



## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEB. 12, 2008

### RECORD TURNOUT PREDICTED FOR MARCH PRIMARY

**(Columbus)** Election Officials are predicting a heavy turnout for the March 4 Primary Election in Franklin County based upon the demand for absentee ballots to date.

“We’ve received more than 96,000 requests for absentee ballots and believe we’ll surpass the 100,000 mark by the March 3 deadline for voting absentee,” said board of elections Director Matt Damschroder. “We could easily surpass the March 2000 primary turnout, the most recent without a presidential incumbent, when 39 percent of the county’s eligible voters participated. We should also break our all-time record of 93,000 absentee votes cast in the Nov. 2006 General Election.”

“We won’t be surprised if the Primary Election turnout tops 40 percent including those voting absentee,” said Deputy Director Dennis White. “Today’s snowstorm is a reminder of why absentee voting has become so popular. Voters won’t have to contend with the prospect of going to the polls in the type of bad weather that’s so common in early March if they cast an absentee in the meantime.”

Ballots are in the mail to voters who’ve responded to absentee applications that were sent to more than 780,000 registered voters in January. Voters can download applications from the board of elections’ Web site at <http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov> or call the board to request an application at (614) 462-3100. Mailed applications must be received by March 1 with voted ballots due at the board by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. Out of country civilian and military ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and are due at the board by March 24.

Absentee voting has been underway at the board of elections since last Friday and will continue until March 3 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and on Saturday Feb. 23 and March 1 from 8 a.m. to noon. Provisional voting also will be offered at the board’s offices on the same schedule and also on Election Day from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. for voters who may need to re-register or to notify the board of a recent change of name or address.

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BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
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