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**For Immediate Release**  
**February 23, 2018**

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### **Board of Elections Announces Dates for Public Voting Machine Demonstrations**

**(Columbus)** The Franklin County Board of Elections announced today two separate public voting machine demonstrations. The board is encouraging county residents to attend and view new voting equipment that is being considered to replace the counties' aging 12 year old direct-recording electronic voting machines. The goal of the public voting machine demos is to glean feedback from the public that will be taken into consideration before a final decision on which vendor the board of elections ultimately picks. Director Ed Leonard said, "Everyone here at the Board of Elections recognizes the critical importance of getting public feedback on the next voting system. The next system not only has to work from an elections administration standpoint, it has to be a system that's easy for voters to use and instills public confidence."

The process of vetting the next generation of voting equipment began in May 2017. The process started with the evaluation of five voting equipment vendors which has been pared down to two finalists: Electronic Systems & Software (ES&S) based in Omaha, Nebraska and Hart InterCivic based in Austin, Texas.

Both public voting machine demos will come at the end of a week of training and testing leading up to mock elections for both vendors. Deputy Director David Payne said, "It is extremely important to get the finalists in here to put the equipment and systems through every phase of the election process to find what system best fits Franklin County's needs."

The first public voting machine demo will take place Thursday, March 1, 2018 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin County Board of Elections, 1700 Morse Rd. The voting equipment on display that day will be from Election Systems & Software.

The second and final public voting machine demo will occur Thursday, March 8, 2018 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin County Board of Elections, 1700 Morse Rd. The voting equipment on display that day will be from Hart InterCivic.

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