

**Illinois
State Board of Elections**

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Springfield, Illinois, October 16, 2002 - The Illinois State Board of Elections today announced a major addition to its 2002 election education program.

The new addition is called Let's Vote!, a kindergarten through 3rd grade program designed to acquaint young students with the election process by conducting a mock election using animals as candidates.

Let's Vote! is the most recent addition to a recently revived election education program developed by the Illinois State Board of Elections in collaboration with Illinois State Board of Education. Earlier this summer the board unveiled MOCK ELECTION 2002, a mock election program correlating to the November 5 General Election and designed for students from 4th through 12th grades.

In addition to introducing young students to elections by using animals as candidates, Let's Vote! includes teacher background materials, a related coloring book and optional ballot for Governor of Illinois.

The complete program is available and may be downloaded from the board's website at www.elections.state.il.us

Board chairman and teacher Elaine Roupas urged educators to take advantage of this timely publication.

"As adults across the state begin to focus on the November 5th election, their children too can share with them basic fundamental voting rights by participating in a mock election right in their own classrooms," Ms. Roupas said.

"We hope that this program will help lay the foundation for future responsible voters," she added.

Ms. Roupas, who coordinated the program, thanked those involved.

"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."

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