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Board of Elections Expands Online Campaign Finance Records

(Columbus) The newest application on the Franklin County Board of Elections' Web site will make it easier for the public to access campaign finance reports.

A search engine posted at <http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov/campaign-finance/iim.cfm> allows visitors to download campaign donation and spending records for candidates and issues.

The board of elections has posted many finance reports online since 2005, but this new technology will make it possible for board employees to scan and post all documents on the Web as soon as they're submitted- a change that will give the media and general public instant access to important records 24 hours a day.

"This application makes campaign finance reporting more efficient and transparent," said board of elections Director Bill Anthony. "Our staff will spend less time searching for public records and the public won't need to come to our office just because a campaign finance report isn't available online."

"We're starting with the post-general election reports due by 4 p.m. today," added Deputy Director Matt Damschroder. "In the near future, we'll transfer older paper reports online as well."

Board officials say they will continue to make the Web site more functional as technology and legislation permits. In recent years the board has posted voter registration data, sample ballots and real time election night results online.

Media Contact:
Ben Piscitelli
Franklin County Board of Elections
(614) 462-5351
bjpiscit@franklincountyohio.gov