Illinois State Board of Elections

Have a safe and

Happy Thanksgiving!

From the Desk of Rupert Borgsmiller, Executive Director

PETITION FILING IS FAST APPROACHING!!

Candidate filing will start November 25, 2013 and run through December 2, 2013. The State Board of Elections (SBE) will be accepting petitions for the offices of U.S. Senator, Governor/Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller, Treasurer, Representatives in Congress, 19 Senate seats, Representatives in the General Assembly, and Judges (additional judgeships if required). At the same time County Clerk's will be accepting candidate filings for numerous county offices. The combined totals from both the SBE and the County Clerk's filings will form the ballot for the 2014 General Primary Election. Also, objections filed against any candidate filing for the period that ends on December 2nd must be received by December 9, 2013. The Board will call the cases for these objections at the December 17th Board meeting. Finally, the Board will certify the ballot for the General Primary Election on January 9, 2014.

New to filing this year!! The nomination of Governor and Lt. Governor will be on a joint petition. Also, any candidates who file their petitions within the last hour of the filing deadline shall be deemed filed simultaneously and the order of candidate placement on the ballot will be determined by a separate lottery drawing. This lottery to determine ballot position for simultaneous 8 a.m. first day filers and last hour-last day filers will take place December 11, 2013 at 2 p.m. in the Board's Springfield office.

Lastly, I urge all election authorities to review the legislative report on page 2 of this newsletter regarding the Regional Office of Education. It is expected that the issues with the ROE's will be resolved and candidate filing will occur with a slightly modified filing period. Obviously I recommend that all interested parties check the SBE website for any updated information regarding this office.

All of us will be very busy the next few months with petition filings and objection hearings….and lest we forget - the holidays! Good luck to all!

Campaign Disclosure - IDIS 3.0

This fall, the Campaign Disclosure division released the latest version of the Board's electronic filing program. IDIS 3.0 provides Illinois political committees with a free, easy-to-use method for filing all required disclosure reports – including Quarterly, Final, Schedule A-1 and Schedule B-1 Reports. The program first became available to all committees for filing the 3rd quarter Report, and roughly one third of electronic filers used IDIS 3.0 to complete that filing.

While similar in appearance and function to the previous IDIS 2.0 software, the biggest change in IDIS 3.0 is that it is web-based. This means committees using the program no longer have to download and install software to their computers, and the IDIS program may be used by any type of computer that has internet access. Multiple users can work on the same account at the same time. Additionally, since all committee data is stored on the Board's secure server, IDIS 3.0 users no longer have to worry about losing data if their computer crashes. It is also no longer necessary to backup a committee's database, as this is automatically handled by the Board.

In order to use IDIS 3.0, a political committee must first establish a Filer Account with the Board. This may be done over the phone, and allows the committee to create a unique user name and password for filing. Committees that have previously used IDIS 2.0 may continue to use the user name and password established for that program. Those users may also transfer their existing committee data into the new 3.0 system – instructions for this are available on the Board's website at www.elections.il.gov.
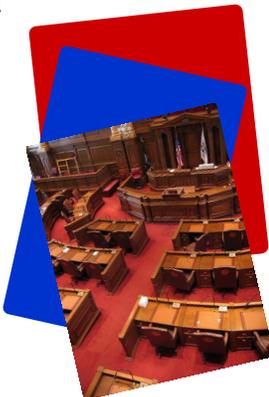
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Political committees using IDIS 2.0 are encouraged to switch to the new 3.0 system as soon as possible, since the 2.0 system will be shut down in early 2014 and report filings using it will no longer be possible. We also encourage committees that have not previously filed reports electronically to give IDIS 3.0 a try – we think you'll like it!

LEGISLATION

The Illinois State Board of Education will take a vote on November 22 to trim the Regional Offices of Superintendents from the current number of 44 to 35. According to Senate Bill 1689, signed by the Governor on Friday, November 15, candidates for those 35 positions will then file petitions with either their local election authority (for single-county districts) or the State Board of Elections (for multi-county districts) between December 16 and December 23.

The number of signatures needed must be at least 200 or the number of signatures equal to 0.5% of the primary electors of his or her party in the territory comprising the county or counties, whichever is less.

This change in state law was due to the lack of progress in reducing the Illinois school superintendents to 35 as required in a bill that was passed more than a year ago. In addition, the filing and objection period was changed to accommodate the short time period between the map being finalized and the existing deadlines contained in the Election Code.

The Illinois State Board of Education will make the new map of Regional Superintendents available as soon as the Board finalizes the vote.

Paperless Online Voting Application (POVA)

On July 27th, Governor Quinn signed House Bill 2418, the omnibus elections bill, making it Public Act 98-115. Within this bill is the requirement for the State Board of Elections (BOE) to establish and maintain a system which allows voters to register to vote online or to update their registration, without the need to mail in a registration form or to come in person to register. Each election authority is also responsible for maintaining a voter registration system capable of receiving and processing voter registration application information, including voter signatures, from the state system. The online registration system deadline for implementation is July 1, 2014.

