



Illinois State Board of Elections

Newsletter

October 2014

State Board of Elections Members

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Charles W. Scholz
Vice Chairman

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Rupert T. Borgsmiller
Executive Director

James Tenuto
Assistant Executive Director



From the Desk of Rupert Borgsmiller, Executive Director



I am having a difficult time putting my thoughts to paper as I attempt to write my last article for the newsletter in my official capacity as the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections. It has been a pleasure and honor to have worked at the SBE for 38 years but also to have served as the Executive Director for the last four years. I feel that the Board is in good hands moving forward with the appointment of Steve Sandvoss, our current General Counsel, to the position of Executive Director effective January 1, 2015. However, before I ride off into the sunset, we (collectively) have much work to do with the November 4th General Election and the 2015 Consolidated Elections right around the corner. Here is to an honest, clean and efficient November 4, 2014, General Election and the same for the 2015 Consolidated Elections. Thanks for your friendship over the many years!

Illinois State Board of Elections Celebrates 40 years — 1974-2014

Article III, Section 5 of the Illinois Constitution, effective July 1, 1971 stated in its entirety: "A State Board of Elections shall have general supervision over the administration of the registration and election laws throughout the State. The General Assembly by law shall determine the size, manner of selection and compensation of the Board. No political party shall have a majority of members of the Board." Although the four member Board was created by the Constitution there were legal challenges relating to the composition of the members of the Board. After many years of legal battles a bill signed into law January 1, 1978 expanded the Board to an eight member group. From this controversial and uncertain beginning, the Illinois State Board of Elections has developed into a productive and respected agency. The first group of election coordinators, consisting of people with diverse backgrounds from all over the state, were hired in summer of 1974. The State Board of Elections welcomed its 40th year in 2014 and now employees 72 staff members between the Springfield and Chicago offices. The Board has had three executive directors in this 40 years and as we see Rupert retire at the end of 2014, will welcome its fourth Executive Director, Steve Sandvoss.



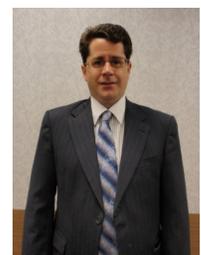
Ron Michaelson
Executive Director
1976-2002



Dan White
Executive Director
2003-2010



Rupert Borgsmiller
Executive Director
2011-2014



Steve Sandvoss
Executive Director
2015

2015 ELECTIONS

Consolidated Primary—February 24, 2015

Consolidated Election—April 7, 2015

Election Authorities will have new procedures and responsibilities in the preparation for the 2015 Consolidated Election. As a result of Public Act 98-115, candidates for board of education will now file their nomination documents with the election authority where the principal office for the school district is located, instead of filing with the secretary of the school board.

Preparations for the first filing continued over the summer, during which the liaison committee developed guidelines and forms to document current board representation, identify the seats open for election, and the format on which the school district is set up. To accurately do this, election authorities are encouraged to work with the Regional Office of Education and the superintendent's office for the respective school districts.

School board filing has some requirements that are unique when compared to those of other offices. The school code states that the county clerk or the county board of election commissioners shall accept only those petitions which include a statement of candidacy, the required number of voter signatures, the notarized signature of the petition circulator and a receipt from the county clerk showing that the candidate has filed a statement of economic interest on or before the last day to file as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act.

It is also important to mention that the school board is the only unit of government for which the election authority will be accepting petitions. Candidates for Community College Trustee will still file with the secretary of the community college board of trustees.

LEGISLATION

The legislative veto session will run November 19, 20 and 21, and December 2, 3 and 4. The legislative session for 2015 will be determined during veto session.

PAPERLESS ONLINE VOTING APPLICATION (POVA)

Thirty-one thousand online voter applications to register to vote were received by the close of regular registration at 11:59 p.m. on October 7, 2014. Of the 31,000 applications, 11,071 were received on the last 2 days. The online voter registration system was activated June 27, 2014. Thanks to the excellent cooperation of the Secretary of State's office and his staff, the Paperless Online Voter Application (POVA) system was a great success!

Did you know????

The highest elevation in Illinois is Charles Mound in Jo Daviess County, the elevation is 1235 feet. The lowest elevation is the Mississippi River in Alexander County, the elevation is 279 feet.

ELECTRONIC CANVASSING

The State Board of Elections will be meeting Sunday, November 30 to proclaim the results of the November 4, 2014 General Election due to Judges taking office Monday, December 1. In order to meet the tight deadline we ask for your assistance in meeting this deadline by submitting your canvass as early as possible. Staff will be working over the Thanksgiving weekend to get the canvasses proofed and prepared for the meeting. We hope that we don't have to bother anyone over the holiday weekend, but unfortunately it may be necessary to contact someone if we need clarification or additional information. Your assistance in preparing and completing the canvass is greatly appreciated.

ELECTION JUDGES SCHOOLS

The Division of Election Training and Resource Development conducted 153 schools for the 2014 General Election. We encourage election jurisdictions to contact us to conduct election judge training. The Division is now taking requests to conduct election judges schools for the 2015 Consolidated Elections. Contact Eric Donnewald at edonnewald@elections.il.gov for further information.

HAVA FUNDING UPDATE

GRANTS EXPIRING SOON!

Phase III -- Please submit all paperwork by December 1, 2014.

VAID V -- Please submit all paperwork by December 1, 2014 - Can be used for polling place accessibility only, including accessible voting equipment.

SBE PUBLICATIONS

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; Democratic 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, election guides related to the 2014 and 2015 elections, 21 campaign disclosure publications, BEREP rules and regulations, and campaign disclosure forms. These publications can be found at <http://www.elections.il.gov/Publications.aspx>

Presidential Tidbit

Of the four Presidents with ties to Illinois only one, Ronald Reagan (40th President), was born in Illinois. Illinois was also home to Abraham Lincoln (16th President), Ulysses S. Grant (18th President) and Barack Obama (44th President).



RETIREMENTS AND STAFF ANNIVERSARIES



The State Board of Elections has long been known for staff longevity and low turnover. The Board will be losing three long time and essential employees December 31, 2014. Rupert Borgsmiller, current Executive Director and former Director of the Division of Campaign Disclosure, is leaving after 38 years at the Board — it won't be the same without him; Jane Gasperin, Director of Election Information, who knows election law inside and out, is celebrating 25 years with the Board this year will be departing; and Carole Skaggs, Information Technician II (a very important role for us non-techies who rely on her assistance daily) will be leaving us after 23 years. We wish all of them the best as we bid a Happy Retirement to all three!



Other staff celebrating anniversaries with the Board this year are: Kay Walker, Election Information Division, 40 years! Becky Glazier, Executive Director's office 30 years; Frankie Desmangles, Office of the Assistant Executive Director, and Tom Newman, Division of Campaign Disclosure, both celebrating 15 years.