

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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News Release

EARLY VOTING STARTS TUESDAY

September 29, 2011 – The Clinton County Board of Elections announced today that early voting for the November 8, 2011 general election will begin on Tuesday, October 4. The office is currently accepting applications for absentee ballots to be voted by mail and will begin sending the ballots to voters on October 4. Voters can continue to request absentee ballots by mail through NOON on Saturday, November 5. In-person early voting at the board's office will also begin on October 4 and continue through Monday, November 7.

As required under Ohio law, to be issued an absentee ballot, voters must complete and submit an *Application for Absent Voter's Ballot* form or provide the board of elections with a written request that must contain required information to be considered valid including the voter's name, registered address, date of birth, signature, date of election for which they are requesting an absentee ballot, the type of election (this will be a general election), a statement declaring the voter is a qualified elector, and one form of identification. Acceptable forms of identification include a current (unexpired) Ohio driver's license number or the last four digits of the voter's social security number. Other acceptable forms of identification include a copy of a current and valid photo identification, current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document (other than a voter registration notification mailed by a board of elections) that shows the voter's name and current address. A copy of any valid military identification, even if it does not include an address, is also acceptable.

Absentee ballot applications can be requested from the board of elections by mail, phone, email to vote@cinci.rr.com, or in person at the board's office. Applications can also be downloaded from the Clinton County Board of Elections website at www.electionsonthe.net/oh/clinton or the Ohio Secretary of State's website at www.ohiosecretaryofstate.gov. Applications can also be obtained from most county libraries and senior centers.

Some county residents will receive absentee applications from organizations looking to increase voter turnout. The board of elections encourages voters to make sure these applications request all of the required information so there is no delay in processing the ballot request.

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“Every election we see these applications sent to voters from groups encouraging early voting and, in most cases, these applications are valid and request all of the required information from the voter,” said Betsy Hart, Clinton County Board of Elections Director. “We ask that voters take the time to make sure they provide all of the required information and to call or email us if they have any questions prior to submitting their application so we can be pro-active in resolving any potential issues.”

Early voting in-person at the board office is offered Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. In-person voting will also be offered when the office has extended hours until 9:00 PM for the registration deadline for this election on Tuesday, October 11. Additionally, the board will also be open on Saturday, November 5 from 9:00 AM to NOON for in-person voting.

Voted absentee ballots that were issued to voters by mail or hand-carry must be returned to the board of elections by 7:30 PM on Tuesday, November 8 if the voter delivers the ballot to the board of elections in-person. Voted absentee ballots returned by mail must be post marked no later than Monday, November 7 to be accepted. However, different deadlines apply for military voters and U.S. citizens living overseas. Information on these deadlines can be found on the both the websites for the board and Ohio Secretary of State, or can be obtained by calling the board office.

For more information or questions about absentee voting, please call the Clinton County Board of Elections at 382-3537. Sample ballots for the November 8, 2011 general election can be viewed on the board’s website at www.electionsonthe.net/oh/clinton.

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