

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**News Release**

**COUNTY VOTERS TO SEE REDUCED  
ABSENTEE BALLOT ENVELOPE SIZES**

**September 14, 2010** – Voters in Clinton County who request an absentee ballot to be received by mail for the November 2, 2010 general election will notice a reduction in the size of the absentee envelopes, as the Clinton County Board of Elections introduces a new format meant to reduce mailing costs for both voters and the county. The size of the ballot will remain the same.

Previous mailing envelopes used to send absentee ballots to voters were 10 x 13 inches in size, while the new envelopes are only 6 1/8 x 9 1/2. The mailing envelope used by voters to mail their absentee ballot back to the Board office is now 6 x 9, compared to the previous envelope size of 9 1/2 x 12 1/2 inches. The size of the identification envelope has also been reduced to fit inside the new mailing envelopes. The identification envelope is used by voters to provide required information to the board and seal the ballot until it is to be tabulated on Election Day.

“Because the new absentee envelopes are much smaller and a different color than the previous ones, we wanted to make sure county voters were aware of the change, especially those who have voted absentee previously, so they will know what to look for in their mailbox,” said Betsy Hart, Clinton County Board of Elections Director. “The old absentee envelopes were large enough to stand-out in a pile of mail, while these new envelopes might not.”

The cost per ballot for mailing absentee ballots to voters with the old absentee envelope was \$1.22, but the new smaller envelope is estimated to cost the Board only \$0.69, resulting in a savings of \$0.53. The estimated cost to voters for sending their ballot back to the board of elections will go from \$1.05 to \$0.44, resulting in a savings to the voter of \$0.61. The absentee voting instructions sent with the voter’s ballot will inform the voter of the exact amount of postage required.

The new design of the absentee envelopes not only allows for savings in postage costs, but also meets the U.S. Postal Service classification for being “automation compatible”, resulting in speedier processing of the envelopes.

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“We are very pleased with the new design of our absentee materials and the reduction in postage costs to both the voter and the county,” said Hart. “As absentee & early voting continues to increase in popularity, this was one way we were able to make the mailing process more efficient and cost effective.”

Clinton County Board of Elections is currently accepting absentee applications for the November 2, 2010 general election. Absentee/early voting will begin on Tuesday, September 28 and continue through 4:00 PM on Monday, November 1. Absentee applications requesting the ballot be mailed to the voter will be accepted through NOON on Saturday, October 30.

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](mailto:vote@cinci.rr.com), or in person at the board's office. Acceptable forms can also be obtained from the 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.sos.state.oh.us](http://www.sos.state.oh.us), or at most libraries and senior centers throughout the county. 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, November 2, 2010.

As required under Ohio law, all absentee ballot applications for the general election must contain required information to be considered valid including the voter's name, registered address, birthdate, 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 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.

Voters are strongly encouraged to make sure any absentee application received from an organization, other than the Clinton County Board of Elections or Ohio Secretary of State, contains all of the required information to help ensure the validity of the application.

“Many county voters will begin receiving absentee applications from political parties and other organizations wanting to increase turn-out, “ said Hart. “We ask voters to pay close attention to these applications to make sure they request all of the required information so there is no delay in processing the voter's absentee request.”

Samples of all ballots are posted on the Clinton County Board of Elections website. To view the ballots, go to [www.electionsonthe.net/oh/clinton](http://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.