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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
APRIL 26, 2010**

**DEADLINE APPROACHING TO RETURN ABSENTEE BALLOT**

**(Columbus)** The Franklin County Board of Elections is reminding voters who've requested and received an absentee ballot by mail to complete and return it in time to be counted for the primary election.

More than 105,000 have requested and received a ballot by mail for this election. Just over half have returned a voted ballot as of this morning. Franklin County has pre-paid the postage on the return envelopes to make voting by mail as convenient as possible.

"Absentee voting participation rates for this election are very strong and track closely with the absentee turnout for the 2008 presidential primary election," said board director Bill Anthony. "The return rate to date is consistent with what we've seen as well in the past for only a week out."

"Absentee voting is becoming an increasingly popular method for Franklin County voters to participate in the election," said board deputy director Matt Damschroder. "Voting from the convenience and privacy of home is appealing to voters who want to participate but have schedules that make it difficult to vote on Election Day"

Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked by May 3 and received at the board of elections by May 14. Ballots returned in person must be delivered to the board's offices by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. Voted absentee ballots will not be accepted at Election Day polling places.

Voters who request an absentee ballot, but don't use it, will be required to cast a provisional ballot if they decide to vote on Election Day.

Absentee ballot applications are available online at <http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov> or by calling the board of elections at (614) 462-3100. The board is also open for in-person early voting weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through May 3 and on Saturday May 1 from 8 a.m. to noon.

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