

AN ACT concerning elections.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Election Code is amended by changing Sections 1-4 and 25-7 as follows:

(10 ILCS 5/1-4) (from Ch. 46, par. 1-4)

Sec. 1-4.

(a) In any case in which this Act prescribes a period of time within which petitions for nomination must be filed, the office in which petitions must be filed shall remain open for the receipt of such petitions until 5:00 P.M. on the last day of the filing period.

(b) For the 2013 consolidated election period, an election authority or local election official shall accept until 104 days before the election at which candidates are to be on the ballot any petitions for nomination or certificate of nomination required by this Code to be filed no earlier than 113 and no later than 106 days before the consolidated election. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, for purposes of this subsection (b) only, signatures and circulator statements on petitions for nomination filed with an election authority or local election official on the final day for filing petitions for nomination shall not be deemed invalid for

the sole reason that the petitions were circulated between 90 and 92 days before the last day for filing petitions.

(Source: P.A. 80-1469.)

(10 ILCS 5/25-7) (from Ch. 46, par. 25-7)

Sec. 25-7.

(a) When any vacancy shall occur in the office of representative in congress from this state more than 180 days before the next general election, the Governor shall issue a writ of election within 5 days after the occurrence of that vacancy to the county clerks of the several counties in the district where the vacancy exists, appointing a day within 115 days of issuance of the writ to hold a special election to fill such vacancy.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this Section or any other law to the contrary, a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of representative in congress occurring less than 60 days following the 2012 general election shall be held as provided in this subsection (b). A special primary election shall be held on February 26, 2013, and a special election shall be held on April 9, 2013.

Except as provided in this subsection (b), the provisions of Article 7 of this Code are applicable to petitions for the special primary election and special election. Petitions for nomination in accordance with Article 7 shall be filed in the principal office of the State Board of Elections not more than

54 and not less than 50 days prior to the date of the special primary election, excluding Saturday and Sunday. Petitions for the nomination of independent candidates and candidates of new political parties shall be filed in the principal office of the State Board of Elections not more than 68 and not less than 64 days prior to the date of the special election, excluding Saturday and Sunday.

Except as provided in this subsection, the State Board of Elections shall have authority to establish, in conjunction with the impacted election authorities, an election calendar for the special election and special primary.

If an election authority is unable to have a sufficient number of ballots printed so that ballots will be available for mailing at least 46 days prior to the special primary election or special election to persons who have filed an application for a ballot under the provisions of Article 20 of this Code, the election authority shall, no later than 45 days prior to each election, mail to each of those persons a Special Write-in Absentee Voter's Blank Ballot in accordance with Section 16-5.01 of this Code. The election authority shall advise those persons that the names of candidates to be nominated or elected shall be available on the election authority's website and shall provide a phone number the person may call to request the names of the candidates for nomination or election.

(Source: P.A. 78-781.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon

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becoming law.