



BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Matthew M. Damschroder, Director Dennis L. White, Deputy Director

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TO HOLD AN ELECTION, FIRST FIND A POLLING PLACE

(Columbus) There are roughly 550 polling places in Franklin County and Harold Fielder has been to nearly all of them. As logistics manager for the Franklin County Board of Elections, he's the person responsible for finding places for people to vote.

"It would never occur to most voters, but we have to find a polling place before we hold an election and it is not as easy as it sounds. You have to look everywhere, it takes a lot of searching," Fielder said. Ohio law gives boards of election the right to use any public building for voting. More than half of Franklin County's polling places are located in government buildings, schools, fire stations and libraries, but Fielder added that not all are suitable for holding an election.

"A room must be large enough to hold five or six voting machines. The building also must be accessible for voters with disabilities. Buildings must also have adequate parking. Our goal is to make voting as easy as possible."

Other polling places are located in churches and private businesses throughout the county and, unlike public polls, are paid to host an election receiving, \$20 dollars for each voting machine stationed on their property.

"None of them are doing it to get rich," said Fielder. "Some host elections out of a civic duty, others like serving as a polling place because it brings people into their business." Car dealerships, grocery stores, and a bowling alley are among the private buildings to have hosted Franklin County voters over the years.

Fielder and assistants Tim Beck and Frank Gill are always on the lookout for prospective polling places. However, some of the best suggestions come from poll workers and voters. "After every election we'll get a call from someone suggesting a different location that in some cases is better than the one we know about," Fielder said.

The polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Franklin County for the May 8 Primary/Special Election. To find the location of your polling place, visit the Franklin County Board of Elections Web site at <http://www.co.franklin.oh.us/boe/> or call the Franklin County Board of Elections at 461-3100.

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BOARD OF ELECTIONS**
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