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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SENATE BILL 250 – Automatic Voter Registration

CHICAGO, IL, – May 25, 2016 –The State Board of Elections wishes to address reports suggesting that the Board opposes Automatic Voter Registration that is contained in legislation commonly known as Senate Bill 250. The reports are somewhat misleading. The State Board of Elections supports such Registration and any legislation that makes it easier to register and that gets more people involved in the voting process.

The State Board of Elections has concerns with certain provisions in the proposed legislation:

- The costs to the State Board of Elections to develop the programming needed to implement the legislation would be significant, and in the absence of a budget or separate appropriation, the State Board of Elections would be unable to develop said programming. There are much less expensive alternatives to achieve automatic registration.
- The legislation requires the State Board of Elections to make determinations of voter eligibility, duplicate registrations and address updates when this duty has historically been performed by the election authorities. It would also automatically register persons who did not attest to being qualified to register to vote.
- In certain circumstances, persons would be automatically registered to vote, based on personal information they provided in the past that did not involve registering to vote.

The State Board of Elections is working with staff in both the House and Senate to draft legislation that will create an automatic voting registration system that addresses these concerns and is both efficient and not cost-prohibitive.

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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