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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FILING PERIOD OPENS FOR REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

SPRINGFIELD, IL, Nov. 26, 2007 – Candidates for the Republican nomination for President and perhaps hundreds of delegate candidates aligned with them will file official nominating petitions at the office of the State Board of Elections beginning at 8 a.m. Nov. 28.

The filing period for Republican candidates ends Dec. 5.

In Illinois, many Presidential candidates have a two-tier campaign. They may file as a Presidential Preference candidate which places them on the ballot statewide, and they may also have delegate and alternate delegate candidates pledged to them seeking election in Congressional districts.

The Illinois primary election will be held Feb. 5, 2008, six weeks earlier than the last statewide primary. Because of the change in the primary date, candidates are filing nominating petitions earlier than ever.

Presidential candidates from the Democratic Party and the Green Party (now recognized as an established political party in Illinois) filed between Oct. 29 and Nov. 5, the same date candidates filed for U.S. Senate, Representatives in Congress, State Senate and Representatives in the General Assembly, certain county offices and judges.

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Seven Democratic candidates filed for the Illinois ballot: Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Bill Richardson, Dennis Kucinich, Christopher Dodd and Joe Biden.

Four Green Party candidates filed: Cynthia McKinney, Kent Mesplay, Jarad Ball and Howie Hawkins.

In addition, a total of 328 candidates filed for delegate or alternate delegate to their respective national nominating conventions.

Objections have been filed claiming some candidates do not meet state petition requirements, so one or more of the candidates may be removed from the ballot.

Jan. 8 is the normal last day to register to vote in the Illinois primary. To be eligible to vote, a person must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years old by Election Day and a resident of the precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day.

Early voting centers open Jan. 14.

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 more information on the election, contact election authorities in each county or visit the Board's website www.elections.il.gov.

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