

BOARD MEMBERS: Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman ★ Bradley K. Sinnott ★ Kimberly E. Marinello ★ Gregory K. Haas

DIRECTOR: William A. Anthony, Jr., DEPUTY DIRECTOR: Dana Walch

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Board of Elections Ready for Absentee Voting at New Location
Open House Held This Morning

(Columbus) The Franklin County Board of Elections is ready for absentee voting and reminding voters that in-person early voting will take place at the board's new home on 1700 Morse Road.

The board held an open house this morning so the media, public officials and others from the board's new neighborhood could get a good look at the new facility. The board moved here from downtown Columbus in July because it needed more room for its day to day work and for early voting.

It's the same building where Franklin County held early voting for the 2012 general election, but it looks a lot different today. It was little more than the shell of a former department store two years ago when just over 70,000 voted absentee there. It has since been converted to office space for approximately 50 full-time employees and a few hundred additional temporary employees hired during election season. It also has hundreds of free parking spaces unlike the old location downtown where parking was in short supply.

"This election will be the first chance for most voters to see our new home up close. It's their home too," board of elections Director Bill Anthony said. "It's designed to make voting easier and streamline other aspects of the work we do. We hope that translates into people becoming more actively involved in the elections process."

"We're near the population center of the county and that places us closer to more voters. This facility will make poll worker training more efficient as well," added Deputy Director Dana Walch. "We have enough space to conduct training here instead of scattering classes for thousands of people throughout the county."

The board's move to Morse Road will be completed shortly after the election when the county's 4,700 voting machines will be shipped here from a warehouse across town for storage between elections.

Contact: Ben Piscitelli, Public Information Officer
(614) 525-5351
bjpiscit@franklincountyohio.gov

