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# Republican National Lawyers Association

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**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Illinois Continues To Be Ground Zero for Vote Fraud**

**Washington, D.C.** – On Friday, October 22, Republican National Lawyers Association (RNLA) Executive Director Michael Thielen released the following statement in response to the pattern of troubling activity taking place in Illinois, including the disenfranchisement of military voters:

“As Americans, we should all be outraged by the events taking place in Illinois. Just today, we learned that the Department of Justice will extend the voting window for military voters by only one day for ballots to be postmarked and only four days to receive them even after the ballots themselves were mailed weeks after the deadline. To make matters worse, we are also learning that Cook County election workers have engaged in vote fraud, further calling into question the actions of state officials. It is clear that Illinois is quickly becoming ground zero for vote fraud. As an organization committed to the principle that every legal vote should counted, we are deeply concerned that both state and federal officials are failing to take steps to protect the democratic rights of American citizens.”

“The RNLA is glad to see that the Illinois Republican Party is looking out for the rights of our overseas military voters and their decision to intervene in the matter is the right one. We wish that the Obama administration and the Illinois Board of Elections were as concerned with ensuring that our overseas troops can vote in next week’s election.”

### **BACKGROUND:**

“Six Illinois counties will wait longer to receive absentee ballots for the Nov. 2 election from citizens serving in the military or living overseas under an agreement announced today by the Department of Justice. Boone, Hancock, Jersey, Massac, Schuyler and St. Clair counties sent out absentee ballots more than two weeks later than federal law requires. Under the agreement, those counties would extend the Nov. 14 deadline to receive absentee ballots by four or five days. Voters from those counties will also have until Election Day, Nov. 2, to postmark their absentee ballots. That’s one more day than the rest of the state.” (Oscar Avila, [“Illinois Election Officials Will Wait For Military Ballots,”](#) *The Chicago Tribune*, 10/22/10)

“A local government in Illinois is warning about potential voting fraud in the Chicago area, noting two election voters were convicted of such fraud just last spring. The warning, from the director of elections for Cook County, Ill., raises the prospect that voter fraud could become a potential problem in the race and contradicts Illinois Democratic Senate candidate Alexi Giannoulis, who was dismissive of the issue at a recent debate. ... ‘This past spring, two election workers were prosecuted by the State’s Attorney General and convicted of vote fraud for violating voter privacy by supervising voters as they completed ballots,’ a memo from Cook County’s director of elections ... says .... Besides the two convictions, accusations of voting fraud have long plagued the South and West sides of Chicago. One example in 2002 was a group of dozens of senior citizens who applied for absentee ballots, only to find out that the man who helped them apply had already cast their votes. Calling the incident ‘pure Cook County,’ the Chicago Sun-Times reported that when the seniors asked the man what he was doing in casting their ballots, they were told: ‘Don’t worry, you’re voting Democratic.’” (Jonathan Strong, [“Cook County: Voting Fraud Could Pose Threat In Illinois Senate Race,”](#) Daily Caller, 10/22/10)

“Illinois Republican Party General Counsel Brien Sheahan today said a consent decree between the Obama Administration and the Illinois State Board of Elections does not go far enough to address delays in mailing absentee ballots to members of the armed forces serving overseas. Nearly one third of Illinois Counties mailed over 2,600 military and overseas ballots late. Sheahan said the Party plans to file a motion to intervene in order to extend the deadline for accepting and counting military ballots in Illinois.” ([Illinois GOP Intervenes in Military Ballot Delays,](#) Illinois Republican Party, 10/22/10)

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