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## ELECTION NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **EARLY VOTING BEGINS MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2014**

**SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, February 27, 2014** – Voting by personal appearance at an Early Voting Center begins Monday, March 3, 2014, for the March 18 2014, General Primary Election. Election authorities throughout the State have announced the location of Early Voting Centers that will be open through March 15, 2014. Eligible voters will be able to vote at certain times and location on the two weekends during the Early Voting period. In less populous counties, the county clerk's office often is the Early Voting location.

There will be numerous Early Voting Centers throughout Chicago, suburban Cook County and counties in the metropolitan Chicago area. 141,878 votes of the 1,758,489 votes at the 2010 General Primary Election (approximately 8%) were cast at Early Voting Centers.

"Voting early by personal appearance, without having to give a reason, has proven to be a popular option for Illinois voters," said Rupert T. Borgsmiller, Executive Director of the State Board of Elections. "Voters appreciate the convenience of going to the polls on their own schedule."

Another provision expands the no-excuse voting concept of absentee voting by mail. Now, absentee voters can vote without an excuse or reason.

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State law provides that a permanent polling place for early voting must remain open on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The law also provides that permanent polling places must remain open 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays and holidays and 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sundays. Voters should keep in mind that not all polling places are permanent and should confirm the hours with their election authority.

State law requires that the identity of Early Voting applicants must be verified by the applicant's presentation of an Illinois driver's license, a non-driver identification card issued by the Illinois Secretary of State, a photo identification card issued by a university or college, or another government-issued identification document containing the applicant's photograph.

Early voting by personal appearance is one of the three voting options available to eligible voters. Absentee or voting by mail is now available to all registered voters. Grace Period voting is available to those who wish to register beyond the statutory deadline. Although the traditional voter registration deadline has passed for the March 18, 2014, General Primary Election, eligible voters may register or change their address during Grace Period registration which continues through March 15, 2014. Those who participate in Grace Period registration must vote at the office of the election authority and are not eligible to vote at an Early Voting Center, or at a polling place at the March 18, 2014, General Primary Election.

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

Elections are administered locally by the State's 110 election authorities.

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