



# 85th Anniversary of Woman Suffrage Celebration

*By Melanie Allen, Community Outreach Coordinator*

**W**omen vote today because of the Woman’s Suffrage movement. August 26, 2005 marks the 85th anniversary of the climax of the U.S. Woman’s Suffrage movement—ratification of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Behind the ratification is a seldom told story of how American society and government was forever changed by a relentless 72 year non violent political campaign for equality. Strategically launched, the movement was orchestrated by culturally diverse and courageous women to obtain full citizenship, including the right to vote and to take part in all aspects of our nations government.

The suffrage movement formally began in 1848 at the first Women’s Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, New York. Previously women’s right issues had been raised by women at public meetings and in

the press. The Seneca Falls convention was the first time people came together to work specifically for women’s rights. More than 300 people, mostly women attended. They adopted a “Declaration of Sentiments” modeled after the Declaration of Independence and a set of resolutions that called for women’s educational opportunity, equality under the law, and the right to vote.

The right to vote was considered the most radical of the endorsements and became the primary objective of the campaign. For the next 72 years, thousands of determined women circulated countless petitions and gave suffrage speeches in churches, convention halls, meeting houses and on street corners. They published newspapers, pamphlets and magazines. They were harassed



California Suffrage Parade, 1911. Western women and men lead the nation in establishing equal suffrage

and attacked by mobs, and by the police. Some were thrown in jail and when they protested with hunger strikes they were brutally force-fed.

Finally, just 85 years ago, and by just one vote at the very last minute during a recount in the Tennessee legislature, the 36th and last state needed to pass the 19th amendment, suffragists won their goal—the right to vote! See back page for upcoming election dates.

Source: Women Win The Vote Gazette.

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### Primary Objectives:

- *To provide for fair and efficient elections throughout Hamilton County and to fairly and equitably enforce all rules, regulations and laws that apply to elections.*
- *To inform and educate Hamilton County residents regarding the election procedures and processes that govern and operate elections.*

# Jeff Fischesser Retires From the Board of Elections

*By Diane Goldsmith, Administrator*

**T**hirty-year employee Jeff Fischesser recently celebrated his retirement from the Hamilton County Board of Elections. Jeff was one of the most well liked employees at the Board and will be greatly missed.

He was known for his sense of humor, his positive attitude, his ability to work well with others and his willingness to do what was necessary to get the job done. Jeff's experience at the Board included his most recent supervisory duties in the Registration Department. Jeff's co-workers, friends,

family and many former BOE employees joined him at his favorite hometown establishment in Reading, Hoop's, to wish him a fond farewell. It was a great party and a tribute to Jeff and how much people think of him. He was showered with gifts, memorabilia from his years at the BOE and many complimentary remarks from everyone.

Jeff will, hopefully, look back on his years at the BOE remembering many good times including hundreds of elections. Pam Swafford, BOE Deputy Director, who worked with Jeff for over twenty-three years says, "Jeff not only worked



hard, he played hard. I remember the times Jeff played the accordion in the *Board of Elections Band* for our Christmas parties, the fun we all had playing cards at lunch and his antics at our special get-togethers and parties. Jeff was one of the nicest people ever to work at our office."

# Poll Workers on the Front Line

*By Sally Krisel, Administrator*

**T**o celebrate the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women's Suffrage Movement we want to highlight two of our favorite women poll workers Anna Smith and Martha Crabtree. Anna and Martha continue the voting rights work of their fore sisters.

A life long resident of the West End in Cincinnati, Anna Smith has been a poll worker since 1957 – beginning at a very young age. She has served voters in Hamilton County because she "enjoys working with people."

Anna began voting at age 21 and hasn't missed an election. Her first polling location was the firehouse at the corner of Liberty and Linn Streets in the West End. Anna said, "at that time the ballots were delivered by the police, and

you had to be there to receive them. We worked from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m."

Martha Crabtree was originally from Georgia and came to Cincinnati in the early 1950's to attend graduate school at the College Conservatory of Music. She began her 34-year career at the University of Cincinnati and upon retiring she got involved with the BOE as a poll worker. Martha believes, "being able to vote is a privilege and a responsibility. I wanted to get involved and assist this in process."

