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Early Voting Centers Open Next Week

CHICAGO, IL, October 7, 2010 - Voting by personal appearance at an Early Voting Center across the state begins Tuesday, Oct. 12 for the Nov. 2 election.

Some of the Early Voting Centers will open on Monday, Oct. 11, the Columbus Day Holiday. Check with your county clerk or election officials for details.

Election authorities in each county in the state have announced the locations and hours of operation of early voting location that will be open through Oct. 28. Eligible voters will be able to vote at certain locations on two weekends during the early voting period.

In the less populous counties, the County Clerk's office often is the early voting location. There will be approximately 200 Early Voting Centers throughout Chicago, suburban Cook County and the populous counties in the metropolitan-Chicago area.

Approximately 16 percent of the Illinois vote in the November 2008 Presidential Election – nearly a million people – was cast at an Early Voting Center.

“Voting early by personal appearance has proven to be a popular option for Illinois voters,” said Daniel W. White, executive director of the State Board of Elections. “Since it began in 2006 many voters have expressed appreciation for the convenience of going to the polls on their own schedule.”

White added that absentee voting has been made easier too. A new law effective for the first time this year allows absentee voters to vote without an excuse or reason for being absent from the polls on election day.

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.

Elections are administered locally by the State’s 110 election authorities.

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