



SPOTLIGHT ON....EARLY VOTING

Excerpted from the Ohio Secretary of State's e-newsletter 9-28-2010.

September 28, 2010 was first day of [early absentee voting](#). You can request and receive an absentee ballot so that you can vote in the November General Election between now and November 2. And, yes, "Golden Week" is still in the law, so [voter registration](#) ends on, Tuesday, October 4, 2010. So if you're not registered, you can get registered, and for convenience, you can apply to [vote absentee at the same time](#). If you're at the board of elections when you do all this, you can vote right away. If you're mailing it all in, make sure your registration form is post marked by Tuesday, October 4th, and once the board of elections processes your registration and absentee ballot application, you'll get your ballot in the mail. Depending on the county you're in, your board of elections may pay your postage to mail your ballot back in - yes, it's legal. [A federal judge just said so yesterday](#).

[Military and overseas voters](#) are able to [get their ballots](#) this year by email, thanks to a new federal law passed in late 2009 and used for the first time this election. Whatever you do, if you're voting by mail, make sure your ballot is postmarked by the day **before** the election - that is November 1st. If you vote in person, Election Day is November 2nd, and the polls are open from 6:30 a.m. To 7:30 p.m.

Ohio voters with access to a computer can research the candidates running for office in 2010 with the Secretary of State's [Judicial and Candidate Voter Guide for Ohio](#). This online guide helps Ohio voters educate themselves about all federal and statewide candidates, all judicial candidates, and all candidates running for the Ohio General Assembly and the State Board of Education.

Candidates were invited to submit their picture, educational and work experience, a web link to their campaign website and a personal statement of what they want to tell voters. [Select your county](#) to see the information on the candidates on your ballot. The guide is nonpartisan, but some candidates chose not to participate. If they made that choice, they're listed with a "No Profile Submitted" status.

I encourage you to research the candidates running using the [Judicial and Candidate Voter Guide for Ohio](#), and to vote.