



## IMPORTANCE OF UNIVERSAL ABSENTEE VOTING

### Why does universal absentee voting increase voter registration?

- **Voters are busy.** Over 1/3 of registered voters who do not vote attribute their inaction to being out of town, away from home, too busy, or having a conflicting schedule. If states adopt universal absentee voting, more eligible citizens will be able to vote.
- **Many voters cannot wait in hours long lines.** The distressing scenes of people waiting hours to vote in 2004 are infamous. If states adopt universal absentee voting, fewer people will be deterred by long waits to vote. The people who vote absentee won't need to stand in line at all, and more people voting early will mean shorter Election Day lines for those choosing to vote in person on Election Day.

### How would universal absentee voting improve election administration?

- **Less strain on Election Day resources.** If states expand absentee voting, fewer voters will wait until Election Day to vote.
- **Better resolution of problems.** Problems and questions will be identified prior to Election Day, when permanent election workers can address them thoughtfully, rather than leaving them to the temporary election workers struggling with throngs of Election Day voters.

### How popular is universal absentee voting?

- **Voters are enthusiastic.** In the 2000 election, almost 1/4 of California voters used absentee voting.
- **Many states use it.** In the 2004 general election, 25 states permitted universal absentee voting.
- **Ohio's Secretary of State supports it.** "No-fault absentee balloting is a major step forward in sustaining Ohio's record voter turnout," Mr. Blackwell said. "Providing Ohioans with an expanded menu of more convenient voting options will further encourage voter participation and help eliminate needless delays at our polling places."

## How safe are absentee votes?

- **States already protect absentee voters.** Many state statutes governing election offenses include a provision specifically protecting absentee ballots and criminalizing tampering with the absentee ballot system.