

**Illinois  
State Board of Elections**

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SPRINGFIELD, IL, July 2, 2003 - Springfield Attorney John R. Keith was unanimously elected Chairman of the Illinois State Board of Elections at a board meeting held yesterday in Springfield, board officials announced.

Keith succeeds Republican Elaine Roupas, who remains on the bipartisan board as a member. State law requires that the two-year terms of chairman and vice-chairman alternate between Democrats and Republicans.

Mr. Keith is an attorney in private practice officing in Springfield, Illinois and specializing in family and government law.

Mr. Keith is a graduate of the Baylor University School of Law and a member of several bar and trial law associations.

Mr. Keith is a former member of Illinois House of Representatives and has an extensive background in government including serving as a delegate to Democratic nominating conventions.

Also unanimously elected at the July 1 meeting was Bloomington Republican Jesse Smart as Vice-Chairman of the board.

Mr. Smart is president and owner of Smart Seeds, Inc., a seed company in Bloomington, Illinois and is a former mayor of the city of Bloomington.

Sworn in to new four-year terms at the meeting were: Keith, Smart and incumbent members William McGuffage, a Chicago Democrat and Dr. Phillip O'Connor, a Chicago Republican.

In addition to new officers, the board appointed Daniel W. White as new Executive Director replacing Dr. Ronald D. Michaelson, who retired after almost 28 years as the board's first executive director.

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