

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Alert

**BOARD OF ELECTIONS IS NOW ACCEPTING
ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS**

FEBRUARY 6, 2008 – The Clinton County Board of Elections is currently accepting absentee applications for the March 4, 2008 primary election. The ballot will be made available to voters starting this Friday, February 8 and absentee applications will be accepted through NOON on Saturday, March 1.

To be issued an absentee ballot, voters must complete an *Application for Absent Voter's Ballot* form (Form No. 11-A) which can be requested through the board of elections by mail, phone, email to vote@cinci.rr.com, or in person at the board's office. Acceptable forms can also be obtained from the Board of Election website at www.electionsonthe.net/oh/clinton and from the Ohio Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.oh.us. Voters are no longer required to have a reason for requesting an absentee ballot as long as their registration is current. All voted absentee ballots must be returned to the board's office by 7:30 PM on Tuesday, March 4, 2008.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3509.03, all absentee ballot applications must contain required information to be considered valid including the voter's name, registered address, birthdate, signature, type of primary election ballot requested (i.e. Democratic, Republican or Nonpartisan/issues only) and date of election for which they are requesting an absentee ballot, a statement declaring the voter is a qualified elector, and one form of identification. Acceptable forms of identification include a current 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.

As in past elections, many organizations, including the Republican and Democratic parties, may distribute self-produced applications directly to their constituents. To help ensure the validity of their absentee application, all voters are strongly encouraged to make sure any absentee application received from an outside organization contains the required information. Any organizations producing absentee applications are strongly encouraged to get approval from the Board of Elections or the Secretary of State before distribution.

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Because this election is a partisan primary, voters are required to specify the type of ballot they are requesting. Choices include Democratic, Republican, or Nonpartisan/issues only. Currently in Ohio, the only recognized party choices are the Democratic and Republican parties.

Voters who do not wish to declare their party preference as Democratic or Republican can request a Nonpartisan/issues only ballot which allows them to vote on questions and issues only. However, in this election, only voters in the Midland and Sabina precincts, and some voters in the Green, Wayne and Wilson precincts will have this option because there are no statewide or countywide issues on the ballot this election.

Samples of all ballots will be posted on the Clinton County Board of Elections website by next week. To view the ballots, go to www.electionsonthe.net/oh/clinton and select the “Sample Ballots” link on the top of the opening page.

For more information or questions about absentee voting, please call the Clinton County Board of Elections at 382-3537. The board office, located in the Clinton County Court House, is open 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday.

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