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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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In the summer of 2016, the Illinois State Board of Elections was the victim of a malicious cyber attack on its statewide voter registration database.

Discovered on July 12, 2016, the intrusion was stopped immediately, with SBE staff notifying federal authorities and setting in action extensive measures to secure its databases and web applications. (A complete timeline of the breach and response is copied below and is available online at https://www.elections.il.gov/downloads/abouttheboard/pdf/08_26_16agendaamended.pdf.)

Though the Illinois State Board of Elections is not mentioned specifically in the indictment issued today by the U.S. Department of Justice, it is likely that Count 11, paragraph 72 refers to the [breach of the Illinois electronic voter database](#) in 2016:

In or around July 2016, KOVALEV and his co-conspirators hacked the website of a state board of elections ("SBOE 1 ") and stole information related to approximately 500,000 voters, including names, addresses, partial social security numbers, dates of birth, and driver's license numbers.

In accordance with the Illinois Personal Information Protection Act and based on our analysis of the data affected in July 2016, we notified 76,000 Illinois voters that their registration data may have been viewed and advised them to contact the Illinois Attorney General's Office if they noticed suspicious activity involving the use of their voter registration information. To date, no such cases have been reported. The figure 500,000 referred to in the indictment may have been arrived at using a different methodology prescribed under federal criminal code. As part of our review of the indictment, we will be contacting federal law enforcement to obtain more information on the number referenced in the indictment.

The State Board of Elections has worked with the FBI and Department of Homeland Security throughout the aftermath of the 2016 breach and is grateful that DOJ has identified perpetrators. We will fully cooperate as necessary in the prosecution.

In addition to measures taken after the 2016 incident, the State Board of Elections currently is involved in establishing a Cyber Navigator Program funded with a federal grant from the U.S. Election Assistance

Commission that will greatly enhance cybersecurity both at SBE and among all 108 local election jurisdictions in Illinois.