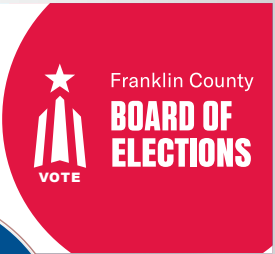


MORSEcode

FEBRUARY 2025 Precinct Election Officials (PEO) Division Newsletter



OUR MISSION

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

In Memory of Susan Wyant



With great sadness, we inform you of the passing of Susan Wyant in December. Susan dedicated much of her career to public service, including more than ten years with the Franklin County BOE, PEO Division, where she recruited and placed PEOs in voting locations for 27 elections. As a Placement Team Member, Susan was highly regarded by PEOs whom she assigned to work elections. Susan was greatly respected at the BOE, and especially esteemed by her colleagues in the PEO Division for her sensitivity, professionalism, extensive knowledge, and excellent insight, which she readily shared with others—sometimes humorously and other times robustly. Susan was a friend and mentor to many of us in the PEO Division. We miss her and remember her fondly.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Our Pay Increase Un-Expectedly Gave Rise to Some New Developments

As of 2022, state law mandates that if a poll worker earns \$600 or more in a calendar year, while serving as a PEO, 10% of the PEO's Election Day pay (**Election Day pay is \$133.72**) for each election will be withheld as an Ohio Public Employee Retirement System (**OPERS**) contribution. An exception occurs in a year with more than two elections, which results in an increase of the threshold up to \$1,000 that a PEO can earn in a calendar year, for the withholding of the OPERS contribution to be triggered. Because the years 2022 and 2023 each had three elections, 2024 with two elections was the first year where this OPERS law impacted Franklin County poll workers. A recent pay raise gave PEOs the opportunity to earn over \$300 per election if the PEO receives compensation for all the various undertakings of serving as a PEO.

We recognize challenges that arise with this OPERS withholding requirement, especially for OPERS members' retirement benefits and access to health care, and our team is committed to limiting future impact for as many PEOs as possible. Talk with your PEO Placement Team Member about ways for you to work both elections in 2025 and stay under \$600, particularly if you are a Voting Location Manager (VLM) or Deputy.

Here We *grow* Again!



Real estate forecasts are in for the Franklin County Board of Elections (BOE), with favorable growing conditions expected! Rain or shine, plans are in the works to expand office space to move PEO Training eventually to 1700 Morse Rd.

PEO Training for the May 6, 2025, Primary Election will still occur at **Three Crosswoods Center**, located at 200 E. Campus View Blvd.

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VOTING LOCATION MANAGER

With a Touchpad, be sure to clock out all your PEO Team prior to selecting the "Close the Election" option. The end of Election Day can be hectic with lots of closing procedures; however, accurate clock-out times ensure that payroll details are correct.

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ROSTER JUDGE

If a Wrong Location Voter is redirected by another voting location to your voting location, and you think the voter should vote at the first location, consult your VLM before mistakenly sending the voter back to the first location. During the November 2024 General Election, a 91-year-old voter was sent back and forth between two voting locations when the second location erred in concluding that the voter should have remained at the first location.

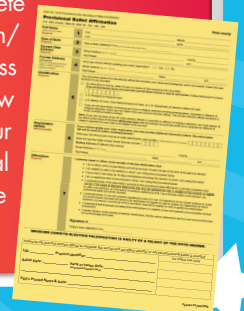
MACHINE JUDGE

Online Training for Machine Judges covers Monday Night set up, Election Day opening/closing procedures, and tearing down/packing up voting equipment. The only way you can receive this information is by completing the required Online Training.

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PAPER BALLOT JUDGE

By completing the yellow Provisional Envelope (Form 12-B), a voter updates their registration information and does not also need to complete a Voter Registration/Change of Address Form. Be sure to follow the instructions in your PEO Training Manual and outlined on the envelope.





★ FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



Antone White, Director
Franklin County Board of Elections

As I reflect on the 2024 presidential election, two words come to mind: Thank you! Thank you for spending hours to complete the required training to master your skills. Thank you for setting up your polling locations on Monday night so that we can open on time for voters on Tuesday morning. Thank you for working long hours on Election Day to make sure that every vote is cast—especially during polarizing times. Being a poll worker can be tough, but despite challenges, you persevere. I look ahead to the elections in 2025 and know there is much work to do. While we prepare for full countywide elections on May 6 and November 4, my hope is that you—our trusted election leaders—again step up to ensure that we administer fair, impartial, and accurate elections here in Franklin County. On behalf of our board members and the election board staff, thank you for your service!



★ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why doesn't Franklin County offer "split shifts" for PEOs on Election Day?

The following excerpt is from the Ohio Secretary of State's (SOS) "Frequently Asked Questions":

How long do I work on Election Day?

Poll workers report around 5:30 am to ready the polls for 6:30 am opening and stay until after the polls close at 7:30 pm. There are breaks and you are not required to stand on your feet all day. There are no partial shifts available.

You can access the entire SOS's "Frequently Asked Questions" with the following link:

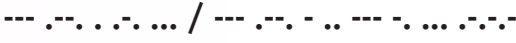
<https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/toolkit/pollworker/mini/heroes/pollworkerfaq.pdf>

Bottom line... we are prohibited by the SOS from offering split shifts to PEOs.

★ SOMETHING EDUCATIONAL

Many of us at the Franklin County BOE attended the 75th Ohio Association of Election Officials (OAE) Winter Conference, which took place January 8 - 10, at the Columbus Downtown Hilton. OAE is a bipartisan organization that represents Ohio's 88 county BOEs and their staff members, and which: (1) promotes fair, accurate, and reliable elections through education of its members; (2) advocates for sound election policies; and (3) communicates accurate information about administration of elections.

At the conference, Election Support Specialist Coordinator Laurie Gatton (with the PEO Division of the Franklin County BOE) was honored as a 2025 graduate of the Ohio Registered Election Official (OREO) Certification Program. OREO offers continuing education courses geared toward election administration for election officials while they are attending OAEO summer and winter conferences. OAEO partners with The Ohio State University – John Glenn College of Public Affairs for the program, and certifies officials who complete a series of eight courses.



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



March 27
In-person PEO Training begins

April 7
Last day to register to vote

April 8
Absentee Voting by Mail begins

Early In-person Voting begins at BOE

April 29
Absentee Ballot Applications must be received by BOE by 8:30 pm

May 1 – May 4
Practice Makes Perfect for PEOs occurs

May 4
Early In-person Voting ends at BOE

May 5
Absentee Ballots mailed to BOE must be postmarked by this date

May 6
Primary Election Day

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

May 10
Last day for BOE to receive Absentee Ballots returned by U.S. mail and postmarked by May 5

Morse Code hidden in banner: PEO; Morse Code hidden in newsletter: OUR PEO TEAM CAN HELP WITH OPERS OPTIONS.

