



For Immediate Release  
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## Young Voters Make History at 2014 Primary

For the first time in state history, thousands of Chicago 17-year-olds will be eligible to vote in Tuesday's Primary Election.

"We're proud to have so many young people who can make history this election," said Langdon D. Neal, Chairman of the Chicago Election Board. "Thanks to a new law, this will mark the first time that 17-year-olds will be able to vote in the Primary Election if they will turn 18 by the November General Election. The idea of this law is to let those who will be 18 have the power to help decide which candidates will be on the fall ballots."

Since the law took effect on Jan. 1, the Chicago Election Board has worked with numerous schools and civic organizations to register 9,044 young voters, including:

- 3,444 who will be 17 at the Primary but 18 by the General Election;
- 4,641 18-year-olds; and,
- 959 19-year-olds.

"We are proud of this effort and want to thank our many partners in this project," Neal said.

Among the organizations who joined and supported the effort were: the McCormick Foundation, Mikva Challenge, the Chicago Public Schools, the Archdiocese High Schools, the League of Women Voters, the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Rock the Vote, Chicago Votes, Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago, Operation PUSH, the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

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