

# **PRESS RELEASE**

(To be released the week of Apr. 30<sup>th</sup>)

From: Franklin County Election Board

Subject: **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE UPCOMING GENERAL PRIMARY ON TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018**

## **What Time Do the Polls Open and Close?**

Polls in Franklin County will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. Registered voters who are in line at 8:00 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

## **Am I still registered to Vote?**

To search for your voter registration status (Active or Inactive), your party affiliation, or your polling place address log onto the SURE Public Portal at [www.pavoterservices.state.pa.us](http://www.pavoterservices.state.pa.us) and click on "Find Voter Registration Status", or call the Voter Registration Office at (717) 261-3886. **Another new service is 2Vote, a voter registration text messaging service. Simply text "PA" to "2Vote" (28683) on a smartphone to receive a link that provides direct access to find your voter registration status.**

## **Where do I go to Vote?**

There are seventy-five (75) polling places in Franklin County and you need to go to the polling place assigned to you based on your residence address. Check your registration card for the polling place location or log onto the SURE Public Portal at [www.pavoterservices.state.pa.us](http://www.pavoterservices.state.pa.us). This website will also provide directions from your home to your polling place.

## **Whom do I vote for?**

Democratic and Republican registered voters will be voting for the following offices: United States Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Representative in Congress (13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District), Senator in the General Assembly (30<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District), Representative in the General Assembly (78<sup>th</sup>, 82<sup>nd</sup>, 89<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> Legislative District), Member of Democratic and Republican State Committee as well as precinct committeepersons for both parties. **A sample ballot is available on the County's website at [www.franklincountypa.gov](http://www.franklincountypa.gov) or may be obtained from the Franklin County Commissioners' Office, 14 North Main Street, Chambersburg beginning on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.**

## **What do I Need to take with me to the Polling Place?**

If you are voting in an election district for the first time, you will need an approved form of identification, either photo or non-photo. No other voter will be asked to present an ID.

## **Is My Polling Place Handicapped Accessible?**

All polling places are considered handicapped accessible.

### **May I receive Assistance in Voting?**

No person is allowed to receive assistance in voting unless his/her registration record indicates the need for assistance or the voter completes and signs a declaration of the need for assistance at the polling place prior to entering the voting booth. A voter may select anyone to assist them EXCEPT: 1) The Judge of Elections; 2) The voter's employer or agent of that employer; or 3) An officer or agent of the voter's union. **Also, each polling place will have a lighted magnifier w/ bifocal lens available to assist those voters who may have trouble reading their ballot.**

### **What does Inactive mean on my voter registration status?**

If your voter registration status states you are "Inactive", you are still eligible to vote but will be asked to complete an Affirmation of Elector form while at the polling place. Inactive means that we mailed you a piece of mail and it came back "Undeliverable" so we need to confirm your address.

### **Are Candidates allowed to Pass Out/Display Campaign Literature at the Polling Place?**

The Election Code states that those individuals or candidates that are campaigning must remain at least ten (10) feet distant from the entrance of the polling place during the progress of the voting.

### **Am I allowed to display or wear any type of attire with a candidate's name on it into the polls?**

**The Franklin County Election Board reminds all voters that NO electioneering is allowed within the polling place. This includes the display of candidate names on buttons, signs, or clothing within the polling place as well as items advocating a political party, etc. Voters will be asked to remove the item or to cover it up before receiving a ballot.**

### **Where can I find information about the Candidates that will be appearing on the Ballot?**

Check the local newspapers or contact either the Franklin County Democratic Committee (717-597-4332) or the Franklin County Republican Party (717-263-7999) for information.

### **Who do I Contact with Questions regarding voting or the election day process?**

All voter registration questions should be directed to the Franklin County Voter Registration Office at (717) 261-3886. All election related questions should be directed to the Franklin County Election Board at (717) 261-3810.

### **What type of voting system do we use in Franklin County?**

For information on voting in Franklin County, you may watch an online demo and/or instructional video on voting an optical scan ballot using a M100 Precinct Counter at the following website – [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) (Voting & Elections; Types of Voting; In Person). We also have an assistive marking device for the blind or visually impaired in each polling place that is called an AutoMark and a demo of this machine can be viewed at this website as well.

### **What is an Overvote and what happens if I overvote my ballot?**

An overvote occurs when an individual indicates on his/her ballot a vote for more candidates than the number of candidates for which an individual is permitted to vote for a particular office. When a voter overvotes for a particular office, all of the votes cast by that voter for the overvoted office are **CANCELLED**. For example, the office of Representative in Congress states to "Vote for ONE". If you mark the oval to the left of two candidates for this office, you have overvoted and neither candidate will receive a vote. This will not cause your entire ballot to be cancelled, just the votes for the office of Representative in Congress. The precinct counter is programmed to detect overvotes and will beep upon the voter scanning in their ballot. The voter will have a choice to either "COUNT AS MARKED" the ballot which allows the scanner to count as much as the ballot as it can or a voter can choose "RETURN". This will cause the ballot to be ejected from the scanner and they may ask to have it spoiled and a new ballot issued.

**What is Undervoting?**

Undervoting should not be confused with overvoting. A voter undervotes when he/she casts fewer votes for a particular office than he/she is permitted to cast. NO BALLOT OR VOTE WILL BE CANCELLED AS A RESULT OF AN UNDERVOTE.

**Where can I view election results?**

Franklin County results will be located on the County's website at [www.franklincountypa.gov](http://www.franklincountypa.gov). To view results from other counties or for all of Pennsylvania, please use the Department of State's website which is [www.electionreturns.state.pa.us](http://www.electionreturns.state.pa.us).

**How does the recent Congressional redistricting affect voters in Franklin County?**

Prior to the redistricting, all of Franklin County resided in the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. As a result of the redistricting done earlier this year, all of Franklin County is now in the 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Voters will see no change except in the number of their Congressional District.

**REMEMBER, VOTING IS A PRIVILEGE AND EVERY VOTE COUNTS!**