



# Illinois State Board of Elections

Newsletter

July 2014

## State Board of Elections Members

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## *From the Desk of Rupert Borgsmiller, Executive Director*



The General Primary has come and gone with electronic canvassing being used for the first time in all jurisdictions and the Paperless Online Voting Application (POVA) being implemented in advance of the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Also, with the Governor's signature on HB 105 (Omnibus Election Bill) it will require all election authorities to change many procedures in order to implement the changes in the bill. Finally, the SBE had the responsibility to validate/invalidate two citizen initiatives this spring. It proved both challenging and rewarding to the staff. Needless to say the staff did an excellent job. (see related article). Yes, it has been a very busy election year and it appears that there is no end in sight. We are in the middle of objections to independent and new party filing with an eye on August 22<sup>nd</sup> when the SBE must certify the ballot for the November 4<sup>th</sup> General Election. With a tip of the hat to Robert Frost as he stated in Stopping by Woods on A Snowy Evening, "and miles to go before I (we) sleep". Good Luck to all as we continue to push for a successful completion of the 2014 General Election.

## LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

The Spring 2014 Session has ended and three election bills have passed the General Assembly, including the FY15 budget bill. House Bill 105 is this year's omnibus elections bill; House Bill 3199 encourages the use of schools as polling places; and House Bill 6095 (Public Act 98-679) outlines the FY15 lump sum budget.

The General Assembly passed two Constitutional Amendments which will appear on the November ballot: HJRCA01, which outlines crime victim's rights and HJRCA52 which discusses voters and their rights.

In addition, three statewide advisory questions were passed and will also likely appear (one is still waiting on the Governor's signature) on the November ballot: House Bill 3814 [Public Act 98-657] will ask the public if they are in favor of increasing the minimum wage; House Bill 3816 will ask if they are in favor of increasing taxes 3% on amounts over \$1,000,000; and House Bill 5755 will ask a women's health question.

Highlights of the omnibus bill (Public Act 98-691, effective July 1) include:

- ▶ Extending grace period registration and voting until the polls close on Election Day.
- ▶ Election Authorities conduct in-person absentee voting on Election Day at specific college campuses.
- ▶ Adds language related to school board elections; provides for the election authorities to accept paperwork once given to school secretaries.
- ▶ Mandates election authorities to transmit precinct maps to the State Board of Elections.
- ▶ Absentee applications must be available for use no later than 90 calendar days before the election.
- ▶ Mandates permanent polling places and hours for early voting.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PETITIONS

Two statewide initiative petitions were filed with Secretary of State and the State Board of Elections.

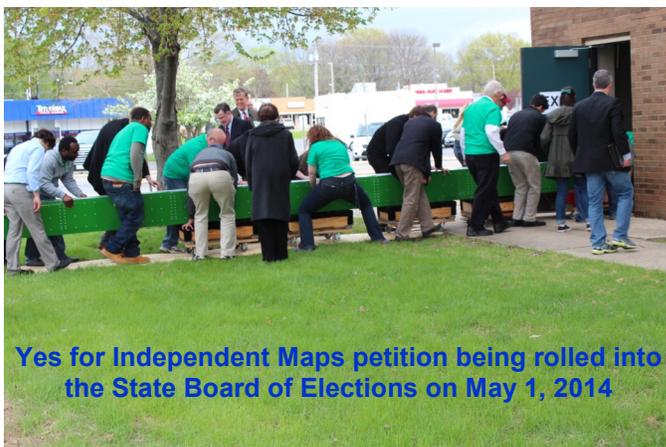
The "Term Limits and Reform" petition, filed on April 30, 2014, seeks to impose term limits on members of the Illinois Legislature, increase the number of Representatives and Representative districts in the Illinois House of Representatives and reduce the number of Senators in the Illinois Senate and to increase the percentage of votes in each chamber to override a Gubernatorial veto.



The term limits petition being taken off the moving truck on April 30, 2014.



The "Yes for Independent Maps" petition, filed on May 1, 2014, seeks to amend the Illinois Constitution to create an independent commission that would be responsible for redrawing the legislative district lines in the year following each decennial census.



Yes for Independent Maps petition being rolled into the State Board of Elections on May 1, 2014

Pursuant to Public Act 97-81 the State Board of Elections was charged with providing a signature verification method to conduct a review of petitions filed to amend Article 4 of the Illinois Constitution. The SBE, in consultation with the University of Illinois at Springfield, developed a comprehensive signature review analysis program that provides for a random sampling method to determine the number of unique valid signatures contained on a petition.