In addition to working at their precincts on Election Day, both Anna and Martha are members of the BOE team that assists voters in nursing homes, hospitals and jails who cannot get out to vote. Their contributions to our system of democracy mirror the work that women did 85 years ago. Anyone

interested in becoming a poll worker can contact Gena Howard, 632-7041; Mike Schrader, 632-7042 or Sally Krisel, 632-7089.



Throughout American history women have taken leadership roles; in particular women were at the forefront of the abolitionist movement and fought the battle for women's suffrage. As women worked along side their husbands, brothers and sons during the Civil War to help bring an end to institutional slavery, they also believed that they might be rewarded with the right to vote. However, Congress and the states ratified the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the constitution that abolished slavery, conferred citizenship on African Americans and granted the right to vote to Black men. Women of all races, religions and backgrounds then banded together to work for the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, giving women the right to vote.

# Electronic Voting Update

*By John Williams, Director*

**W**hen I arrived at the Board in January 2004, I could not have imagined the twists and turns that would take place in the selection of our new vote counting system. New laws were passed requiring a voter verifiable paper audit trail. The Secretary of State issued directives effectively limiting county choice of systems. Most recently, vendors and local Boards of Elections filed lawsuits in response.

Our Board has adapted to these changing circumstances. We continue to strive to select the best

possible system for Hamilton County voters, taxpayers and election workers. Although currently in litigation, we are confident that in the coming weeks an agreement will be reached that will allow our Board to choose a system that will meet our high expectations.

The new system will have a paper component and will also allow people to vote independently. We look forward to the selection and to educating the public in the coming months. One of the requirements of the 2002 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) is that once funds are accepted from the federal gov-

ernment, the Board has a responsibility to implement the new system by the first federal election in 2006.

We submitted an education and training plan to the Ohio Secretary of State to help fund our voter education and training program. This will enable us to inform, educate and train voters and poll workers on the new voting equipment that will be implemented in 2006.

For additional information regarding our education and training program contact Joe Mallory, Administrator at 632-7066 or Melanie Allen, Coordinator at 632-7030.

# Cincinnati Mayoral Election—Tue., September 13, 2005

*By Diane Goldsmith, Administrator*

**O**n May 4, 1999, the voters of the City of Cincinnati approved an Amendment to the City's Charter providing for the direct election of Cincinnati's Mayor with the first election to be held November 6, 2001 and every four years thereafter. The Amendment also provides for a non-partisan Mayoral Primary to be held on the first Tuesday after the second Monday in September prior to the November election.

In the Primary Election, voters have the opportunity to vote for one candidate out of a field of candidates who have acquired enough signatures on nominating petitions and have met all of the other requirements necessary to be placed on the ballot. The candidates for the Office of Mayor will be the two candidates from the

Primary Election who receive the highest number of votes.

It should be noted that in the event there are no more than two persons who have filed petitions for the office of Mayor, those persons would then be the candidates in the November Election and the Primary Election would not be held.

This year there are seven candidates who will be on the September 13<sup>th</sup> ballot in the City of Cincinnati Mayoral Primary. *It is important to remember: The ballot language will direct the voter to vote for one candidate. Do not vote for more than one candidate. If you vote for two or more candidates you will be "over voting" and your ballot will not be counted.* The seven candidates running in this year's Mayoral Primary

are as follows: Sylvan Grisco, Justin Jeffre, Mark Mallory, Sandra Queen Noble, David Pepper, Alicia Reece and Charlie Winburn.

The voter registration deadline for the September 13<sup>th</sup> Mayoral Primary is Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions regarding registration, call 632-7017. You may go to any Public Library, Bureau of Motor Vehicles or come to the Board of Elections, 824 Broadway, to register. If you mail your registration form to the Board of Elections, it must be postmarked on or before August 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Remember: you must vote in the precinct in which you reside.* If you have questions regarding your voting location, call 632-7029.

# Precinct Guides Added At Polls To Safeguard Your Vote!

*By Sally Krisel, Administrator*

**I**n Hamilton County during the 2004 Presidential Election, voters in the correct polling location but in the wrong precinct, cast the highest number of uncounted provisional votes.

