BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Michael Stinziano, Director   Matthew M. Damschroder, Deputy Director

For Immediate Release
Dec. 22, 2009

Time Savings and Fewer Mistakes Goal of New Online Election Service

(Columbus) The Franklin County Board of Elections is launching a new online service, the first of its type from a county election board in Ohio, to help campaigners reduce the time and avoid common mistakes involved in completing the paperwork required to be certified for the ballot.

An application posted under "Candidate Services" and "2010 Elections Information" at http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov allows candidates to print petitions from the Web rather than come to the board of elections for copies. The new feature also will help campaigns to avoid oversights that prevent election officials from certifying petitions.

"From time to time, campaigns will submit petitions with enough signatures to make the ballot only to learn that the petitions are nonetheless invalid because the circulator has neglected to provide other important information clearly requested on the forms," said board of elections Director Stinziano. "This service and application will help anyone circulating petitions in Franklin County and that will impact hundreds of candidates and issues on the ballot in an average election year."

"This new feature on our Web site includes a step by step process that will block the user from downloading petitions when they've forgotten to answer a question or have entered faulty data such as a home address that doesn't match our voter registration files," added Deputy Director Matt Damschroder.

Election officials stress that petition circulators will still have to personally collect the signatures required and remain ultimately responsible for the information contained on submitted petitions. Ohio law and this application do not allow voters to endorse a petition online.

This upgrade is the latest of several for the board's Web site. Voter registration data, polling locations, sample ballots and real time election night results have also been posted online in recent years.

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