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VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCT. 7; ROLLS HAVE BEEN SCRUBBED

SPRINGFIELD, IL Sept. 29, 2008 –The total number of people registered to vote in Illinois for the Nov. 4 general election may not exceed the previous record set in 2004 because a new centralized voter registration database at the State Board of Elections has resulted in a cleaner and more efficient registration.

Although tens of thousands of people have registered to vote since the Illinois primary, the final tally may not exceed the 7.5 million registered for the last Presidential election. The traditional registration deadline is Oct. 7, but there is a “grace period” for registration.

“Registrations have been removed as the result of a database that allows election jurisdictions to check for duplicate registrations, registration transfers and registrations with incorrect or missing information,” said Daniel W. White, Executive Director of the State Board of Elections.

“In addition, only active voters are now counted in the registration total. In the past, several of the 110 election authorities across the state counted inactive voters in their registration totals.”

The statewide voter database is a requirement of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA).

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The Illinois Voter Registration System, as it is formally called, allows for the timely transfer of data to and from local jurisdictions to the centralized database. In addition to the 110 election authorities, the Secretary of State and Department of Corrections are involved in the database project. The Secretary of State’s “motor voter” record keeping system is integrated into the database.

Slightly over 7.3 million Illinoisans were registered for the primary, about 200,000 short of the record. With five weeks to go to Election Day, registration totaled approximately 7,390,000.

Although Oct. 7 is the traditional last day to register, Grace Period Registration is an extension of the traditional deadline. It allows for the registration of voters and for a change of address at the office of the election authority. However, it also places limitations on how these registrants can vote.

For more information on the election, contact election authorities in each county or visit the Board’s website www.elections.il.gov.

The State Board of Elections is an independent state constitutional agency charged with the responsibility of having general supervision over the administration of election laws of the state.

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