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## ELECTION NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON BALLOT; RECALL OF GOVERNOR WOULD BE A NEW OPTION**

**SPRINGFIELD, IL Oct. 13, 2010** – Voters in the general election will be presented with a proposed constitutional amendment as well as deciding among the numerous candidates on the ballot.

The proposed amendment on the current ballot would provide the state's electors with an option to petition for a special election to recall a Governor and for the election of a successor Governor.

To begin the recall process, the proposed amendment requires an elector to file an affidavit of intent to circulate a petition to recall a Governor no sooner than six months after the beginning of the Governor's term of office. The affidavit must include the signatures of the proponent of the recall petition, at least 20 members of the House of Representatives and 10 members of the Senate, with no more than half of the signatures of members of each chamber from the same established political party. Numerical and geographic requirements are placed on the petition signed by voters. Within 100 days, the State Board of Elections must certify or reject the petition, and if the Board certifies the petition, a special recall election must be held with 100 days.

Persons seeking to be elected to serve as the successor must file petitions, and if multiple candidates from the same political party file petitions, a special primary election will be held on the same day as the recall election. If a Governor is recalled, a special election must take place within 60

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days. In the interim, the recalled Governor shall be replaced by an Acting Governor, who shall serve until the winner of the special election is determined. The order of succession is contained in the current Illinois Constitution, and begins with the lieutenant governor.

The wording of the proposed constitutional amendment was approved by the Illinois General Assembly and certified for the Nov. 2 ballot by Secretary of State Jesse White. The ballot question reads:

“If you believe the Illinois Constitution should be amended to provide for a special election to recall a Governor and for a special election to elect a successor Governor, you should vote “YES” on the question. If you believe the Illinois Constitution should not be amended to provide for a special election to recall a Governor and for a special election to elect a successor Governor, you should vote “NO” on the question. Three-fifths of those voting on the question or a majority of those voting in the election must vote “Yes” in order for the amendment to become effective.”

The purpose of a state constitution is to establish a structure for government and laws. The Illinois Constitution provides citizens with rights and protections; creates the executive, judicial and legislative branches of government; clarifies the powers given to local governments; limits the taxing power of the State; and imposes certain restrictions on the use of taxpayer dollars. The people of Illinois must approve any changes in the Constitution before they become effective.

A more detailed explanation of the proposed constitutional amendment is located at:

<http://www.ilvote.gov/ILVote/questions/Election29/CONSTITUTIONAL%20AMENDMENT%20ON%20RECALL.pdf>

Voters in this election will elect candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, comptroller, U.S. Senate, representatives in Congress, state senators and representatives in the General Assembly, certain county offices and judges.

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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