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**INCLUSION SOLUTIONS OPENS POLLING PLACE DOORS
TO ILLINOIS VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES**

Four Illinois Election Boards Participate In Voting Access Pilot Program for March Primary

Chicago, March 18, 2002 – A recent study shows that people with disabilities are one-fifth less likely to vote, largely because of inaccessible polling places. Working to ensure the voting rights of people with disabilities, Chicago-based accessibility provider, Inclusion Solutions has teamed with four Illinois election boards to increase polling place accessibility for the March 19th primary election.

As part of the Voting Access pilot program, the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, the Cook County Election Department, the DuPage County Election Commission and the Lake County Clerk's Office will all implement Inclusion Solutions' *Voting Access Kit* to increase access at the entrance of select polling facilities. The *Voting Access Kit* will be installed at more than 50 sites throughout Illinois.

Based on an alert system known as the ADA BigBell, Inclusion Solutions' *Voting Access Kit* provides a tool for voters with disabilities to request assistance with entry to inaccessible polling locations that do not have power doors. For locations where voters may be faced with steps and other barriers to entry, the *Voting Access Kit* increases the effectiveness of the curbside voting system by giving voters a tool to alert election officials of their presence and desire to vote.

The *Voting Access Kit* also includes a reference guide to educate election judges on serving voters with disabilities. The guide reviews the rights of voters with disabilities, provides tips for personal interaction and offers suggestions for protecting voter privacy.

"Solutions such as the Inclusion Solutions' *Voting Access Kit* are making it easier than ever for people with disabilities to participate in the American political process," said Jo Holzer of the Council for Disability Rights. "We are encouraging everyone to take advantage of these new accessibility improvements for Tuesday's primary. By casting a ballot on election day, people with disabilities can demonstrate the power of their collective voice and can send a message to Washington to continue election reform and accessibility improvements nationwide."

"We are proud to have developed a solution that makes it easier for people with disabilities to make their voice heard," said Patrick Hughes, president and founder of Inclusion Solutions. "We applaud the participating election boards for their commitment

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to provide equal access to all voters, and hope that this important pilot project can pave the way for even greater accessibility in the November general election.”

Voters wishing to determine the accessibility of their local polling place are encouraged to contact their local election officials. To learn more about the *Voting Access Kit*, call Inclusion Solutions at 1-866-ADA-KITS.

About Inclusion Solutions

A leading legal and social resource on the Americans with Disabilities Act, Inclusion Solutions is a full-service accessibility provider, offering businesses and government affiliates the tools and resources needed to open doors to people with disabilities and become compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act. Inclusion Solutions offers a full suite of products and services that address accessibility in a simple, economic and easy to understand manner, uniquely balancing the realistic limitations faced by many businesses with the access needs of those with disabilities.

Through a common-sense approach to a complex issue, Inclusion Solutions works to realize the goal of the Americans with Disabilities Act – inclusion of people with disabilities without an unreasonable burden to business. For more information, visit the company’s Web site at www.InclusionSolutions.com, or call 1-866-ADA-KITS.

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