

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney Northern District of Illinois

Patrick J. Fitzgerald United States Attorney Federal Building 219 South Dearborn Street, 5th Floor Chicago, Illinois 60604 (312) 353-5300

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2007 www.usdoj.gov/usao/iln PRESS CONTACT: Kim Nerheim 312-353-5489

U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO CONDUCT ELECTION DAY MONITORING ELECTION DAY HOTLINE: (312) 469-6157

CHICAGO -- Consistent with a long-standing practice of the office, the U.S. Attorney's Office will monitor the municipal general election in Chicago and surrounding suburbs on Tuesday, February 27, 2007. As part of the monitoring effort, the office will operate a hotline for candidates or the public to call to report any complaints relating to voting. In addition, Assistant U.S. Attorneys will be available to respond to complaints as needed.

The hotline number is (312) 469-6157.

"This office has a long tradition of monitoring the polls on election day. United States

Attorney Patrick F. Fitzgerald said. "Our goal is to ensure the integrity of the balloting process.

We must ensure that those who are entitled to vote may do so, while those who seek to corrupt elections are brought to justice."

Coordination of the monitoring efforts and subsequent investigations, if any, will be directed by Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen Heinze. The Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau

of Investigation and the U.S. Marshal's Service will assist in this effort by following up, if necessary, on any election fraud complaints.

Complaints about ballot access problems or discrimination can also be made directly to the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section in Washington at 1-800-253-3931 or 202-307-2767. Violations of federal voting rights statutes carry penalties ranging from 1 to 10 years imprisonment and fines up to \$250,000.

####