

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

DIRECTOR: William A. Anthony, Jr., DEPUTY DIRECTOR: Dana Walch

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Board of Elections Announces Early Vote Site for General Election

(Columbus) A vacant department store in north Columbus will serve as Franklin County's location for early voting, also known as in-person absentee voting, for the general election.

The Franklin County Board of Elections this afternoon approved a three-month, \$75,000 lease with the property owner, NMRD Limited of New Albany. The building, a former Kohl's Department Store, is located at 1700 Morse Road between Karl Road and Tamarack Boulevard and will open for early voting beginning Oct. 2.

The board rented the site because its full-time location at 280 East Broad Street lacks space including parking needed to process the large turnout of early voters typical of a general election for president. Nearly 249,000 voted absentee in Franklin County's 2008 general election including roughly 52,000 who voted early in-person.

"We believe most voters will find this year's site on Morse Road convenient. It's a short drive from I-71 and has parking large enough for a shopping center," said Board of Elections Director Bill Anthony.

Deputy Director Dana Walch reminded voters that they'll also have the option of voting absentee by mail. "The secretary of state will mail absentee applications to all registered voters shortly after Labor Day. No one will have to drive to a polling place or stand in line if they vote by mail."

The board deadlocked on a schedule for the early vote center with Democrats Zach Manifold and Kimberly Marinello supporting expanded voting on weeknights and weekends and Republicans Doug Preisse and Michael Colley voting for a weekday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. schedule. The issue heads to Secretary of State Jon Husted for a tie breaking vote.

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