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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPCOMING EARLY VOTING AND GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION DEADLINES

CHICAGO, IL, – March 11, 2016 – The State Board of Elections wishes to make Illinois residents aware of upcoming Early Voting and Grace Period Registration deadlines for the March 15, 2016 General Primary Election.

Early Voting extends through Monday, March 14, 2016.

Grace Period Registration, which allows Illinois residents to register or change their voting address, extends through the close of polls on Election Day. Once registered, the voter may cast a ballot at a location designated for that purpose by the election authority.

The Requirements to be eligible to vote are: be a citizen of the United States, be at least 18 years old by the General Election (November 8, 2016), and have been a resident of the precinct for at least 30 days prior to Election Day.

When registering to vote in person, two forms of identification are required – one must show the current address of the applicant. Acceptable identification includes a lease or contract for a residence, a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government

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document that shows the name and address of the voter. A photo identification card issued by a university or college can be used if accompanied by a copy of the voter's lease or mail postmarked to the voter's address.

Illinois residents may check their registration online by going to www.elections.il.gov and clicking "Voters" tab and then clicking "Am I Registered to Vote in Illinois" in the center of the page. The service is made available through the Illinois Voter Registration System database, a requirement of the Federal Help America Vote Act.

Residents are advised to contact their election authority for information as to location and hours where Early Voting and/or Grace Period Registration is taking place.

The State Board of Elections urges Illinois residents to vote at the upcoming March 15, 2016, General Primary Election.

Voters in the March 15, 2016 General Primary Election will nominate candidates for President, Delegates, United States Senator, Comptroller, Representatives in Congress, State Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly and 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 question which happens to be on the ballot in their precinct. In that case, a voter would not have to declare a party affiliation.

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 of Illinois. Elections are administered locally by the State's 109 election authorities.

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