The process had begun and was near the finish when Cook County Judge Mary Mikva ruled both petitions would not be placed on the November 2014 General Election Ballot, based on a previous Illinois Supreme Court decision.

The "Yes for Independent Maps" proponents indicated they would not appeal and then withdrew the petition while the "Term Limits and Reform" proponents were planning on filing an appeal.

As noted in the legislative update (page one) three statewide advisory questions were passed and will likely appear on the November ballot.

## Paperless Online Voting Application (POVA)

As of the end of June, the Board announced the official release of its Paperless Online Voter Application (POVA) System, otherwise known as online registration. The system was made available to the public on June 23<sup>rd</sup> in a discreet fashion or “soft release”, in order to allow for any glitches which may have been missed through testing, to be caught and rectified, prior to its future high traffic expectations. We are pleased to report that the system is functioning as expected and has received and processed over 1000 voter registration applications.

Per the statute for Illinois’ online voter registration, each applicant is required to submit, for validation with the Secretary of State’s (SOS) office, their Driver’s License (DL) or State ID #, the Issue Date of the card, their Date-of-birth, and the last four of their SSN#. If those four fields match the information on file with the SOS, the SOS will transmit the digital signature on file, which may become the applicant’s registration signature.

Once received, the election authority will check if the applicant is already registered, and provide notice of duplication or registration by mail.

Each applicant that provides an email address will receive automatic notification that their application has been received and sent to the SOS for validation and a second notice that the information they provided was found to be either valid or invalid. For those applicants who choose not to provide an email address, they can check the status of their application by visiting the “Application Status” page and enter the DL or ID # which they used to make application.

The State Board of Elections is very excited to be able to offer this new opportunity to Illinois residents. We look forward to where this new technology can take us in the future.



*Let no feeling of discouragement prey upon you, and in the end you are sure to succeed*

*Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)*

## ELECTRONIC CANVASSING

Extra assistance is needed from your office to aid us in completing the canvass of the 2014 General Election results. Unfortunately, due to the way that the calendar falls this year, our office will only have one business day in between the deadline for the Election Authority to canvass and our deadline to certify the statewide canvass. This presents a considerable challenge as it takes a significant amount of time to compile and proof the results. To ensure that we are able to complete the canvass in time we are asking for your help.

The deadline for the Election Authority to canvass is November 26, 2014. Please do not wait until that date to submit your canvass unless

it is absolutely necessary. The earlier we receive it, the earlier we can transfer the totals and proof the results.

Second, we will be working all the way through the long Thanksgiving weekend. Since we often have questions about the canvass submitted by the election authority, and sometimes find that information is missing, we are asking for a contact name and cell phone number for each jurisdiction. 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 106 schools for the 2014 General Primary Election with a total of 4,110 judges in attendance. 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 November 4, 2014 General Election. Contact Eric Donnewald at [edonnewald@elections.il.gov](mailto:edonnewald@elections.il.gov) for further information.

## HAVA FUNDING UPDATE

Current grants available to all jurisdictions

**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

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**Inventory** -- Reminder.....inventory sheets will be due every August 1. Please update them as you dispose of equipment or purchase new equipment with HAVA funding.

**Site Visits** -- Staff will continue to conduct site visits each month (not including the month of an election). Voting equipment and other equipment purchased with HAVA funding will be located and serial numbers will be compared with the county's inventory listing.

## 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; 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 elections, 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>



*Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future*

*John F. Kennedy (1917-1963)*

## CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE ELECTRONIC FILING OF REPORTS

### All political committees currently using IDIS2 must transfer their data to IDIS3 by August 1, 2014

In August 2013 the State Board of Elections released IDIS3, a new web-based system used to electronically file disclosure reports. Advantages of IDIS3 include accessing data, entering receipts and expenditures, and filing reports from any computer with internet access; no need to back up data as it resides on the Board's servers; no more problems downloading and installing the IDIS program or waiting for updates to load as program no longer physically resides on your computer; and multiple people can input data at the same time.

**Committees will no longer be able to use the previous version of the software (IDIS2) after August 1, 2014.** If assistance is needed with this transfer, please contact a member of the Campaign Disclosure staff at 217-782-4141 (Springfield) or 312-814-6440 (Chicago). We will be more than happy to assist you and answer any questions or concerns you may have.