



# Jesse White

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SECRETARY OF STATE

# NEWS

## ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- **September 13, 2000**
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### **White Announces Public Hearing to Discuss Areas Without Public Library Service**

**SPRINGFIELD** — Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White today announced that a public hearing will be held on Monday, Oct. 2, regarding Illinois residents who do not have public library service.

The hearing will be held in the atrium of the Illinois State Library, 300 S. Second St. in Springfield, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

"The issue of citizens without public library service has challenged the library community for many years," said White. "It's important that all citizens have access to a public library and I hope this public hearing will help resolve some of the problems that exist."

More than 600 public libraries have been established in Illinois, but there are still many pockets of land, in rural and suburban areas, that are not included in library service areas.

The hearing will be held in conjunction with a meeting convened by the State Library to discuss and develop recommendations regarding the issue of more than 1 million Illinois residents who do not have public library service.

The hearing will be structured to allow as many people as possible to present their views. Oral testimony will be limited to five minutes per person. The testimony also should be submitted in writing.

People are encouraged to submit testimony by mail by Oct. 2 to Jean Wilkins, Director, Illinois State Library, 300 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701.