



## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Michael Stinziano, Director      Matthew M. Damschroder, Deputy Director

**For Immediate Release**  
**Oct. 24, 2008**

### **Voting Machine Plan Approved for General Election**

**(Columbus)** The Franklin County Board of Elections finalized voting machine assignments for the Nov. 4, 2008 general election today.

The plan distributes 4,639 voting machines among 534 polling locations and takes into account a record number of voters registered for the general election and an unprecedented demand for absentee ballots. It follows directives by the secretary of state and recommendations from consultants hired by the board to determine the number of machines needed in a given precinct based upon projected turnout, the length of the precinct's ballot, requests for absentee ballots in the precinct and other factors.

"We've reviewed our voting machine assignments from the March primary election and moved machines from precincts where there is a heavy demand for absentee ballots to others where a heavy in person turnout is expected on November 4," said board of elections Director Michael Stinziano. "Ohio law requires voters who've requested an absentee ballot to use a provisional paper ballot if they decide to vote on Election Day. They would be unable to use a voting machine in any event."

"That frees up additional machines for locations where a greater percentage of people are expected to vote in person," added Deputy Director Matt Damschroder. "Our aim is to equally allot machines among precincts so that all voters are treated proportionally"

The Ohio secretary of state has forecast a record 80 percent turnout for the general election. A record 846,343 voters are registered in Franklin County with more than 231,000 requesting absentee ballots by mail to date.

Voters are reminded that they have the choice of voting on paper rather than wait for an available voting machine at the polls. Some 400,000 paper ballots have been printed for the general election. Absentee voting in person and by mail are other options. In person voting continues at the Veterans Memorial through Nov. 3. In country mailed ballots are due at the board of elections by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day with out-of-country ballots due ten days later.

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