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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RECORD NUMBER OF CANDIDATES FILE FOR OFFICE

SPRINGFIELD, IL, Dec. 6, 2007 – A total of 313 more candidates filed nominating petitions Wednesday at State Board of Elections, bringing the total to a record-breaking 1,654. The previous record of 1,584 candidate filings was established at the last Presidential election.

All of the candidates filing Wednesday were Republican candidates for President or candidates for delegate or alternate delegate to the Republican National Nominating Convention.

Democratic Party and Green Party candidates filed a month earlier and were certified today to be on the ballot for the Feb. 5 primary election.

Republican Presidential candidates who filed for the statewide ballot include John McCain, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney, Fred Thompson, Alan Keys, James Mitchell Jr., Tom Tancredo, Rudy Giuliani and Mike Huckabee. The Board is scheduled to certify Republican Presidential candidates at a Dec. 21 meeting.

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

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

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

Registered voters in Illinois can vote for candidates for President and other offices – U.S. Senate, Representatives in Congress, the state legislature, certain county offices and judges – at early voting centers beginning Jan. 14.

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

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