



STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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ELECTION NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORGOT TO REGISTER?

SPRINGFIELD, IL, Oct. 17: The “grace period” for registering to vote in the Nov. 4 election ends Tuesday, Oct. 21.

“Election authorities across the state are receiving an increased number of calls about grace period registration,” said Daniel W. White, executive director of the State Board of Elections. “This increased interest is consistent with the record-breaking number of people registered for this election and the heavy turnout of people voting at early voting centers.”

White said that under state law effective for the first time for a Presidential election, eligible voters are granted a “grace period” for registering to vote. However, the law restricts where people may register during the grace period and how they cast a ballot.

Eligible voters may register during the grace period at the office of their election authority or at a location specifically designated by the election authority. Elections are administered locally by the State’s 110 election authorities – 101 county clerks, one county election commission and eight municipal election commissions.

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During the 2008 primary election, 7,803 people registered to vote in Illinois during the grace period.

The deadline for voting at an early voting center is Oct. 30. Also, absentee voting laws remain in place. Persons who desire an absentee ballot should contact their local election authority for an application or for more information.

For more information on the election, contact election authorities in each county or visit the Board's website www.elections.il.gov. To watch a 5-minute video that answers questions in English and Spanish about early voting and grace period registration, go to our website and click "About the Board" and "Press Releases." Scroll to a video in your language and format.

The State Board of Elections is an independent state constitutional agency charged with the responsibility of having general supervision over the administration of election laws of the state.

For additional information contact Daniel W. White, Executive Director, at (312) 814-6440.

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