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2020 Primary Election Update

(Columbus) The Franklin County Board of Elections appreciates the patience of local voters who are calling for an absentee application as the Board responds too many of the 851,000 registered voters who received a postcard from the Secretary of State. In late-March, the Ohio General Assembly mandated that the Secretary of State send a postcard about absentee voting to over 8,000,000 registered voters in Ohio.
The Franklin County Board of Elections has ramped up staffing to handle the call volume, process absentee applications, and handle ballot production while at the same time emphasizing safety during this pandemic. However, when over 851,000 registered voters are notified by postcard to call their local board of elections during a statewide stay-at-home order, there are bound to be some wait times in the phone queues and so patience is appreciated.

"The Board of Elections has streamlined our automated phone capability and our website to make it as easy as possible to get a ballot application," said Elections Director Ed Leonard. Yesterday alone, the Board's webpage and automated phone system produced over 2,200 absentee applications. Voters can access that automated phone system by pressing 1 when they call 614-525-3100 or can reach the Board's website at www.vote.franklincountyohio.gov. The Board of Elections also placed absentee ballot applications at 37 local Kroger locations throughout Franklin County and is working to expand that outreach effort.

The Board of Elections reminds voters that if you have already voted prior to the original March 17th Election Day, you do not need to call for an application or to check on the status of your ballot. Voters who have already requested an absentee application or have already sent their application to the Board are asked to wait a few more days before calling about the status of their application or ballot. Voters can also track the status of their ballot by visiting www.FranklinCountyVotes.com and signing up for the free BallotTrax notification service.

Voters are reminded that absentee applications are also available online at VoteOhio.gov or can create a hand-written application by following the instructions on the Secretary of State's postcard.

While there is still enough time for a voter to get their application and ballot, voters are encourage not to delay as each day shortens the window for completing the entire ballot process through the US postal system.

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