



OUR MISSION

"To recruit, train, and place the best poll workers who are committed to serving voters with excellence and civic pride."

Decipher important Morse Code message hidden throughout newsletter; find answer on next page.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SAY "NOPERS" TO OPERS!

OPERS No Longer Required For PEOs Whose Only Public Service Is As Poll Workers



With House Bill 96 (H.B. 96) becoming law on July 1, 2025, PEOs, whose only public service during a calendar year is working the polls, are no longer public employees for purposes of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS).

What does this change in the law mean for you if your only public service is working as a poll worker for elections beginning in 2025? Well, you will not have to keep your PEO pay under \$600 (or not to exceed \$1,000 when there are more than two elections) for the calendar year to avoid triggering OPERS requirements, such as withholding 10% of Election Day pay for each election as an OPERS contribution. And if you are an OPERS retiree, your working only as a poll worker will not impact your retirement benefits and access to OPERS health care program.

Effective September 30, 2025, H.B. 96 excludes from the definition of "public employee," under Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 145.012(A)(5), a person "[w]ho is appointed to serve as a precinct election official . . . and received compensation for that service . . . during a calendar year."

Before September 30, 2025, a PEO would be a public employee if the PEO earned \$600 or more during a calendar year with two elections (or \$1000 or more in a calendar year in which there were more than two elections).

Now, with H.B. 96, the limited services of PEOs as poll workers during a calendar year no longer trigger OPERS requirements, regardless of PEO pay amounts. Go to <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-145.012> to see the full amended version of R.C. 145.012(A)(5).

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IN MEMORY OF:



Kim Marinello

With deep sorrow, we inform you of the passing of Kimberly "Kim" Marinello on July 18, 2025. Kim served as a Democratic Board Member with the Franklin County Board of Elections (BOE) since March 2004. "Kim helped lead the Board through unprecedented change," shares fellow BOE Board Member Michael Sexton, which included technological advancements with electronic poll books, ballot markers, and ballot counters. Kim also served as a member of the Ohio Association of Election Officials since March 2004. In 2009, she graduated from the National Association of Election Officials, Election Center, earning the distinguished Certified Elections Registration Administrator (CERA) certification. Kim was a dedicated public servant, committed to Franklin County voters, and is remembered with affection, respect, and gratitude.



Jim Reinmann

We also bid a heartfelt farewell to James "Jim" Reinmann who passed on August 4, 2025. Jim served the BOE as a PEO (in all poll worker positions) since 2004, and as a trainer of poll workers from 2006 to 2020. Jim embraced commitment to service in various aspects of his life. He served honorably in the Korean War, was significantly involved in the Knights of Columbus Victory Council, was a longtime member of the Serra Club, served as a goal judge for the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (OSU Women's Hockey), and was a trusted hole marshal for Hole 14 at the Memorial Golf Tournament. Jim is deeply missed.

In-person PEO Training for the November 4, 2025, General Election will occur at Three Crosswoods Center, located at 200 E. Campus View Blvd. in Columbus.

★ FROM THE (DEPUTY) DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



David Payne,
Deputy Director
Franklin County Board of Elections

AMERICA



On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary (U.S. Semiquincentennial) of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Franklin County, established shortly after Ohio became a state in 1803, was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin, a founding father and one of the most famous signers of the Declaration of Independence.

The quote "A Republic, if you can keep it," attributed to Benjamin Franklin, is a compelling reminder of the responsibility of ordinary citizens to preserve a representative government, including by their participating in the democratic process through voting. While Franklin's words do not specifically address the mechanisms of elections and voting, his message emphasizes the importance of an engaged citizenry in upholding the principles of a republic.

As election officials and poll workers, you are on the front line to make certain that Franklin County residents can exercise their right to vote and have confidence that our elections are fair, impartial, and accurate. On behalf of the Franklin County Board, I thank you for keeping our republic strong.

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★ OHIO SOS

In recognition of National Poll Worker Recruitment Day, held on August 12, Ohio Secretary of State (SOS) Frank LaRose put out a call to duty—asking Ohioans to consider becoming poll workers for the November 4, 2025, General Election. Read about SOS poll worker program initiatives at: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/media-center/press-releases/2025/2025-08-12/>

★ SOMETHING EDUCATIONAL



Director White (left) and
PEO Manager Bulen

In June, Franklin County BOE Director Antone White, MBA, CERA; and PEO Manager Steve Bulen, CERA; along with Julie Maurer, PhD, Lead Research Manager with Ohio Education Research Center, presented Ohio Registered Election Official (OREO) Course: "Poll Workers: Recruiting, Maintaining, Training, and Managing," during the Ohio SOS 2025 Annual Conference. The course was sponsored by the Ohio Association of Election Officials (OAE), which is a bipartisan organization that represents Ohio's 88 county boards of elections and their staff members.

OAE, in association with John Glenn College of Public Affairs, certifies election professionals who complete a series of continuing education courses through the OREO Program on topics that ensure fair and accurate elections. Director White, Manager Bulen, and Dr. Maurer covered a broad range of practices for effectively recruiting enough poll workers for an election; training and motivating them (including by understanding how adults learn and methods to assess and encourage success); managing poll workers; and assuring they return for future elections. Attendees of the course enhanced their learning by participating in group activities and sharing what works in their counties.

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★ 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 BOE website for the online application:

<https://electionwork.franklincountyohio.gov/TED/ElectionForcePortal/Landing.aspx>

Or scan the QR code here with your smartphone camera for the online application.



DATES TO REMEMBER

2025

Sept. 26 – Oct. 26

In-person PEO
Training Occurs

October 6

Last Day to
Register to Vote

October 7

Absentee Voting
by Mail Begins

Early In-person
Voting Begins at BOE

October 28

Absentee Ballot
Applications
Must Be Received
by BOE by 8:30 pm

October 30

Location Liaison
Sessions Occur

Oct. 31 – Nov. 2

Practice Makes Perfect
for PEOs Occurs

November 2

Early In-person Voting
Ends at BOE

November 3

Absentee Ballots
Mailed to BOE Must Be
Postmarked by this Date

November 4

General Election Day

Absentee Ballots
Personally Delivered
to BOE Must Be
Received by 7:30 pm

November 8

Last Day for BOE
to Receive
Absentee Ballots
(Returned by U.S. Mail)
Postmarked by Nov. 3

Morse Code hidden in banner: PEO; Morse Code hidden in newsletter: Big OPERS changes for PEOs in 2025!