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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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- AMENDED -
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION
IN THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Chicago, Illinois, April 16, 2015 – The Illinois State Board of Elections announced today the deadlines for the 18th Congressional District Special Election under the terms of a consent decree with the United States Department of Justice, approved in federal court on April 14, 2015. The deadlines apply to the July 7, 2015 Special Primary Election and the September 10, 2015 Special Election. The consent decree strikes the prior dates of June 8, 2015 for the Special Primary Election and July 24, 2015 for the Special Election.

The Department of Justice's lawsuit was brought to enforce the provisions of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) as mandated by the Military and Overseas Empowerment (MOVE) Act. The lawsuit arises from the provisions of the Illinois Election Code which requires the Governor to issue a writ of election within five days following the vacancy setting a date with one hundred fifteen days to hold a special election when a vacancy occurs in the office of a Representative of Congress. Representative Aaron Schock resigned from Congress on March 31, 2015. This consent decree applies to the Special Primary Election to be held on July 7, 2015 and the Special Election to be held on September 10, 2015 to fill the vacancy.

JULY 7, 2015 SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

First day for candidates of established political parties to file original nomination papers in the principal office of the State Board of Elections in Springfield.

Monday, April 20, 2015

Last day for candidates of established political parties to file original nomination papers in the principal office of the State Board of Elections in Springfield. Nomination papers must be time-stamped by 5:00 p.m. in order to be accepted.

Monday, April 27, 2015

Last day to file objections to nomination papers of candidates who filed nomination papers from Wednesday, April 15, 2015 through Monday, April 20, 2015. Objections may be filed in the principal office of the State Board of Elections in Springfield, or the Board's permanent branch office in Chicago. Objections must be time-stamped by 5:00 p.m. in order to be accepted.

Monday, May 18, 2015

Last day for the State Board of Elections to certify to the appropriate county clerks the names of the candidates for the Special Primary Election.

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Friday, May 22, 2015

Last day for the election authority to have in his office a sufficient number of ballots printed and available for mailing to persons in the United States Service or their spouse and dependents, citizens temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and nonresident civilians.

NOTE:

Pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), as amended by the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (the MOVE Act), "Vote by Mail" ballots requested by military and overseas voters must be transmitted at least 45 days before a federal election. 42 U.S.C. § 1973(ff)-1(a)(8)(A). Please be advised that the 45 day UOCAVA deadline may not be extended under any circumstances; therefore, although the 45 day deadline falls on a Saturday, May 23, 2015, military and overseas "Vote by Mail" ballots MUST be mailed by that date. An election authority that waits until the first business day following the 45 day deadlines to mail military and overseas ballots will be considered in violation of UOCAVA.

Thursday, May 28, 2015

First day for mailing or delivery of "Vote by Mail" ballots for the Special Primary Election.

Monday, June 22, 2015

First day for early voting at the offices of the election authority and at permanent polling place locations designated by the election authority.

Monday, June 29, 2015

Last day any voter who is a member of the United States Service (members of the Armed Forces while on active duty, members of the Merchant Marine, and United States government employees serving outside the territorial limits of the United States) and his/her spouse and dependents of voting age who expects to be absent from his/her county of residence on election day to apply by mail, by facsimile machine or by other methods of electronic transmission for an official ballot to the election authority having jurisdiction over their residence. No registration is required to vote. Application must be made on the Federal Postcard application or on forms provided by the Election Authority.

Last day for non-resident civilian citizens, otherwise qualified to vote, to make application to the election authority having jurisdiction over his/her precinct of former residence for a "Vote by Mail" ballot. Registration is not required. Application may be made on the Federal Post Card Application or by facsimile or electronic transmission.

Thursday, July 2, 2015

Last day for the election authority to receive an application by mail for a "Vote by Mail" ballot for the Special Primary Election and the last day for the election authority to mail such a ballot.

Monday July 6, 2015

Last day any registered voter presently within the confines of the United States may apply in person for a "Vote by Mail" ballot for the Special Primary Election.

Monday, July 6, 2015

Last day for early voting at the offices of the election authority and at permanent polling places designated by the election authority.

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

Special Primary Election. Military and overseas voters who participate in the July 7, 2015 Special Primary Election must vote and postmark their ballots by midnight on July 7, 2015. Ballots must be received by July 21, 2015.

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Last day for the election authority to process and count "Vote by Mail" ballots (1) mailed and postmarked by midnight on election day but received after the close of the polls and by this date, or (2) not postmarked at all, but having a certification date prior to election day on the certification envelope and received after the close of the polls and by this date.

