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October 25, 2011

William A. Anthony, Director
Nathan Burd, Deputy Director
Franklin County Board of Elections
280 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Tie Vote on Motion to Establish Early In-Person Voting on Sunday, October 23, 2011

Dear Director Anthony and Deputy Director Burd:

As you know, on October 13, 2011, the Franklin County Board of Elections held a special meeting to consider, among other subjects, extending the hours for in-person absentee voting for the November 8, 2011 General Election. The board unanimously agreed to extend the voting hours for several days prior to the election. A tie vote occurred, however, on a motion by Board Member Marinello to establish in-person absentee voting hours for Sunday, October, 23, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Board Members Marinello and Manifold voted in favor of the motion, and Chairman Preisse and Board Member Colley voted against it. The result was a tie vote.

I did not receive materials relevant to the tie vote, including position statements of the board members and transcripts of the board member's October 13 special meeting, until Thursday, October 20, 2011. Since the date in question has passed, there is no longer an issue requiring me to break the tie vote. In the future, I would encourage the board to consider hours of operations questions well in advance of the start of the in-person absent voter balloting period to decide such matters not only to provide yourselves necessary time to submit tie votes for time frames on which you cannot agree but also to ensure a well-informed public who rely on information that is not subject to partisan manipulation.

Sincerely,


Jon Husted