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For Immediate Release
October 1, 2016

(Columbus) Late Friday afternoon, officials at the Franklin County Board of Elections were made aware of an article that was making the rounds on the internet. The article published on the Christian Times Newspaper website states that election officials in Franklin County, Ohio are reportedly stumped over what one maintenance worker found in a dilapidated downtown Columbus warehouse.

According to an unnamed source in the article, a maintenance worker inspecting a dilapidated warehouse allegedly found one dozen sealed ballot boxes filled with thousands of votes for the upcoming November 8, 2016 General Election. The article asserts that the “likely goal was to slip the fake ballot boxes in with the real ballot boxes when they went to official election judges on November 8th” The story included a photo that purports to be the maintenance worker with the fake ballot boxes.

The Franklin County Board of Elections immediately began a preliminary investigation to get to the bottom of this and push back on the validity of this article that appears to be absolutely fake. The investigation led to the discovery that the photo in the Christian Time Newspaper article was a photo lifted from a November 2015 online article from the Birmingham Post, Birmingham, England. The photo in the Christian Times Newspaper article is altered only slightly from the photo in the Birmingham Post article. **Links to both articles are included at end of this release.**

Absentee voting in Ohio and Franklin County does not begin until Wednesday October 12, 2016. The only ballots that have been printed and mailed are for military and citizens living outside the United States. Not one single ballot has been mailed to anyone in Franklin County, Ohio, or a registered Franklin County resident that has requested a ballot be mailed to another address within the United States.

Claims falsely challenging the integrity of the elections administration are taken seriously as public confidence in the electoral process is important. The Franklin County Board of Elections has numerous ballot and election security measures in place.

- The computer system used to create the ballot and tabulate results is not connected to an outside network and thus is not vulnerable to outside intrusion.
- Each ballot storage vault is maintained under a double lock requiring a Democrat and Republican to simultaneously unlock.

- A double lock system is used to secure the Vote Center and must be unlocked by a Democrat and Republican simultaneously.
- Both parties are required to sign a chain of custody for all mailed ballots delivered to or picked up from the USPS.
- Access to sensitive ballot storage areas are secured by keys that are maintained in storage containers requiring palm scan access.
- Votes are recorded in three ways (1) in a hard drive within the voting machine, (2) on the removable voting machine data card, and (3) on a paper tape inside the voting machine.
- When the vote is counted, it's done in a public setting which can be observed by parties, any campaign, the media, and the public.

The Franklin County Board of Elections mission statement:

Our mission here at the Franklin County Board of Elections is to provide election services, information and education to the residents of Franklin County so they can exercise their right to vote and have confidence that the elections are fair, impartial, and accurate.

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<http://christiantimesnewspaper.com/breaking-tens-of-thousands-of-fraudulent-clinton-votes-found-in-ohio-warehouse/>

<http://www.birminghampost.co.uk/news/news-opinion/new-birmingham-city-council-leader-10505360>