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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EARLY VOTING BEGINS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

Chicago, Illinois – September 27, 2016 – Voting by personal appearance at an Early Voting Center begins Thursday, September 29, 2016, for the November 8, 2016 General Election. Election authorities in each county in the state have announced the locations of Early Voting Centers that will be open through November 7, 2016. Eligible voters will be able to vote at certain times and locations during the early voting period. In less populous counties, the County Clerk’s office often is the Early Voting location and may not be open on weekends. Early voting locations are available on the Board’s website which is www.elections.il.gov and by clicking “Voters” and “When and Where Can I Vote”.

There will be numerous Early Voting Centers throughout Chicago, suburban Cook County and populous counties in the metropolitan Chicago area. In the November, 2012 Presidential Election, nearly 1,185,458 people cast their ballots at an Early Voting Center, representing 22% of the ballots cast.

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“Voting early by personal appearance, without having to give a reason, has proven to be a popular option for Illinois voters,” said Steven Sandvoss, Executive Director of the State Board of Elections. “Voters appreciate the convenience of going to the polls on their own schedule.”

State law specifies that a permanent polling place for Early Voting must remain open on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The law also states that the permanent polling places for early voting must be open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Holidays. Polling place hours on weekdays beginning October 31, 2016 are 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. or 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. During the final weekend before the November 8, 2016 General Election (November 5 and 6), the specific hours – a minimum of 14 hours – shall be determined by the election authority.

Early voting by personal appearance is an option available to eligible voters. Voting by mail is also available to all registered voters and runs through November 3, 2016.

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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