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## For Immediate Release Tuesday, March 25

## Franklin County Moving 79 Voting Locations for Primary Voters to be Notified by Mail

**(Columbus)** More than 117,000 voters-about 15 percent of 798,000 registered- will have new polling places in Franklin County for the May 6 primary election. A total of 79 voting locations are moving to keep polls accessible for voters with disabilities.

Voters impacted by these moves will soon receive a post card from the board of elections telling them where to vote on Election Day.

The moves are prompted by recent updates in state and federal law to ensure all voting locations meet current standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Ohio Revised Code. The previous sites complied with earlier accessibility guidelines.

Only Election Day voters will be affected. All eligible voters will still have the option of casting absentee ballots in-person at the board of elections or by mail for the primary.

"We make onsite inspections of every polling location in Franklin County and use a checklist prepared by the Ohio Secretary of State to determine if each building meets ADA standards inside and out," said Board of Elections Director Bill Anthony. "That covers everything from the number of parking spaces, the steepness of ramps and the posting of any signs required including braille."

"There are very specific requirements measured to the inch in some cases," added Deputy Director Dana Walch. "We have to meet ADA's standards for such things as the width of aisles, the height and style doorknobs and the depth of carpeting needed to prevent falls. It's all aimed at getting voters in and out of their polling place safely."

Old and new voting locations are listed <u>here</u>. All voting locations for the primary and sample ballots for each precinct are posted on our <u>Web</u> site. Voters may also call us at (614) 525-3100 if they need further information.

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