



## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Matthew M. Damschroder, Director    Dennis L. White, Deputy Director

**For Immediate Release  
March 21, 2007**

### **BOARD CERTIFIES CANDIDATE FOR COLUMBUS SCHOOL BOARD RACE NO PRIMARY NECESSARY**

**(Columbus)** The Franklin County Board of Elections voted to sustain the appeal of one candidate for the Columbus school board this afternoon and rejected the appeal of another eliminating the need for a school board primary election in May.

Board members voted 4-0 to certify Shawna Gibbs to the ballot having found that Gibbs had “substantially complied” with elections law. The vote reverses an earlier decision by the Board to invalidate Gibbs’ candidacy because her nominating petitions listed her as W. Shawna rather Weirdella L., the name under which she is registered to vote. Gibbs appealed the decision and produced a birth certificate to show that she has several middle names and is the same person that signed both the Statement of Candidacy and her voter registration card. Secretary of State guidelines permit the name of the candidate on the nominating petition to be “any combination of the first and middle names or initials.” She will be listed on the ballot as W. Shawna Gibbs.

The appeal for certification to the ballot filed by Joy Marshall failed for lack of a motion by the Board. Marshall fell short of producing the 300 signatures required for candidacy due to names and addresses submitted incorrectly on her petitions.

As a result of today’s vote, eight candidates for the school board will appear on the ballot this November. A May primary would have been required to narrow the field had a ninth candidate been certified to the ballot.

#### **For more information, contact:**

Ben Piscitelli  
Public Information Officer  
Franklin County Board of Elections  
(614) 462-5351  
[bjpiscit@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:bjpiscit@franklincountyohio.gov)

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

William A. Anthony, Jr., Chairman  
Michael F. Colley, Esq.  
Kimberly E. Marinello  
Carolyn C. Petree