

**CLINTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**News Release**

**EARLY VOTING STARTS TUESDAY**

**January 27, 2012** – The Clinton County Board of Elections announced today that absentee/early voting for the March 6, 2012 primary election will begin on Tuesday, January 31. The office is currently accepting applications for absentee ballots to be voted by mail and will begin sending the ballots to voters on January 31. Voters can continue to request absentee ballots by mail through NOON on Saturday, March 3.

In-person early voting at the board office will begin on Tuesday, January 31 and continue through Friday, March 2 at 6:00 pm. The normal hours for in-person early voting at the board office are Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. The office will have extended hours until 9:00 pm for the registration deadline for this election on Tuesday, February 6.

As with the 2011 general election, in-person early voting will no longer be permitted on the Saturday (March 3) or Monday (March 5) before the election due to changes required under House Bill 224 which took effect on October 27, 2011. To accommodate the shortened early voting period, the Clinton County Board of Elections will again offer additional voting hours at their office on the following dates:

- Saturday, February 25                      9:00 am to NOON
- Tuesday, February 28                      8:30 am to 6:30 pm
- Thursday, March 1                          8:30 am to 6:30 pm
- Friday, March 2                              8:30 am to 6:00 pm

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As required under Ohio law, to be issued an absentee ballot, voters must first complete and submit an absentee ballot application. Applications can be requested from the board of elections by mail, phone, email to [vote@cinci.rr.com](mailto: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](http://www.electionsonthe.net/oh/clinton), the Ohio Secretary of State's website at [www.ohiosecretaryofstate.gov](http://www.ohiosecretaryofstate.gov), or obtained from most county libraries and senior centers.

Due to this being a presidential election year, it is likely some county voters will receive absentee applications from candidates and/or organizations looking to increase voter turn-out. In most cases, these applications are acceptable as long as they ask the voter to provide all of the required information including their name, registered address, date of birth, signature, date of the election for which the voter is requesting an absentee ballot, the type of election (this election is a primary), a statement declaring the voter is a qualified elector, and one form of acceptable voter identification.

With this election being a primary, voters can request party ballots from Ohio's two major parties, the Democratic and Republican parties, or two of Ohio's minor parties, the Green and Libertarian parties. The other two Ohio minor parties, the Constitution & Socialist parties, did not have any candidates file for office in this election and, as a result, will not participate in this primary. Additionally, because there are two countywide issues on the ballot for this election, voters may also request a non-partisan ballot if they do not wish to affiliate themselves with a political party.

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, March 6 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, March 5 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 March 6, 2012 primary election can be viewed on the board's website at [www.electionsonthe.net/oh/clinton](http://www.electionsonthe.net/oh/clinton).

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