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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ILLINOIS NEARS 8,000,000 REGISTERED VOTERS

Chicago, IL – October 26, 2016 – The number of registered voters in Illinois, currently 7,988,670, is approaching 8,000,000. This surpasses the previous record high of 7,789,500 set for the 2008 General Election and reflects the public's interest in the November 8, 2016, General Election. **Updated registration figures as well as Early Voting totals are available on the Board's website.**

As registration is available through Election Day, the number of registered voters is expected to further increase. Voters who have not yet registered are cautioned that they could encounter long lines if they delay registration until Election Day.

Regular registration closed on October 11, 2016, and on-line voter registration closed at midnight on October 23, 2016. However, voters who still have not yet registered may take advantage of Grace Period registration, which extends through November 8, 2016. Grace Period registration allows a voter to register at locations designated by the appropriate election authority and runs through Election Day. Grace Period, however, requires the person to cast his vote at the time of registering.

Early Voting, which extends through November 7, 2016 is an option available to voters who are already registered and wish to cast their vote prior to Election Day. Early voting can take place at any location designated by the election authority with which the voter is registered. Voters who wish to take advantage of Early Voting should contact their election authority for locations and hours.

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The State Board of Election's website, www.elections.il.gov, provides Early Voting locations for all jurisdictions in Illinois.

The State Board of Elections urges voters who use either Grace Period or Early Voting to register (if required) and cast their vote as soon as possible to avoid long lines on Election Day and leading up to 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 of Illinois. Elections are administered locally by the State's 109 election authorities.

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