



For Immediate Release – December 29, 2009

For information, Jim Allen: 1-312-269-7857

**Resolve this New Year's to Register**

***Jan. 5 Voter Registration Deadline the Earliest Ever***

Chicagoans have less than a week to register to vote or update their records to cast ballots in the upcoming Primary Election.

"The Jan. 5 registration deadline is the earliest ever in Illinois, and we believe there are thousands who need to update their records to be able to vote in the upcoming Primaries," said Chicago Election Board Chairman Langdon D. Neal.

Chicago currently has 1,435,292 active registered voters. That number is down 3.4% from the registration for the 2008 Presidential Election but still 10.5% higher than the registration for the March 2006 Primary, the last comparable election.

"Historically, after Presidential Elections, we see a larger reduction in active registrations. But we suspect the numbers are still high from the large number of new registrations we took in 2008, and as a result of fewer people moving during this economic downturn," Neal said. "Even so, we believe thousands of those first-time voters from 2008 may need to update their registrations."

Options to register or update voter records include:

- Registering in person at the Chicago Election Board offices at 69 W. Washington Street from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays or during special hours this weekend: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Sat. Jan. 2 and Sun. Jan. 3).
- On Tues., Jan. 5, at 69 W. Washington St. and at City Hall, voters may register from 8 a.m. through the midnight deadline.
- Voters may download the mail-in voter registration application at **chicagoelections.com**. The form must be postmarked by Jan. 5.
- Registering at any Illinois Secretary of State driver's license facility.

Chicago voters may check the status of their registration at **chicagoelections.com** or by calling (312) 269-7900.

To register to vote, persons must be citizens of the United States, at least 18 years of age and residents of the precinct at least 30 days before the election.

Neal noted that Illinois voters also may use the "grace period" to register from Jan. 6 through Jan. 26, but under that option, voters must register in person at the Election Board offices and cast a form of absentee ballot.

# # #