

Illinois State Board of Elections

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Springfield, Illinois, February 28, 2000 - The State Board of Elections today announced that an advisory committee of election officials would be created to discuss the design of a statewide computer network for voter registration.

The board took the action at a Springfield board meeting earlier this month after unanimously voting to recommend to Central Management Services that a contract be awarded to develop the technical design for such a system.

Board Director Ron Michaelson said that the formation of the advisory group is an effort to continue the dialogue between the State board and election authorities throughout the State.

"For several years, we have pursued the objective of providing a statewide voter registration system to the voters of Illinois," Michaelson said.

"During this next phase, we look to the advisory committee members for their guidance and expertise on how to proceed in this important project."

"Last year the legislature funded us with the appropriation to proceed with the technical design of this system," he said. "The awarding of this contract and formation of the advisory committee brings us one step closer to a statewide network," Michaelson said.

"We look forward to discussing points raised by the election authorities, resolving any differences and moving forward to provide Illinois voters with a statewide computer network that utilizes that latest technology."

Michaelson said that a statewide system would reduce vote fraud and cut costs.

"Duplicate registrations with the inherent potential for vote fraud would all but be eliminated by a statewide computer network that removes and adds voters as quickly as the information can be entered and electronically transmitted," Michaelson said.

"In addition, the system would cut costs by eliminating hand sorting and mailing of voter registration cards, eliminate lost or misdirected applications and serve as backup in instances where records might



otherwise be lost.

However, the responsibility of processing voter registration applications, maintaining registration records and serving as each jurisdiction's chief registrar still remains with each election authority.

Michaelson said the members of the advisory committee are being contacted and should begin meeting soon after the March 21 primary election.

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