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January 21, 2009

The Honorable James R. Scott
318 Plymouth Dr.
Bay Village, Ohio 44140

Dear Councilperson Scott:

Please accept this letter relative to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections' (CCBOE) plan to reduce precincts for most municipalities in Cuyahoga County. The CCBOE has been mandated by the Cuyahoga County Office of Budget and Management to reduce our 2009 budget by 11.5%. The most effective and prudent way to attain this \$2.7 million reduction, while also enhancing operation efficiency, is to reduce and restructure the precincts in most municipalities in the county. The Cuyahoga County Commissioners are in full support of this decision and have encouraged the CCBOE to take this action in order to have the maximum impact on the budget reduction.

The CCBOE will complete this precinct reduction project in two phases. First, those municipalities that have elections in May 2009 will be the first to be changed. The second phase will include municipalities that have elections in August, September, and November, 2009. A copy of the 2009 election schedule is attached for your review. Also, please know that not all municipalities will experience a reduction in precincts and change will be dependent upon current configurations and number of voters.

As a result of this initiative, your city's expenses for municipal and special elections will be reduced. Your municipality will be charged for fewer precincts and lower operational costs. For example, fewer precincts will reduce the number of poll workers and other election day personnel that the CCBOE is required to hire. Upon completion of the precinct reduction process, the CCBOE will send you your city's estimated chargeable election expenses for 2009, which will be deducted from your 2010 annual real property tax settlement through the Cuyahoga County Auditor's office.

If your municipality has an election in May, you will find attached to this correspondence the proposed precinct plan for your city and a copy of the current precinct configuration for comparative purposes. The CCBOE has attempted to reduce the number of precincts while keeping an average of 1,150 voters or less. While drawing the precinct boundaries, the CCBOE has made every attempt to accommodate the unique dynamics of each community. For those cities that have later elections, we will forward proposed changes to you in late Spring, 2009.

Please know that no wards or other subdivision boundaries will change as a result of the precinct realignment. However, for those communities that have a reduction of precincts, the result will be fewer precinct committee persons for those jurisdictions. All current precinct committee persons will serve the remainder of their term until the next election in which their respective political party's precinct committee persons are elected. (The next election for Democratic precinct committee persons is in May of 2010. The next election of Republican precinct committee persons is in March of 2012.)

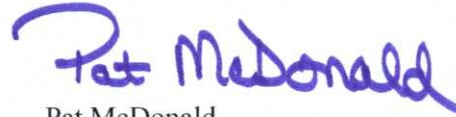
Upon the completion of the precinct restructuring process, the CCBOE will conduct the appropriate voter education for those affected precincts where changes have been made or where voting location changes are required as a result.

Please review the enclosed maps and if you have any questions relative to the proposed boundaries, please call us directly as soon as possible at 216-443-6485 (Jane Platten). Your guidance is important as we proceed with this project and we welcome your input as we work to finalize these changes. Thank you.

Cordially,



Jane M. Platten
Director



Pat McDonald
Deputy Director