The key to this new system is the requirement stated in the law that the voter's signature be electronically provided by the Secretary of State (SOS). The information submitted by the applicant must match the information contained in the database of the Secretary of State

(SOS). To use the POVA system, the applicants are required to possess an authentic Illinois driver's license card or SOS issued identification card. In addition to the information required for a standard registration application, and in order to create more reliable matches, applicants are to submit from that card, their DL/ID number, their date of birth (DOB), and the issue date of the card. They must also supply the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SSN). The SOS will be matching on those four fields and the POVA system will provide a response as to whether a match was successful within 48 hours.

If the SOS finds a match, they will then send the electronic signature, as well as the name they have on file for that individual, to the BOE system to be made available to the election authorities. That information will be accompanied by the additional registration application information provided by the applicant. The system will

automatically notify the applicant by electronic mail if a match was found or not. If not, they will be informed on what steps they can take to effectively become a registered voter in the State of Illinois. The jurisdictions will be performing duplicate checks to see if the applicant is currently registered at that address. If the registration is found to be a duplicate, the election authority will be providing mail and electronic notification (if an e-mail address is available) to the individual. The jurisdictions have five business days to process these registrations, from the time they receive them. Registrations will be considered timely submitted if they are submitted by 11:59 pm on the last day of registration. During the period that registration is closed, the online registration system website will inform users of the procedure for grace period registration/voting.

ELECTION JUDGES SCHOOLS

The Division of Election Training and Resource Development will be conducting election judge training for the March and November 2014 elections. The Division is taking requests now to conduct the election judges schools. Staff has scheduled 46 schools to date. Don't delay -- contact Eric Donnewald at edonnewald@elections.il.gov to schedule your judges training or for further information.

Meet Your Trainers - l to r: Brian Zilm, Amy Kelly, Eric Donnewald, Jayme Sims

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"What does the Board do Between Elections?"

The Board's supervision of elections involves a number of activities on a year-round basis. Board staff members are continually involved in developing technical manuals and statistical publications, and during every two-year election cycle Board staff conduct over 200 training programs for election judges and officials across the state.

The State Board is regularly called upon for guidance and the Board's professional staffs are constantly in the process of collecting information, providing educational materials and programs, and acquiring the knowledge necessary to simplify and improve the elections process for Illinois citizens who comprise what is one of the busiest electorates in the country.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE ON THE SBE WEBSITE

Current publications available on the website include the Military and Overseas Voters Guidelines; Directory of Officials for County Officers, State and Federal Officers; Judicial Officers; and Democratic Precinct Committeemen, Green Party Precinct Committeemen and Republican Precinct Committeemen. The Interactive GIS map is available at http://www.elections.il.gov/DistrictLocator/DistrictOfficialSearchByAddress.aspx. This District Locator is now available in the desktop version as well as a mobile version.

Also available on the website are vote totals from past elections, 13 different election related pamphlets, 20 election guides, 21 campaign disclosure publications, BREP rules and regulations, and campaign disclosure forms.

These publications can be found at http://www.elections.il.gov/Publications.aspx

ELECTRONIC CANVASSING

New changes and enhancements are being made to the electronic canvass of votes, eCanvass, as a result of legislative changes implemented in the elections omnibus bill. These changes will allow the State Board of Elections to produce statewide election results data that is consistent across jurisdictions.

The State Board of Elections is now required to issue office and candidate ID numbers for the offices that we certify, to be used in the canvass export files that are submitted by all election jurisdictions. We have worked closely with the election vendors in the state to ensure that using state issued ID numbers does not affect the election setup or ballot sequencing. As a result of our collaboration, we have developed procedures that will not change the way that elections are set up, and will instead utilize a different data field for the state issued ID numbers. Jurisdictions that contract with their vendors for their election database setup will not need to do anything to meet the requirements, as the vendors will complete all entry of state ID numbers.

We will be using the ID numbers to identify and automate the candidate and office data in the file. It is essential that the number entry in each jurisdiction is accurate. To ensure this, we are asking that each jurisdiction upload a "zero file" before the election to proof the ID assignment. This upload will provide a report that compares the ID numbers in the file, along with the text description from that file, against the name and party that we have associated with those numbers. We ask that every jurisdiction proof this report to confirm their ID entries are correct. In addition to this report, automated safeguards will be built into the system to check the ID numbers for accuracy.

Complete details and instructions for the new procedures associated with these changes will be sent out when internal development has been completed. Please feel free to contact Brent Davis at 217.558.1664, or via email at bdavis@elections.il.gov with any questions or comments.