

BOARD MEMBERS: Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman ★ Michael F. Colley, Esq. ★ Zachary E. Manifold ★ Kimberly E. Marinello

DIRECTOR: William A. Anthony, Jr. DEPUTY DIRECTOR: Matthew M. Damschroder

For Immediate Release
July 13, 2010

Board of Elections Requests Money for Countywide Absentee Application Mailing
Predicts Savings if Ballots Printed In-House

(Columbus) The Franklin County Board of Elections voted today to ask Franklin County Commissioners to fund the mailing of absentee ballot applications prior to the November general election and also proposed using the county print shop to print ballots and other election supplies in an effort to reduce waste and printing costs.

The proposal includes a request for \$76,320 to pay the postage on voted absentee ballots returned by mail and follows an earlier request for \$258,300 to mail absentee ballot applications to more than 600,000 active voters.

"Mailing applications to every active voter and paying the postage on returned ballots recognizes the popularity of absentee voting and will help us manage what we expect will be a heavy Election Day turnout this fall," said Director Bill Anthony.

Elections officials also authorized the return of \$200,000 to the county general fund to offset new printing equipment for the county print shop to facilitate the in-house printing of ballots and other election supplies. Estimates show that the county could see net savings of \$1 million through 2012 if commissioners permit county employees to print absentee ballots. The board places the cost of in-house printing at \$900,000 compared to \$1.9 million for printing by an outside firm.

"By printing absentee ballots as needed on a daily basis we'll save tax dollars," Deputy Director Matt Damschroder added. "In the past, we had to estimate the number of preprinted ballots needed for the entire 35 day absentee voting period resulting in about 18 percent waste," Damschroder said.

The Board of Elections has mailed absentee ballot applications for all elections in even-numbered years since November 2006. Absentee votes accounted for more than 45 percent of the ballots cast in Franklin County for this year's primary election.

Franklin County voters also will have the option of downloading absentee ballot applications from the Board's Web site <http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov>, or requesting applications by phone at (614) 462-3100. In-person absentee voting at the board of elections office begins Sept. 28.

Media Contact:
Ben Piscitelli
Franklin County Board of Elections
(614) 462-5351
bjpiscit@franklincountyohio.gov