

## Absentee Voting Open - 2/19/2003

Urbana, IL—Champaign County Clerk Mark Shelden announced that absentee voting for the upcoming April 1, 2003 Consolidated Election will open this Thursday, February 20, 2003 at the County Clerk's Office. "We encourage anyone who cannot vote at their assigned polling place on Election Day, April 1, 2003 to make every effort to absentee vote in the Clerk's Office," said Shelden. The office is located at 1776 East Washington Street in Urbana.

Absentee voting is available to all Champaign County registered voters who expect to be absent from the county on Election Day, are physically incapacitated, are observing a religious holiday or are employed by the military or by a state or federal agency that requires them to live temporarily outside the county. Applications for absentee ballots may be made by mail or a registered voter may vote absentee in person in the office of the County Clerk, 1776 East Washington, Urbana, 61802. Applications may also be requested by calling 384-3724 or by going online to [www.champaigncountyclerk.com/absentee](http://www.champaigncountyclerk.com/absentee).

Persons registered through the National Voter Registration Act, also known as Motor Voter, must vote in person the first time unless they registered through a state agency such as the driver's license facility. If applying for a ballot by mail, requests must be made well in advance of the election in order to ensure that it is returned in time to be counted.

Shelden said that his office would have additional hours for absentee voting on Saturday, March 29th from 9:00 a.m. to noon and on Monday, March 31st until 5:00 p.m. Regular office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Poll after poll suggests that people are most concerned about local issues such as quality of education, streets, and crime. This is your chance to voice your opinion in the only poll that matters: Election Day. Please take the time to vote on April 1st.