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Absentee Voting Begins March 29 for Primary Election

(Columbus) Absentee voting for the May 3, 2011 primary election begins next Tuesday, March 29, with the start of in-person voting at the board of elections and ballots mailed to those who've applied to vote by mail.

The board of elections is located at 280 East Broad Street, Columbus, and will be open for absentee voting weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through May 2 and on Saturday, April 30 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Voters have until April 30 at noon to request an absentee ballot by mail and until May 2 to ask for one at the board of elections. Applications are also available on the board's Web site <http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov> and by phone at 525-3100.

Deadlines to Return Ballots:

- **Absentee ballots personally returned to the board of elections must arrive by 7:30 p.m. on May 3.**
- **Mailed in ballots must be postmarked by May 2 and arrive by May 13.**

One hundred ninety-two precincts will be voting on local issues and candidates, but 608 other precincts will not have an election because there are no local issues for the precinct or not enough local candidates to require a primary.

Voters are urged to visit the board's Web site before the election to view the sample ballot for their precinct and to find out if there will be a primary in their voting location. Voters who will have a primary will find a copy of their ballot online when they enter their name and address under the Sample Ballot application on the board's Web page. Those without a primary will see a message stating there is no election in their precinct.

Voters must register by April 4 to be eligible for this election.

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