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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ohio Secretary of State Visits Hamilton County BOE and Demos New Voting Equipment

New Way to Cast your Ballot when Early Voting at the BOE!

Ohio Secretary of State, Frank LaRose, will be visiting the Hamilton County Board of Elections this afternoon to demo Hamilton County's new voting system. In August of 2018, the Hamilton County Board of Elections selected Hart InterCivic's Verity Voting System as Hamilton County's next generation voting system. The county has been successfully using Hart InterCivic's HVS voting system since 2006. While the board had every confidence in the former voting system, it had approached the end of its life cycle. In order to be proactive and have a new system in place before the former system's end of life, board staff began the process of evaluating new voting systems in 2017. This evaluation included mock elections held at the board office in January of 2018. Many members of the public and poll workers attended the mock election and provided feedback. Hart InterCivic's Verity System was a unanimous bipartisan choice.

"Voters will continue to cast their votes on a paper ballot. The system functions the same way but with a new look, new technology, and new security features", said Director Sherry Poland. "I like to compare this process to trading in an old reliable car for a new, upgraded model."

"We are pleased to announce during Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month that voters who require assistance will find a new and improved disabled access option so they may cast their ballots independently", said Deputy Director Sally Krisel.

The new system will first be used in the May 7, 2019 Primary/Special Election. There are six jurisdictions holding elections on May 7th: City of Harrison (Republican Primary only), City of Sharonville Ward 4 (Republican Primary only), City of Springdale, Lockland Local and Milford Exempted Village school districts, and Little Miami Joint Fire and Rescue District. The system will be rolled out countywide in November of 2019.

Demonstration models are currently set up in our reception area for voters to view and test. The BOE will hold demos around the county leading up to the November 2019 General Election.

In-Person Early Voting: Due to a recent change in Ohio law, voters who provide ID when appearing to vote early at the BOE may now scan their ballot, similar to Election Day voting at the polling places. This new procedure will speed up the early voting process.

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