



BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

**For Immediate Release
Feb. 7, 2008**

Absentee Voting Begins Friday for March Primary

(Columbus) Absentee voting begins tomorrow for the March 4, 2008 Primary Election.

Early indications point to a record use of absentee ballots in Franklin County for a Presidential Primary Election with nearly 80,000 voters requesting ballots in response to absentee applications mailed by the board of elections in January to all 780,000 voters countywide. Election officials predict at least another 20,000 may request ballots by mail or vote absentee in person at the board of elections between now and the primary.

“We’ve seen a phenomenal response to our invitation to vote early by absentee,” said board of elections Director Matt Damschroder. “We are further encouraging early voting through radio and TV commercials.” The cost of the advertising buy is approximately \$143,000.

“We want to remind voters that they won’t need a stamp to return their ballot, the county is paying the return postage on mailed ballots for the first time this year and will cover the cost of returning your absentee application again this fall ” said board of elections Deputy Director Dennis White. “That should only increase the demand for absentee ballots for the November General Election.”

Officials estimate that as many as 250,000 will vote absentee in Franklin County during this presidential election year, far surpassing the 103,000 who voted absentee in the 2006 gubernatorial election and the 45,000 absentee votes recorded in the 2004 presidential election.

Voters have until noon on March 1 to request absentee applications by mail and until March 3 to vote absentee in person at the board of elections. Applications are available online at <http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov> or by calling 462-3100 during normal business hours.

Office hours for in person absentee voting are weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. through Tuesday, March 3 and on Saturday Feb. 23 and March 1 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. In-country absentee ballots must be received at the board by 7:30 p.m. March 4. Out-of-country armed services and civilian ballots must be postmarked by March 4 and returned to the board by March 24.

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