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DIRECTOR: William A. Anthony, Jr., DEPUTY DIRECTOR: Dana Walch

**For Immediate Release**  
**Friday, Dec. 9, 2011**

### **New Deputy Director at Board of Elections**

**(Columbus)** The Franklin County Board of Elections today named Dana Walch, a nationally known elections professional, as Deputy Director. Walch succeeds fellow Republican Nathan Burd who has resigned from the board to run for the Ohio House of Representatives.

Walch will partner with board of elections Director William A. Anthony, Jr., a Democrat, to oversee an election jurisdiction serving some 750,000 voters.

Walch has most recently served as president of SBR Strategy Group, a political consulting and research firm with clients nationwide. He has 20 years experience at all levels of political and election administration including more than six years at the Ohio Secretary of State's office under Ken Blackwell where he served as Director of Elections, Director of Legislative Affairs and Director of Election Reform. It was in that last role that Walch gained national recognition in 2003 leading a \$130 million program to replace Ohio's outdated punch card voting machines and institute voter registration changes under the Help America Vote Act. He was heavily involved in the 2004 presidential election serving as the primary election night contact and spokesman for all 88 county election boards in Ohio. Walch also managed Ken Blackwell's successful campaign for Ohio Secretary of State in 1998 and has served as Political Director of the Ohio Republican Party and Executive Director of the Republican Party of Wisconsin.

"I am excited about getting back into election administration on a day to day basis, especially as we enter a presidential election year," Walch said. "The work will be challenging given Ohio's history of playing pivotal roles in national elections, but I am looking forward to using my experience and enthusiasm and working with the experienced staff we have at the board of elections to make 2012 a successful election year for the people of Franklin County."

"We had several strong candidates for the position of Deputy Director, but Dana stood out because of the work he has done here in Ohio and across the country," said Franklin County Board of Elections Chairman Douglas J. Preisse. "Dana has been a successful administrator of state and local election laws, has effectively managed major changes in them and has been sought after as a consultant and speaker on election issues nationwide. That's an impressive combination by any standard."

A native of Akron, Ohio, Walch holds a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Political Science from the University of Akron. He also holds a Certificate in Applied Politics from the Ray C. Bliss Institute at the University of Akron.

Walch and his wife Amy are residents of Canal Winchester and have three children.

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