

**Illinois
State Board of Elections**

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SPRINGFIELD, IL, September 19, 2003 - Illinois has one of the best campaign finance disclosure programs in the nation, according to a comprehensive comparative study released by the Campaign Disclosure Project.

The Campaign Disclosure Project is a new organization formed to bring greater accountability to money in state politics through assessment of state disclosure programs.

The organization, funded by Pew Charitable Trusts, is composed of the UCLA School of Law, the Center for Government Studies, and the California Voter Foundation.

The Campaign Disclosure Project conducted a nationwide study – Grading State Disclosure – of campaign disclosure laws and practices in the 50 states.

Illinois is one of only two states to receive the highest grades in the A or B range.

Washington was top ranked and received an A- grade. Illinois was second in the nation with a B.

The study found that "the contextual and technical usability of Illinois' web site is the best in the nation."

The study went on to report that the Illinois site features a very clear "Guide to Disclosure" complete with campaign finance restrictions and reporting requirements.

Illinois was also ranked number one for its electronic filing program for campaign committees, receiving an A+ grade.

Board Chairman John Keith thanked the Campaign Disclosure Project for the honor.

"On behalf of the State Board of Elections I'd like to acknowledge and thank the Campaign Disclosure Project for this recognition." Keith said. "We will continue to work hard to keep Illinois in the forefront of campaign finance reform and disclosure," he said.

Chairman Keith also recognized the board's staff for their hard work and dedication.

"The members of the State Board of Elections have long known that we have a great staff both in campaign disclosure and information technology. This award is further proof of their continued dedicated efforts," he said.

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