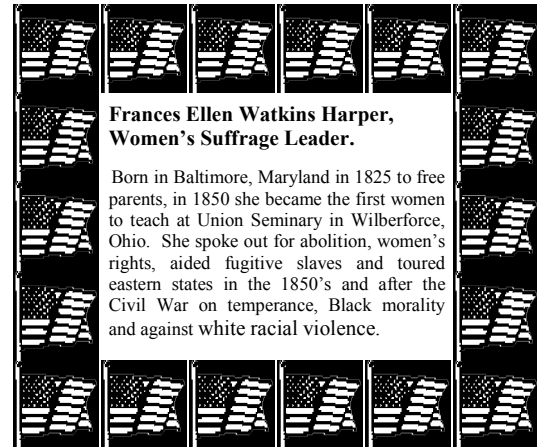
To make sure that “*every vote counts*” the Hamilton County Board of Elections (BOE) created a new worker position at each polling place that has three or more precincts called a Precinct Guide.

The Precinct Guide has a master list of streets for the area and di-

rects each voter to the correct precinct (table) at the polling location. “By instituting Precinct Guides, we hope to eliminate errors at multiple polling locations,” said John Williams, Director.

After experimenting with Precinct Guides at all multiples in the May, 2005, Primary and the June 14, 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District Primary we learned that guides were only needed at polling places that had more than two precincts. “We listened to poll workers and guides to determine where guides were needed and appreciated their input,” said Pam Swafford, Deputy

Director. If you are not sure what precinct you are in, or if you want to check your polling location contact the BOE at 632-7000, or you can access the information on line at [www.hamilton-co.org/boe](http://www.hamilton-co.org/boe).



**Frances Ellen Watkins Harper,  
Women's Suffrage Leader.**

Born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1825 to free parents, in 1850 she became the first woman to teach at Union Seminary in Wilberforce, Ohio. She spoke out for abolition, women's rights, aided fugitive slaves and toured eastern states in the 1850's and after the Civil War on temperance, Black morality and against white racial violence.

## Over-Voting

*By Sherry Poland & Mike Tolbert, Operations  
Department, Election Specialists*

**S**ince the much disputed 2000 Florida Presidential Election over voting or residual voting has been a hot election topic. Simply, over voting means more than the allowed number of candidates was selected by a voter in a single race.

For example, in the City of Cincinnati there may be more than two dozen candidates running for nine Cincinnati City Council seats. For a vote to be valid in the City Council race a voter may select from one to nine candidates.

An over vote occurs when more than nine candidates are chosen. Because ballots are secret and once dropped in the ballot box all selections are final, the Board of Elections cannot know which nine

candidates the voter really wanted to select. Therefore, none of the votes are counted for the City Council race.

An over vote in one race on a ballot does not invalidate correctly cast votes in other contests on that ballot. Also, a voter may choose not to vote for any candidate in a race, and a non vote does not affect the rest of the ballot.

To avoid over voting a voter should carefully read the instructions that precede each set of candidates or issues. Before every section on the ballot are notes such as, (Vote for not more than ONE), (Vote for not more than NINE) or whatever the maximum number of allowable votes are for that particular race. If a voter makes a mistake, he/she can ask the poll workers for another bal-

lot. The poll worker will exchange the incorrect ballot, called a soiled or defaced ballot, for a new one.

A voter has three chances to ensure that he or she has made the correct selections. When finished a voter should not only look at the back of his/her ballot for those infamous chads, but also double check the front of the ballot for potential over votes. If a voter has any questions he/ she should ask the poll workers for assistance before casting their ballot.



# Voter Registration Form Revised

*By Diane Goldsmith, Administrator*

**O**hio Amended Substitute Bill 1 approved December 30, 2004, provides for a revision in the Voter Registration Form.

If a person is paid for providing a registration form, assisting someone in completing the form, or returning a form for processing, the person must sign the registration form and indicate the name of the employer.

Space is now included at the bottom of the form to be used to fulfill this new requirement.

It should be noted that a registration form will not be rejected solely on the basis that a person registering an applicant failed to sign his or her name or failed to name the employer who is employing that person to register an applicant.

