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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 29, 2010**

VOTERS URGED TO RETURN ABSENTEE BALLOTS

(Columbus) The Franklin County Board of Elections is urging voters who've received an absentee ballot by mail to complete and return it in time to be counted for the May 4, 2010 primary election.

More than 105,000 voters have requested and received a ballot by mail. Some 70,000 had returned complete ballots as of this morning.

Mailed ballots must be postmarked by May 3 and received at the board of elections by May 14 to be counted in this election. Absentee ballots may also be delivered in person to the board of elections until 7:30 p.m. on Election Day, **but officials stress that Ohio law has not changed and that absentee ballots will not be accepted at local polling places on the day of the election.**

If a voter who has requested and absentee ballot but has not returned it to the board of elections wants to vote at his/her assigned voting location on election day, they may do so but will be required to cast a provisional ballot under state law.

The board of elections is also open for in-person early voting weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Monday and will be open for voting this Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon.

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