



BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

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DAMSCHRODER TO TESTIFY TO CONGRESS ON ELECTION AUDITS

(Columbus) Franklin County Board of Elections Director Matt Damschroder will testify before the United States House of Representatives this afternoon on legislation to require electronic voting machines to also record votes on paper to ensure accurate totals.

HR 811, sponsored by Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ), would require states to use a voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) on all electronic voting machines used in federal elections, legislation similar to a law passed by the Ohio General Assembly in 2004 and first used here in 2006. Damschroder's testimony is scheduled for 2 p.m. in room 1310 of the Longworth House Office Building.

Damschroder testified in favor of VVPAT technology in 2004, but will issue two warnings today as he did when Ohio adopted its version of this legislation; that paper audits should not be the ballot of record and that they should not go into effect unless federal standards are developed for paper audits first.

The U.S. House Administration Elections Subcommittee invited Damschroder to testify after observing the recount of the 2006 election for Ohio's 15th Congressional District in which incumbent Republican Deborah Pryce defeated Democrat Franklin County Commissioner Mary Jo Kilroy by 1,055 of more than 222,000 votes cast, less than one-half of one percent of the total. A hand recount of 10 percent of the vote showed VVPAT technology correctly tabulated every vote.

Damschroder was named Director of the Franklin County Board of Elections in June 2003, one of the 25 largest elections jurisdictions in the country, with more than 750,000 presently registered voters.

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