



# STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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## ELECTION NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTERS

**CHICAGO, IL, October 25, 2010** - The Illinois State Board of Elections today announced an extension of the deadline for accepting absentee ballots from military and US citizens living overseas in several Illinois counties for the November 2, 2010 General Election.

Under the terms of a consent decree with the U.S. Department of Justice, approved by federal court on October 22, 2010, the following deadlines will apply for the November 2 election:

- Military and overseas voters in Boone, Jersey, and St. Clair Counties must vote and postmark their ballots by November 2; those ballots will be counted if they are received by November 18, 2010.

- Military and overseas voters in Hancock, Massac, and Schuyler Counties must also vote and postmark their ballots by November 2; those ballots will be counted if they are received by November 19, 2010.
- Military and overseas ballots from all other Illinois counties that are voted and postmarked by midnight on November 1 will be counted if they are received by November 16, 2010.
- Military and overseas voters who can't get postmarks can certify on their ballot that they voted by November 2.

The Department of Justice's lawsuit was brought to enforce provisions of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), as amended by the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act, after numerous election authorities failed to send absentee ballots by the 45<sup>th</sup> day before the election as required by federal law.

In addition, all UOCAVA voters who requested but did not receive an electronic ballot will be sent an electronic ballot. This was needed because some voters who requested electronic ballots were sent absentee ballots only by mail.

Additional provisions of the consent decree include:

- Contacting Massac County's UOCAVA voters who have not yet returned their ballots to provide them with a prepaid, express means of returning their ballots.

- Providing notice to voters of the new deadlines and procedures provided in the consent decree, certification that ballots were transmitted to UOCAVA voters in accordance with UOCAVA and additional reports of steps taken under the agreement, and implementation of back-up procedures if additional violations are discovered.
- Filing a detailed report after the election, and investigating the cause of the late-mailed ballots and failure to transmit ballots electronically in accordance with voters' requests, and take necessary action to prevent future violations. The SBE will confer with the Department of Justice on these efforts and provide a status report by March 15, 2011.

Military and overseas voters with questions about the absentee voting process may contact the SBE. Contact person regarding Military and Overseas Voters is Cris Cray via email at [ccray@elections.il.gov](mailto:ccray@elections.il.gov) or (217) 782-4141.

In addition, the SBE has established a MOVE link on its website, <http://www.elections.il.gov/VotingInformation/Military.aspx>, where military and overseas voters may apply to register to vote and make application for an absentee ballot and check the status of their voter registration and absentee ballot application and ballot.

Military and overseas voters who feel their ballots will not reach them in time may wish to cast a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot, which can be obtained at the [\*Federal Voting Assistance Program\*](#). The deadlines described above also apply

to military and overseas voters who choose to submit the Federal Write-In Absentee back-up ballot.

The State Board of Elections would like to acknowledge and thank the U.S. Justice Department, the Illinois Attorney General's office and the state local election authorities for their cooperation and assistance.

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.

A complete copy of the consent decree is also available on the Board's website at [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov) .

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