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REGISTRATIONS UP SLIGHTLY FROM 4 YEARS AGO; CHART SHOWS HISTORY OF VOTER TURNOUT

CHICAGO, IL, OCT. 28, 2010 – Approximately 7.44 million Illinois residents are registered to vote for the Nov. 2 general election, the State Board of Elections said today.

The number of registered voters is slightly higher than it was for the last gubernatorial election in 2006. The turnout for that gubernatorial election was 48.6 percent, a record low in terms of the number of votes cast as a percentage of registered voters.

However, in raw numbers, the number of votes cast in 2006 –3,587,676 – was typical for a non-Presidential election.

Beginning in 1978, there have been eight gubernatorial elections in non-presidential years.

“Voter turnout in the last six contests for governor has been stable,” said Daniel W. White, executive director of the State Board of Elections.

“In seven of the last eight elections, turnout has ranged from 3.2 to 3.6 million voters. The exception was 1982 when turnout peaked at 3.8 million.”

White noted, though, that the percentage of registered voters participating in gubernatorial elections has dropped dramatically since the modern-day record of 65 percent was established in 1982. Not only was 2006 the first time that less than half of the registered voters went to the polls at a general election, but in this year’s primary election only 23 percent of registered voters cast a ballot.

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Participation in Presidential elections is always higher. A record 5.5 million people cast ballots in November, 2008, and a record 7.79 million people were registered.

Statewide registration totals are now provided by the Illinois Voter Registration System (IVRS) at the State Board of Elections. The statewide data base was required by the Help America Vote Act, the federal law enacted in 2002 to modernize election administration.

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.

The State Board of Elections works closely with election authorities in all regions of the State.

For more information on the Nov. 2 general election, contact the election authority in your county or visit www.elections.il.gov.

CHART

VOTER TURNOUT, GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS

Year	Turnout (in millions)	Percentage (of registered voters)
2006	3.58	48.6%
2002	3.6	52
1998	3.5	52
1994	3.2	53
1990	3.4	57
1986	3.3	55
1982	3.8	65
1978	3.3	58

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