



BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

**For Immediate Release
Dec. 20, 2007**

Board of Elections 2008 Budget Approved

(Columbus) The Franklin County Board of Elections will receive more than \$9.1 million of the \$314.9 million county budget Franklin County commissioners have approved for 2008.

“With new federal and state mandates and the number of voters casting ballots early by mail, the costs of administering elections is significantly greater than it was even four years ago,” said board of elections Director Matt Damschroder. In 2004, the last presidential election year, Franklin County spent approximately \$5.5 million. For 2008, the Commissioners have provided initial appropriations of \$9.1 million.

The board of elections anticipates voter turnout to drive much of the demand for the services it provides particularly in the area of early voting by mail, expecting to process 250,000 absentee ballots for the Primary and General Elections.

“Voters casting ballots early by mail will directly benefit from these new levels of funding,” said Deputy Director Dennis White. “The county is prepaying postage for all mailed-in absentee ballots so voters will no longer have to worry about whether they put sufficient postage on their ballot to get it to the board of elections on time.”

The election board’s budget will also finance voter education programs and enhanced poll worker training.

The Franklin County Board of Elections remains one of the most cost-efficient urban county boards of elections in Ohio, operating at a cost of approximately \$11.69 per voter based on a registration of 780,907 voters as of Dec. 1.

Media Contact:
Ben Piscitelli
Franklin County Board of Elections
Office: (614) 462-5351
Cell: (614) 425-7171
bjpiscit@franklincountyohio.gov

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**
280 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

(614) 462-3100
(614) 462-3489 FAX
<http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov>

BOARD MEMBERS
William A. Anthony, Jr., Chairman
Michael F. Colley, Esq.
Kimberly E. Marinello
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