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For Immediate Release **Absentee Demand Tops 50,000**

(Columbus) There are more than two weeks remaining to vote absentee for the Nov. 8 general election, but requests to vote early by mail have already passed the demand for absentee ballots in Franklin County's 2007 and 2009 general elections.

More than 50,000 have applied to vote early this year compared to 25,000 in 2007 and 41,000 in 2009. The breakdown shows roughly 21,000 unaffiliated voters, 17,000 registered Democrats and 13,000 registered Republicans making absentee ballot requests.

"Demand is being driven by the convenience of voting absentee and interest in issues on this year's ballot," said board of elections Director Bill Anthony.

"We think voters also are responding to ads we're running on local television and radio reminding them of how easy it is to vote absentee by mail or in person in Franklin County," Deputy Director Nathan Burd said. He added that more than 1,400 voters have cast absentee ballots at the board of elections.

The board is open for in-person absentee voting weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Friday, Nov. 4 except for Friday Oct. 28 when voting will continue until 9 p.m. Weekend voting is possible on Saturday Oct. 22 and 29 from 8 a.m. to noon and Sunday, Oct. 30 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Absentee applications are available at local libraries, on the Web at <http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov> or by calling the board of elections at 525-3100.

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