This same House Bill now *prohibits* a person from receiving compensation on a fee per signature or fee per volume basis for registering a voter. Further, the compensation for registering voters must be paid solely on the basis of time worked. Whoever violates these provisions is guilty of

election falsification, which is a felony of the fifth degree.

**Remember To:**



***In Your Proper Precinct***

## Data Resources

*By Chuck Wagner, Operations Dept., Information & Technology Technician*

**E**lections run on data or information. Voter data, precinct data, candidate data, issue data and other types of election information all come together to build an election. This data is available to the public, both individuals and organizations, and can be accessed in several ways.

The easiest way to obtain election data is on the World Wide Web. The Board of Elections maintains a dynamic web site with up-to-date information at [www.hamilton-co.org/BOE/](http://www.hamilton-co.org/BOE/). In addition to general information about registering to vote, absentee voting and running for office, the site offers detailed precinct by precinct election results for all elections held in Hamilton County over the past ten years. Voters may also use the

website to find their polling location, to access candidate and issue information as well as ballot information and to view images of actual ballots used in an election.

By contacting the Board of Elections, individuals may obtain registered voter lists, absentee voter lists, street listings with district and precinct information, detailed precinct maps, election results and candidate and issue committee information just to name a few.

Lists are available on paper or electronically. The Board of Elections also provides mailing labels of registered voters and absentee voters on request. To defray the cost of processing data requests, the Board of Elections may charge a fee. Contact the Board offices at 632-7015 or 632-7051 for price and availability of specific data

requests.

The Ohio Secretary of State maintains an extensive website which contains statewide election results and campaign finance data. The Secretary of State's website address is [www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/)

Information regarding the city of Cincinnati elections can be found on their website at [www.cincinnati-oh.gov](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov), click departments at the top of the home page, then click Cincinnati Election Commission.

Field Name	Data Type
StudentId	Text
	Text
	Memo
	Number
	Date/Time
	Currency
	AutoNumber
	Yes/No
	OLE Object
	Hyperlink
	Lookup Wizard...

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 ☆ **Voter Info Tip:** ☆  
 ☆ To Ensure Your Vote ☆  
 ☆ Counts, Vote Only for the ☆  
 ☆ Number of Candidates or ☆  
 ☆ Issues Specified in the In- ☆  
 ☆ struction on Each Ballot ☆  
 ☆ Page ☆  
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**"Promoting Voting"**

We're On The Web !  
[www.hamilton-co.org/boe](http://www.hamilton-co.org/boe)

***Celebrating Democracy***

**August 26<sup>th</sup> - Women's Equality Day**

Sixty-sixth Congress of the United States of America;

At the First Session,

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the nineteenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen.

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**JOINT RESOLUTION**

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution extending the right of suffrage to women.

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*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States.*

"ARTICLE \_\_\_\_\_,

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.  
 "Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

*J. H. Lilett*  
 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Thos. A. Marshall*  
 Vice President of the United States and  
 President of the Senate.

**1920**

**85th Anniversary of the Susan B. Anthony Amendment**

**Important Dates**

<b>Tue. Aug. 2</b>	<b>SPECIAL ELECTION—Only for:</b> <b>2nd Congressional District, City of Mt. Healthy &amp; Three Rivers School District</b>
<b>Tue. Aug. 9</b>	<b><u>Absent Voting Begins</u> for September 13th, Cincinnati Mayoral Non Partisan Primary Election</b>
<b>Mon. Aug. 15</b>	<b><u>Voter Registration Deadline</u> For September 13th Cincinnati Mayoral Non Partisan Primary Election</b>
<b>Tue. Sept. 13</b>	<b>CINCINNATI MAYORAL NON PARTISAN PRIMARY ELECTION</b>
<b>Tue. Oct. 4</b>	<b><u>Absentee Voting Begins</u> for November 8th General Election</b>
<b>Tue. Oct. 11</b>	<b><u>Voter Registration Deadline</u> For November 8th General Election</b>
<b>Tue. Nov. 8</b>	<b>GENERAL ELECTION—County Wide</b>