



BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

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Board of Elections Appeals for Poll Workers

(Columbus)- The Franklin County Board of Elections is launching a direct mail campaign to recruit Democrats as presiding judges in upcoming elections. Fifteen thousand letters were mailed recently in an attempt to find Democrats to supervise polling places beginning with the Nov. 6, 2007 General Election.

“There are 854 voting precincts throughout the county and we need Democrats to serve as presiding judges in nearly all of them,” said Franklin County Board of Elections Director Matt Damschroder.

Presiding judges are in charge of election precincts and are responsible for collecting election supplies, managing polling places and returning supplies and election results to the Board of Elections after the polls close.

The mail campaign is the latest and largest attempt yet by Franklin County election officials to address changes resulting from Ohio’s 2006 gubernatorial election. Presiding judges belong to the political party whose candidate for governor carried the precinct in the previous election. As a result, Democrats are needed to replace Republicans who have served as precinct judges for many years.

“There was an urgent need to find Democrats to serve as judges in the May primary and for a special election just held in Westerville,” Damschroder added, “but those elections were small compared to the turnout we’ll see in November when candidates for judge, mayor, city council and school board will be on ballots throughout the county and larger still in 2008 when we hold primary and general elections for president.”

The Board of Elections is also seeking Republicans in predominantly Democratic precincts in the City of Columbus to work as poll workers. A similar, but smaller, direct mail campaign is underway, with just under 2,000 letters having been sent.

Presiding judges need not live in the precinct to which they are assigned. They are paid \$95 for the day, another \$50 for taking a four hour training course and \$15 for transportation costs. The other poll workers, who work on Election Day managing the signature poll book, assisting provisional voters, and activating the voting machines, are paid \$95 for their work and \$ 15 for a training class. Anyone interesting in serving as a precinct election official or presiding judge should contact the Franklin County Board of Elections at 462-3100.

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BOARD OF ELECTIONS**
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