



# Illinois State Board of Elections

Newsletter

October 2015

## State Board of Elections Members

**Charles W. Scholz**  
Chairman

**Ernest L. Gowen**  
Vice Chairman

**William J. Cadigan**

**Andrew Carruthers**

**Betty J. Coffrin**

**John R. Keith**

**William M. McGuffage**

**Casandra B. Watson**

**Steven S. Sandvoss**  
Executive Director

**James Tenuto**  
Assistant Executive Director



## *From the Desk of Steve Sandvoss, Executive Director*



As I near the end of my first year as the State Board of Elections' Executive Director, I see the next year as both a challenge and an opportunity. We will be electing a new President, a U.S. Senator, State Comptroller, all 18 Representatives in Congress and all 118 State Representatives, a third of the State Senate, along with numerous judicial and county officers. We are also anticipating the filing of a petition containing several hundred thousand signatures aimed at amending the Illinois Constitution to revise the redistricting process. This next year will also see the results of Senate Bill 172 which was designed to make voter registration easier in the State, by increasing the number of designated State agencies where persons can register to vote, and allowing registration on the day of the election. Provisions in this Bill are also designed to increase the accuracy of the Statewide registration database and allow voters to update their information electronically or automatically by filing a change of address with the Post Office. Our staff is working diligently to implement this Bill under difficult budgetary constraints, with the goal and expectation of overseeing smoothly run elections in which as many Illinois citizens as possible are able to participate.

## Board Members



At the July 1, 2015 Board meeting we welcomed two new members, William Cadigan and Andrew Carruthers, and welcomed back former member John Keith who had previously served on the Board, as well as William McGuffage who was reappointed.

Board members are: Back row left to right William McGuffage, John Keith, Andrew Carruthers, William Cadigan. Front row left to right Ernest Gowen, Betty Coffrin, Casandra B. Watson and Charles Scholz. Member Scholz was elected Chairman and Member Gowen was elected Vice Chairman for the July 1, 2015—June 30, 2017 term.

## 2016 ELECTIONS

**Primary Election — March 15, 2016**

**General Election — November 8, 2016**

State Board of Elections' staff is busy preparing for the upcoming petition filing season which starts Monday, November 23, 2015 and ends Monday, November 30, 2015 for established political parties. Candidates for congressional, legislative and judicial offices, or for any office to be elected by the voters of more than one county, will file in the principal office of the State Board of Elections. Candidates for county offices, ward committeemen (City of Chicago) and precinct committeemen (in counties containing a population of less than 2,000,000) will file with the County Clerk. The State Board of Elections office will be closed November 26 and 27 in observance of Thanksgiving weekend.

Monday, January 4, 2016 is the first day for Democratic and Republican Presidential Preference and delegate/alternate delegate candidates to file original petitions in the principal office of the State Board of Elections. The last day for this filing is Wednesday, January 6, 2016.

Please refer to the 2016 Election and Campaign Finance Calendar for special judicial filing dates.

The State Board of Elections will meet on Thursday January 7, 2016 to certify to the county clerks the names of the candidates for the General Primary Election.

Thursday, January 14, 2016 is the last day a person may file a notarized Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate with the proper election authority or authorities (appropriate county clerk(s) and/or board(s) of election commissioners). Write-ins shall be counted only for persons who have filed the Declaration of Intent. Write-in declarations are not filed with the State Board of Elections.

### ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures as of October 13, 2015, a total of 26 states, including Illinois, offer on-line voter registration, and another three states have passed legislation to create a system but have not yet implemented it. Illinois' on-line voter registration application was activated on June 27, 2014.

To date we have had 77,398 applications through the SBE Paperless Online Voter Application System. In July we rolled out our programming to comply with Section 1A-16.8 of PA-1171, requiring registrations to be matched against the National Change of Address (NCOA) information. For any existing registration that is found to have a matching NCOA, their registration is to be automatically updated by the Election Authorities. Illinois is the first state in the Nation to implement such a procedure.

PEW Charitable Trusts released a report in May 2015 titled Online Voter Registration — Trends in Development and Implementation. This article can be found at [http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2015/05/ovr\\_2015\\_brief.pdf?la=en](http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2015/05/ovr_2015_brief.pdf?la=en).

### LEGISLATION

**Public Act 99-0221 (Senate Bill 1265; Effective Date July 31, 2015)**

In a provision concerning vacancies in the office of Representative in Congress, provides that the Governor shall issue a Writ of Election if the vacancy occurs more than 240 days (instead of 180 days) before the next general election. Provides that the special election shall be held within 180 days (instead of 115 days) after the issuance of the Writ of Election. Provides that petitions for nomination shall be filed not more than 85 and not less than 82 days prior to the date of the special primary election, except that petitions of independent candidates and candidates of new political parties shall be filed not more than 93 and not less than 90 days prior to the date of the special election. Effective immediately.

*If it wasn't hard, everyone would do it. It's the hard that makes it great.*

*Tom Hanks*

*You can never do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late.*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## ELECTION JUDGES SCHOOLS

The Division of Election Operations is now taking requests to conduct election judge schools for the 2016 Primary Election. We encourage election jurisdictions to contact us to conduct your training. Contact Brent Davis at [bdavis@elections.il.gov](mailto:bdavis@elections.il.gov) for further information.

## HAVA FUNDING UPDATE

**VAID VI** -- Can be used for polling place accessibility only, including accessible voting equipment. This grant was released via email on August 25, 2015 and is available through August 31, 2016.

## ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Visit the Election Assistance Commission website at [www.eac.gov](http://www.eac.gov). You will find Quick Start Guides (quick tips for election officials), Poll worker best practices, an election official exchange, voting accessibility, election resource library, and various voters guides.

## 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 available in the desktop version as well as a mobile version.

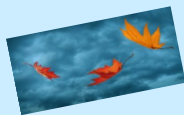
Also available on the website are vote totals from past elections, 13 different election related pamphlets, election guides related to the 2016 elections, 21 campaign disclosure publications, BEREPA rules and regulations, and campaign disclosure forms.

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



### *A Little Halloween Trivia*

*Ancient folklore states that seeing a spider on Halloween is a manifestation that the spirit of a loved one is watching over you.*



## CHANGES AT THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS



Eric Donnewald, Director of Election Training and Development retired on August 31, 2015 after 20 years with the State Board of Elections. At its August meeting, the Board decided to consolidate this division with the Election Information Division led by Brent Davis. Brent Davis will continue as Director of the new division now called Election Operations. This division will be responsible for filing activities, answering election related questions, conducting election judges training among other responsibilities including the electronic canvassing project.

## 2015 STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

Staff celebrating anniversaries with the Board this year are: Rick Fulle, Voting and Registration Systems 40 years; Amy Calvin, Executive Director's office 25 years; Eric Donnewald, Election Training and Development, 20 years; Walter Blakney, Administrative Services, Andy Nauman, Campaign Disclosure, Jason Kilhoffer, Information Technology, and Marc Petrone, (who retired September 30) Election Training and Development, all celebrating 15 years.