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MOCK ELECTION PROGRAM

CHICAGO, IL, September 8, 2016 – The State Board of Elections, in conjunction with the State Board of Education, created the mock election program more than 30 years ago to assist schools in helping students understand the election process. There are two programs available: Let's Vote 2016 is directed towards children in grade K-3 while the Mock Election is designed for children in grade 4-12.

The programs have been updated for the 2016 elections and are available on the State Board of Elections website. The entire study course can be downloaded and printed for use by any teacher who wishes to use the materials.

Let's Vote 2016 includes a coloring book and is geared towards students in kindergarten through the third grade.

The Let's Vote program contains information and procedures for conducting an election for the "Offices" of favorite animals and birds. Additionally, a ballot for President and Vice President is included.

Included in the Teacher's Procedure section are suggested related activities and a schedule of pre-election and Election Day procedures. The Appendix contains suggested ballots, polling place signs, word puzzles based on election terminology, and a maze to find the polling place.

Mock Election 2016 is designed for students 4th through 12th grades. The guide provides teachers with background information, election procedures and forms necessary to conduct an election based on candidates in the 2016 General Election.

The teacher's background section covers areas such as: voter qualifications, voter registration, appointing judges of elections and pollwatchers, marking ballots, counting votes, and more. The Election procedures section contains a schedule of activities beginning several weeks before the November 8 General Election. (An outline of procedures in index form is found on page i.) These activities include appointing an election authority, judges of election and pollwatchers. You will even find a suggested layout for your polling place. The Appendix provides all the necessary forms including voter registration form, notice of election form, "Vote Here" and "Polling Place" signs, affidavits and more. The 201 ballot includes the following candidates: President and Vice President, and U.S. Senator.

Let's Vote, the related coloring book, and Mock Election 2016 are downloadable and may be copied and used to meet the particular requirements of the participants.

To access these programs, go to www.elections.il.gov, click on the "Educator" tab at the top of the page and then click on the "Education Tools" link on the right side of the page.

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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