

**Illinois
State Board of Elections**

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**ILLINOIS DISCLOSURE WEB SITE
RATED NO. 1 IN COUNtrY/ MODEL FOR OTHER STATES**

SPRINGFIELD, IL, December 9, 1999 - Illinois was ranked number one in the country for its on-line campaign disclosure web site and state-of-the-art electronic filing program, officials of the State Board of Elections announced today.

The California Voter Foundation, a nonprofit, non-partisan organization announced the ranking this week after conducting an extensive national survey.

The survey was conducted under the Foundation's authority by a team of experienced researchers and a panel of expert judges who rated states for progress toward availability of web site data and electronic filing of campaign disclosure records.

The study reveals that "Illinois has come a long way in a short period of time. . . . Today, Illinois ranks number one in the country for its digital disclosure efforts. . . . The disclosure web site is very comprehensive and includes information on all state and local races with a high level of detail. . . . It should serve as a model for other sites."

Illinois, along with California, Michigan, Virginia, Hawaii, Louisiana and New York were awarded the prestigious Digital Sunlight Award for being among states found to have the most advanced programs to provide electronic filing political committees as well as the most comprehensive and user friendly campaign disclosure web site.

Illinois' election's board director Ron Michaelson commented on the award and number one ranking.

"On behalf of the state of Illinois we are proud to accept this prestigious award. For the past several years we have worked hard to provide Illinois citizens with the information they deserve to make informed decisions about their elected officials. This award is acknowledgment of our progress. Last year we unveiled our new state-of-the-art campaign disclosure web site that provides up-to-the minute campaign reports on the Internet. Shortly thereafter we developed and provided, at no cost to committees, computer software for electronic filing of reports. As we look forward to the first mandatory electronic filing of campaign reports due after the first of the year, we are enthused and gratified at the progress disclosure reform is making in Illinois. This honor is evidence that our efforts are succeeding."

Michaelson said that there are many organizations that share in this honor.

"We would like to recognize the Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, the Illinois Campaign Finance Task Force, Governor Ryan and all the legislators who have supported campaign finance reform in Illinois." Michaelson said.

"The board will continue its efforts to make Illinois a model of openness and accountability."

Campaign finance and election information can be obtained on the boards web site at www.elections.state.il.us.

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