



BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

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ELECTION OFFICIALS REMINDING VOTERS OF PRIMARY, GENERAL ELECTION DIFFERENCES

(Columbus) The Franklin County Board of Elections is reminding voters of the differences between a primary and general election including the choices they'll have to make before they can cast a vote for the March 4th primary.

"Voting in a primary is unlike voting in a general election where you are free to split your ballot and select Democrats and Republicans for various offices", said board of elections Director Matt Damschroder. "Primary voters will need to first request a Democratic or Republican party ballot to vote for a candidate and your choices will be limited to candidates competing for the nomination of one party or the other."

"Voters also should not be alarmed when they don't see the words, 'For President of the United States' on their ballot," added Deputy Director Dennis White. "Under rules established by each political party, you are not voting for presidential candidates directly, but choosing the delegates and alternate delegates to the Democratic and Republican national conventions."

Ohio voters become Democrats and Republicans by requesting a partisan ballot in a primary election and are free to change parties regardless of how they've voted before. Voters who do not want to vote for the nomination of partisan candidates by requesting a Democratic or Republican Party ballot, but still want to vote for or against ballot issues and tax levies, are eligible to vote using an "issues-only" ballot that contains no party's candidates.

More information on Ohio's party rules governing the selection of delegates and alternate delegates to the Democratic and Republican National Convention and the nomination of presidential candidates, go to <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/PublicAffairs/ePresGuide07.pdf>.

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