



BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Michael Stinziano, Director Matthew M. Damschroder, Deputy Director

**For Immediate Release
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Voters Reminded of New Absentee Voting Guidelines Ballot Applications Available on Request Only

(Columbus) The Franklin County Board of Elections reminds voters that they will not receive unsolicited absentee ballot applications by mail in 2009 as they did for elections in 2006 and 2008.

“Unsolicited mailing of absentee ballot applications has stopped for two reasons,” said board of elections Director Michael Stinziano. “A law requiring that voters be informed by mail of identification needed at the polls has expired. We’d included absentee applications in that mailing, but we do not have funding this year to do it without a justifiable mandate.”

Deputy Director Matt Damschroder added, “We will look for a similar opportunity in the future, but, for the time being, we are back to previous system of voters having to request an absentee ballot in order to receive one.”

Voters may download absentee ballot applications from the board of elections’ Web site at <http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov>, request one by phone at 462-3100, or in person at the board of elections located at 280 East Broad Street, Columbus.

Applications must be received by noon on May 2 to receive an absentee ballot by mail. The board will be open for in-person absentee voting weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. as well as Saturday, May 2 from 8 a.m. to noon.

While postage on voted ballots was prepaid by the county during 2008, voters this year are required to provide their own postage. Ballots also may be returned in person to the board’s offices during normal weekday business hours, on Saturday, May 2 from 8 a.m. until noon, and on Election Day, Tuesday, May 5, until 7:30 p.m.

Voted absentee ballots must be received at the board by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day or by May 15 if postmarked by May 4. Absentee ballots from military and out-of-country civilian voters are also due by May 15.

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