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Last day for the election authority to conduct final canvass of election returns and certify the names of candidates nominated at the Special Primary.

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Last day for the State Board of Elections to complete its final canvass of the vote.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2015 SPECIAL ELECTION

Monday, June 22, 2015

First day for independent and new political party candidates to file original nomination papers in the principal office of the State Board of Elections in Springfield.

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Last day for independent and new political party candidates to file original nomination papers in the principal office of the State Board of Elections in Springfield. Nomination papers must be time-stamped by 5:00 p.m. in order to be accepted.

Thursday July 2, 2015

Last day to file objections to independent and new political party candidate nomination papers filed during the period Monday, June 22, 2015 through Thursday June 25, 2015. Objections to petitions may be filed in the principal office of the State Board of Elections in Springfield or in the Board's permanent branch office in Chicago.

Thursday July 23, 2015

Last day for State Board of Elections to certify to the County Clerk the names of independent candidates and new political party candidates whose nomination papers were filed with the State Board of Elections and to direct the County Clerk to place upon the official ballot for the Special Election the names of such candidates in the same manner and in the same order as shown upon the certification.

Monday, July 27, 2015

Last day for the election authority to have in his office a sufficient number of ballots printed and available for mailing to persons in the United States Service or their spouse and dependents, citizens temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and nonresident civilians.

Saturday, August 1, 2015

First day for mailing or delivery of "Vote by Mail" ballots for the Special Election.

Monday, August 3, 2015

First day for early voting at the offices of the election authority and at permanent polling places designated by the election authority.

Monday, August 31, 2015

Last day any voter who is a member of the United States Service (members of the Armed Forces while on active duty, members of the Merchant Marine, and United States government employees serving outside the territorial limits of the United States) and his/her spouse and dependents of voting age who expects to be absent from his/her county of residence on election day to apply by mail, by facsimile

machine or by other methods of electronic transmission for an official ballot to the election authority having jurisdiction over their residence. No registration required to vote. An application should be made on the Federal Post Card Application or on forms provided by the Election Authority.

Last day for non-resident civilian citizens, otherwise qualified to vote, to make application to the election authority having jurisdiction over his/her precinct of former residence for a "Vote by Mail" ballot. Registration is not required. An application should be made on the Federal Post Card Application, by facsimile or electronic transmission.

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Last day for the election authority to receive an application by mail for a "Vote by Mail" ballot for the Special Election and the last day for the election authority to mail such a ballot.

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Last day any registered voter presently within the confines of the United States may apply in person for a "Vote by Mail" ballot for the Special Election.

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Last day for early voting at the office of the election authority and permanent locations designated by the election authority.

Thursday, September 10, 2015

Military and overseas voters who participate in the September 10, 2015 Special Election must vote and postmark their ballots by midnight on September 10, 2015.

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Last day for the election authority to process and count "Vote by Mail" ballots (1) mailed and postmarked by midnight on election day but received after the close of the polls and by this date, or (2) not postmarked at all, but having a certification date prior to election day on the certification envelope and received after the close of the polls and by this date.

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Last day for the election authority to conduct final canvass of election returns.

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Last day for the election authority to transmit to the State Board of Elections the following information with respect to the election: (1) the number, by precinct, of "Vote by Mail" ballots requested, provided, and counted; (2) the number of rejected "Vote by Mail" ballots; (3) the number of voters seeking review of rejected "Vote by Mail" ballots; and (4) the number of "Vote by Mail" ballots counted following review.

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Last day for the State Board of Elections to complete its final canvass of the vote.

The 18th Congressional District is comprised of portions of nineteen counties in central Illinois. Military and overseas voters with specific questions about the absentee voting process should contact the election authority within their jurisdictions.

Voters may also contact Cris Cray with the State Board of Elections for assistance. Ms. Cray's email address is Ccray@elections.il.gov or she can be reached at (217) 782-4141.

In addition, the State Board of Elections has established a MOVE link on its website, www.elections.il.gov/VotingInformation/Military.aspx where military and overseas voters may apply to register to

vote and make application for a "Vote by Mail" ballot and can check the status of their voter registration and "Vote by Mail" application and ballot.

The State Board of Elections would like to acknowledge and thank the Department of Justice, the Illinois Governor and Attorney General's office, legislative staff and the local election authorities for their cooperation and assistance. A complete copy of the Consent Decree is also available on the Board's website at www.elections.il.gov.

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.

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