



## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Michael Stinziano, Director      Matthew M. Damschroder, Deputy Director

### For Immediate Release

Oct. 12, 2009

## VOTERS REMINDED TO PROVIDE IDENTIFICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS

### *Hundreds of Applications Returned Because of Missing Information*

**(Columbus)** The Franklin County Board of Elections is reminding voters to double check their applications to vote absentee by mail to ensure they have properly filled out all required information in order to receive their ballots in time to vote for the upcoming general election.

Nearly 800 of 21,000 absentee ballot applications submitted to the board to date have arrived without the information necessary to receive a ballot by mail.

“Voters are required to provide their full name and address, an original signature affirming they are a qualified elector, their date of birth and either the last four digits of their Social Security number or their Ohio driver’s license number in order to receive a ballot by mail; but some voters overlook the instructions and forget to complete the form,” said board of elections Director Michael Stinziano.

“When required information is missing, we notify each applicant by mail informing them that we are unable to process their absentee ballot request until a complete form is submitted. That costs taxpayers additional postage and adds to the time it takes for these voters to get their ballots,” added Deputy Director Matt Damschroder. “Please take a few extra seconds to review your application before dropping it in the mail.”

Voters may request absentee ballots by mail by downloading an application from the board’s Web site at <http://vote.FranklinCountyOhio.gov/> or by calling the board of elections at 462-3100. Because Ohio law requires the voter’s original signature to be on the form, an application for a regular absent voter’s ballot cannot be emailed or faxed.

Weekday voting resumes October 13, and will continue through Nov. 2 between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The board will also be open for early voting on **one Saturday only**, Oct. 31, from 8 a.m. to noon.

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