

Governor Quinn Orders Special Election for 2nd Congressional District

Written by Leslie Wertheimer
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Sets Primary Election on February 26 to Coincide with Existing Primary; Proposes April 9 General Election, Requiring a Change in Statute

CHICAGO – November 26, 2012. Governor Pat Quinn today set a special election to fill a vacancy in the 2nd Congressional District seat, which had been held by Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. from 1995 until his resignation last week. The governor's writs of election (attached) set a special primary to be held on February 26, 2013 to coincide with existing local primary elections. To comply with current state law, the governor's writs of election also set a general election date of March 19, 2013. However, Governor Quinn is working with the General Assembly to move the general election date to April 9, 2013, the same day as already-scheduled local general elections, which will require a change in statute.

Illinois law currently requires the special election be held within 115 days of the filing of the governor's writs of election, preventing it from being on the same day as the existing local elections on April 9, 2013.

"This special election will be carried out in a manner that is fair to the electorate and as economical as possible for taxpayers," Governor Quinn said. "By holding the special primary and general elections on the same days as existing contests, we can save significant taxpayer dollars and ensure the people of the 2nd District can make their voices heard."

The governor will issue amended writs if the statute is changed to move the special general

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election to April 9, 2013.

The 2nd Congressional District is comprised of 263 precincts in suburban Cook County, 170 precincts in Chicago, 85 precincts in Kankakee County and 27 precincts in Will County. Approximately 420,000 registered voters reside in the district, of which more than half are in suburban Cook County.

For more information on the special election please contact Jane Gasperin, director of the Division of Election Information at the Illinois State Board of Elections, at [217-782-1555](tel:217-782-1555).

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