

# UNIQUE ELECTION PROCESS IN ILLINOIS



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## Illinois State Board of Elections

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# Illinois State Board of Elections

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Illinois elects more than 40,000 public officials and has well over 6,000 units of local government in the state – more than any other state. A major objective of the State Board of Elections is to make election procedures uniform throughout the state so that every voter and every governmental unit has access to the same information and is subject to the same rules concerning election procedures.

*The Illinois State Board of Elections was created by the General Assembly in 1973. The Board's purpose is to serve as the central authority for all Illinois election law, information and procedures in Illinois.*



## DIVISIONS OF SBE

### Administrative Services

Responsible for directing the administrative affairs of the SBE

### Campaign Disclosure

Responsible for monitoring and enforcing the Campaign Financing Act.

### Election Operations

Responsible for candidate petitions filed with the SBE, as well as certifying the ballot to the election authorities, canvassing the votes following an election and preparing certificates of nomination and the proclamations for the Governor's Office.

### Information Technology

Responsible for all Board computer systems.

### Office of the Executive Director

Provides general supervision over the operation of the business of the Board and its equipment, facilities, employees and consultants in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Board and as otherwise directed by the Board.

### Office of the General Counsel

Responsible to provide legal counsel to the State Board of Elections

### Voting and Registration Systems

Responsible for the statewide Illinois Voter Registration System (IVRS)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Who actually conducts elections in Illinois?**

Elections are administered locally by the state's 108 election authorities. These are the county clerks in 100 counties, one county election commission and 6 municipal election commissions. These local authorities are a very important part of Illinois' election process. As part of their many responsibilities they handle local voter registration programs, train election judges, find polling places, arrange for the printing of ballots, oversee election day activities, and supervise the vote count at the local level.

### **How does the State Board work with the local authorities?**

The State Board works closely in all parts of the state with the election authorities by answering their questions and generally providing the information necessary to conduct elections effectively and in accordance with Illinois law. Ongoing training programs for election authorities are conducted, encouraging an exchange of ideas and information to refine the state's election process.

### **How does the State Board deal with charges of voting irregularities and fraud?**

All claims of irregularity or fraud in any Illinois election presented to the Board are carefully and thoroughly investigated. Most often, clarification of the law resolves many of the problems. The Board is not a police agency but has the power to investigate and refer apparent violations to law enforcement agencies. The Board's role is to see that procedures provided for by state law are complied with throughout the state

## BOARD FUNCTIONS

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- Adoption of rules and regulations to clarify and improve the election process in Illinois.
- Supervision, inspection and review of all election and registration processes in the state.
- Preparation and distribution of uniform manuals of instruction and other materials to election authorities.
- Preparation and circulation of canvasses of primary and general election returns filed with the Board.
- Determination of validity and receipt of nominating petitions and certificates of nominations.
- Dissemination of information and counsel on elections.
- Investigations and hearings of election complaints and problems.
- Recommendations of new legislation and evaluation of pending legislation to the Election Laws Commission and the Illinois General Assembly.
- Approval of voting machines and devices for use in the state.
- Development and administration of education programs for election authorities, candidates and the general public.
- Determination of validity of petitions submitted by popular initiative for constitutional amendment.
- Certification of ballot forms for constitutional amendments and other statewide referenda.
- Proclamation of election results.
- Administration of Campaign Financing Act.