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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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7,282,639 MILLION VOTERS REGISTERED FOR PRIMARY

Springfield, Illinois, March 8, 2012 - As of March 7, 2012, there are 7,282,639 (unofficial) registered to vote in the upcoming March 20, 2012 General Primary Election according to the Illinois Voter Registration database. This is a decrease of approximately 318,000 from the 7,600,962 registered voters for the 2010 General Election Primary.

Figures often spike for a General Election when the President is elected. The number of registered voters for the November, 2008, General Election was 7,789,500, of which 5,577,509 or 71.60%, turned out to vote. In contrast, at the most recent General Election in November, 2010, 3,792,770 of the 7,506,073 registered voters, or 50.53%, turned out to vote.

The statewide voter database is a requirement of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). Congress approved HAVA after the disputed 2000 election in Florida. One of the reforms established standards which require states to develop a statewide voter registration system. The timely transfer of data to and from local jurisdictions to the centralized database is an essential component of HAVA compliance.

The Secretary of State, Social Security Administration, Department of Corrections, and Department of Public Health are also involved in the database project. The Secretary of State's "motor voter" record-keeping system and the Social Security Administration's SSN record keeping system are integrated with the centralized system for data verification. Records from the Department

of Corrections and Public Health are utilized to remove the names of incarcerated felons and deceased individuals from the voter registration database.

A no-excuse absentee voting law in effect allows registered voters to vote absentee, either by mail or in-person without having to give a reason. Additional information on absentee voting, Grace Period Registration and Early Voting is available from the offices of the County Clerks, Board of Election Commissioners and the State Board of Elections website which is www.elections.il.gov.

In addition to voting for a Presidential nominee and delegates to the national nominating convention, voters in the March 20, 2012, General Primary Election will nominate candidates for Representative in Congress, State Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly, certain County Officers and Judges. Also, some political party officials will be elected.

In a Primary Election, an Illinois voter can vote for candidates of one party only. Voters, however, may request a nonpartisan ballot to vote for any public questions which happen to be on the ballot in their precinct. In that case, a voter would not have to declare a party affiliation, he or she may request a nonpartisan ballot only.

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS VOTER REGISTRATION AND PERCENTAGE
TURNOUT ILLINOIS PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>REGISTERED VOTERS</u>	<u>TURNOUT</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE TOTAL VOTE</u>
2008	7,304,563	2,986,982	40.89%
2004	7,137,954	2,067,824	29%
2000	6,745,655	1,748,191	26%
1996	6,125,044	1,804,626	29%
1992	5,864,882	2,561,882	44%
1988	5,926,690	2,523,665	43%
1984	6,052,488	2,474,610	41%

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