MORSEcode

Precinct Election Officials (PEO) Division Newsletter
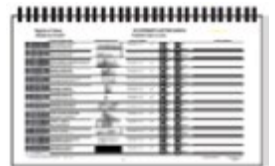
Franklin County Board of Elections

MARCH 2024

GENERAL INFORMATION

Franklin County Launches Two Initiatives For March 19, 2024, Primary

The Franklin County Board of Elections (BOE) created a new position called **Election Support Specialist (ESS)** and deployed 25 ESSs to 75 voting locations during the November 2023 General Election, as part of a successful pilot program. An ESS, who receives more than 30 hours of training and replaces the former Day Driver, provides immediate expertise and guidance to poll workers at voting locations during Monday Setup and on Election Day. As enthusiasm builds over the ESS position, BOE Director Antone White shares, "the Election Support Specialist program is another step in professionalizing our election operations and providing ultimate support for our poll workers on Election Day."

With the March 19, 2024, Primary, the BOE will assign an ESS to each voting location. Learn more about this exciting program by visiting the ESS table at Practice Makes Perfect.

And… **Touchpads**, Franklin County's new Electronic Poll Books from Tenex Software Solutions, which were piloted during the 2023 General Election in the BOE's Early Vote Center, Ohio Union, and Thompson Recreation Center, received great reviews and are greenlighted for use in all locations for the March 19 Primary. BOE Deputy Director David Payne champions Franklin County's use of Touchpads. "Our poll workers and voters will truly appreciate their simplicity and efficiency."

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GOOD TO KNOW

Online training for Roster Judges for the March 19 Primary covers Signature Poll Book (SPB) procedures as a backup to Touchpad and fulfills the Ohio Secretary of State's SPB training requirement. Find the SPB in the BUMPer Bag. If the Touchpad printers do not work properly, use the pads of Authority To Vote Slips and Requests For Paper Ballots found in the Voting Location Manager (VLM) Supply Bag.

Brush up on **Morse Code** and decipher the important message hidden throughout the newsletter. Find the answer on the next page.

⭐ VOTING LOCATION MANAGER

PEO Payroll for Monday Setup and Election Day is tracked using Touchpad. Names of poll workers assigned to your location are pre-loaded on your Touchpads. To add a poll worker's name for payroll, select "ADD WORKER," and follow the prompts. Payroll steps are on page 34 of the PEO Training Manual for the March 19 Primary.

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ROSTER JUDGE

Login and logout on each Touchpad you use to process voters on Election Day. To login, select "START" and enter your First Name and Last Name on the login screen. Your VLM will provide you with a password required to advance to the next screen. When you are ready to go for break or lunch, logout by selecting "DEVICE INFO / LOGOUT" from the drop-down menu, and choosing "LOGOUT TEMPORARILY."

VOTING MACHINE JUDGE

Attach a Scanner to every tabletop Ballot Marker in your location. Authority to Vote (ATV) Slips printed from Touchpads have a bar code that you scan to bring up a voter's correct ballot on the Ballot Marker. Put the blank Ballot Card in the Ballot Marker BEFORE you scan the ATV Slip.

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PAPER BALLOT JUDGE

Compare the voter's name and address on the yellow Provisional Ballot Envelope to what is on the Reason For Paper Ballot Slip (RFPB). If they match, use the Ballot Style and Precinct Identifier on the RFPB Slip to complete the bottom of the envelope. If they do not match, use the Yellow Street Guide to find the voter's correct Ballot Style and Precinct Identifier; complete the Provisional Ballot Envelope using that information.

PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS

A voter presents an EXPIRED Ohio Driver's License as a photo ID for voting on Election Day:
Inform the voter that the expired Ohio Driver's License cannot be used for voting, and ask the voter for another photo ID from the list of VALID FORMS OF ID on page 68 of the PEO Training Manual for the March 19 Primary.

The voter is unable to provide a valid photo ID for voting on Election Day:
Follow the steps under the heading IF THE VOTER IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE VALID PHOTO ID OR PROVIDES EXPIRED ID on page 85 of the PEO Training Manual.

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DATES TO REMEMBER
2024

January 31
In-person PEO Training begins

February 20
Last day to register to vote

February 21
Absentee Voting by Mail begins

Early In-person Voting begins at BOE

March 12
Absentee Ballot Applications must be received by BOE by 8:30 pm

March 17
Early In-person Voting ends at BOE

March 18
Absentee Ballots mailed to BOE must be postmarked by this date

March 19
Presidential Primary Election Day

Absentee Ballots personally delivered to BOE must be received by 7:30 pm

March 23
Last day for BOE to receive Absentee Ballots postmarked on or before March 18

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can a PEO serve in any voting location for an election where the PEO is a candidate on the ballot for a precinct or precincts in that location?

No, because R.C. 3501.15 prohibits a PEO from serving in any voting location for an election where the PEO is a candidate on the ballot for a precinct or precincts in that location, except if the PEO is an unopposed candidate for a political party county central committee.

Can a PEO serve in any voting location for an election where the PEO's family member or business associate is a candidate for elected office?

No, a PEO cannot serve in any voting location for an election where the PEO's family member or business associate is a candidate for elected office in a precinct or precincts in that location, unless the candidate is unopposed, including no write-in candidates for the office.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose and his office recently celebrated a year of @VerifyOhio, a digital initiative that educates Ohioans on two core functions of his office: elections and entrepreneurship. The account, heralded as a trusted source of accurate information, can be found on major platforms: X, fka Twitter; Facebook; and Instagram. The initiative battles misinformation by fact-checking myths, addressing common questions, and preparing Ohioans for upcoming elections.

"The challenges presented by widespread misinformation on the internet persist, and this has been especially detrimental to trust in the elections process," Secretary LaRose remarked. "My office has had success in combatting these concerns and @VerifyOhio has been a powerful tool. For Ohioans with questions or concerns seeking quick, accurate answers, @VerifyOhio is the place to go."

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SOMETHING IMPRESSIVE!

Meet the 2024 Franklin County BOE graduates from the Ohio Registered Election Official (OREO) Certification Program (from left): Deborah Curry, 2022 OREO graduate; Monica DeBrock; Erin Gibbons; Adam Slane; Katrina McReynolds; Tara Miller-Gnann; Carla Patton; and Gretchen James, not pictured.

The graduation ceremony took place in January at the Ohio Association of Election Officials (OAEO) Winter Conference. OAEO partners with Ohio State to create a unique continuing education (CE) and certification program for Ohio's election officials. Every six months, election officials may take CE courses geared toward election administration, and become certified upon completing four core courses and four elective courses. To keep certification current, graduates must complete a graduate class every three years.

KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE A POLL WORKER?

If so, please have that person call us at 614-525-5393 or go to the Franklin County Board of Elections' website: vote.franklincountyohio.gov, and click on the MENU button. On the next screen, click on "Be a Poll Worker" (under POLL WORKER) for the online application. Or scan the QR code here with your smartphone camera for the online application. .--. .- .. -- .-. -.-- -.--

FranklinCounty
Board of Elections

Morse Code Hidden In Banner: PEO
Morse Code Hidden In Newsletter: LOOK FORWARD TO ELECTION SUPPORT SPECIALISTS AND TOUCHPADS FOR THE MARCH 19, 2024, PRIMARY!