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## ELECTION NEWS

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### **GRACE PERIOD VOTING AND EARLY VOTING SMASHING RECORDS**

SPRINGFIELD, IL, **Oct. 23, 2008** --The "grace period" for registering to vote in the Nov. 4 election ended Tuesday with over 20,000 people registering, according to the centralized statewide database at the Illinois State Board of Elections.

By comparison, during the 2008 primary election, approximately 7,800 people registered and voted in Illinois during the two-week grace period.

Early voting also is smashing records, already surpassing the number of people who voted at early voting centers in the primary election even though the early voting period is only half over.

Over 260,000 people have voted at early voting centers, according to the Board database. In the primary, approximately 220,000 people voted at early voting centers.

At the halfway point in early voting, suburban Cook County voters are going to early voting centers at triple the pace they did during the primary election.

According to the Cook County Clerk's website, more suburban voters went to early voting centers in the first six days of early voting than went during the entire 18-day early voting period in the primary. The Chicago Election Commission likewise reported starting with triple the volume of early voters. County clerks in DuPage, Lake and Kane are reporting a high turnout of early voters, as are many of the other less populated downstate counties.

The deadline for voting at an early voting center is Oct. 30. By law, early voting must be done by personal appearance. No reason or excuse is needed for voting early.

Also, absentee voting laws remain in place. However, state law requires that a person applying for an absentee ballot must state a reason they cannot vote at their polling place on Election Day. Persons who desire an absentee ballot should contact their local election authority for an application or for more information.

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This is the first Presidential election in which the early voting and grace period voting laws are applicable. Under grace period, eligible voters could register between Oct. 8 and Oct. 21 at the office of their election authority or at a location designated by their election authority. However, the law also restricted how they cast a ballot. Neither early voters nor grace period voters can vote at their regular polling place on Election Day.

For more information on the election, contact election authorities in each county or visit the Board's website [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov).

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.

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