us.

Board chairman and teacher, Elaine Roupas initiated revival of the program. "The right to vote is the foundation of our democratic society and educating our children about voting responsibilities and related issues lays the foundation for future responsible voters," Ms. Roupas said. "I felt that it was important this program should continue."

"I would like to thank our staff and the State Board of Education for their work and continued support of this program," she said. "Also, thank you in advance to all teachers across the state, who everyday give their all to their students, for their interest and consideration of these materials. It is my hope that this program will be a valuable resource and teaching tool in their classrooms."

The entire program, including an outline of the election procedures, teacher background information, a step-by-step guide for voting and actual election forms can be downloaded at no cost on the Board's website. In addition, election related material for grades K through 3 will be available on the Board's website this fall.

For additional information contact the State Board of Elections at (217) 782-4141 in Springfield or (312) 814-6440 in Chicago.

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