

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.

Increase in Pay for Franklin County PEOs

Great news! Beginning with the August 8 Special Election, Franklin County PEOs are getting a well-deserved pay increase. "Bi-partisan Poll Workers serve as the backbone of our Election Day operation, and we appreciate the many Democrats, Republicans, and Independent voters that sign up for each election," Franklin County Board of Elections Director Antone White announced on June 15. "We hope that this pay increase will help attract additional applicants who want to serve the voters of Franklin County, while also earning some extra money."

NEW PAY	Voting Location Managers	Voting Location Deputies	Roster, Paper Ballot, & Machine Judges
Monday Setup	\$90.00	\$60.00	\$55.00
In-person Class	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$60.00
Practice Makes Perfect (PMP)	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00

Election Day pay for PEOs is \$133.72, Ride-along pay is \$20.00, and PMP pay for Location Liaisons is \$30.00.

Poll Worker Pay History in Franklin County

If you had been a poll worker in Franklin County years ago, what would you have earned for working an election? Thanks to our friends at the Reference Department of the Upper Arlington Public Library, here is what we learned from the Columbus Dispatch archives:

In 1935, when a new law permitted increase in the number of poll workers (called "precinct booth workers" or "election booth workers" at the time), from six to ten workers for each precinct, you would have been paid a maximum of \$6.00 for 12 hours to work an election. You also would have received 5 cents per mile to return ballots to the Board of Elections (BOE) after an election. On election day, you would have worked in a portable metal voting booth with small cubicles heated by oil lamps and tiny coal stoves, until electricity replaced the lamps and stoves in 1941.

In 1947, perhaps you would have been eager to hear about a new pay scale for booth workers of \$8.00 a day to commence the following year.

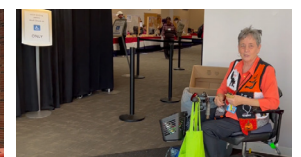
For the 1954 May Primary, you might have attended a BOE class to learn how to operate, or to refresh your familiarity with, voting machines to be used in precincts for seven city wards, after the machines were first tested in a single ward three years earlier. If you had been a booth worker in a machine polling place for the May election, you would have earned \$12.00 a day, or \$4.00 more as a presiding judge. If you had been a booth worker in a paper ballot place for the election, you would have earned \$11.00 a day, or \$2.00 more as a presiding judge. With the increasing use of voting machines for elections during the 1950s, as a poll worker, you likely would have found yourself working in a fire house, school, church, or public auditorium to accommodate the bulky machines.

In 1974, your pay for working the polls would have climbed from \$26.60 to \$35.00; ten years later, your pay would have jumped to \$55.00 for an election. By 1993, you would have earned \$70.00 as a poll worker judge, or \$85.00 as a presiding judge, for an election, and you would have received an extra \$5.00 for attending a training.

What will be said years from now about our current increase in PEO pay?

U.S. Election Assistance Commission Recognizes Franklin County BOE

On May 23, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) announced its 2022 National Clearinghouse Awards (known as the "Clearies") to celebrate innovative efforts and recognize best practices of state and local election offices in election administration. The EAC, which was established by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and serves as a clearinghouse for election administration information, recognized the Franklin County BOE as a Winner for "Improving Accessibility for Voters with Disabilities," for the BOE's creating a designated "Americans with Disabilities Act" Station in the Early Vote Center to better serve voters with mobility issues. The EAC also recognized the BOE with an Honorable Mention for "Best Practices in Recruiting, Retaining, and Training Workers," for the BOE's creating a "Poll Worker Recruitment" Station at the exit of the Early Vote Center.





Continuing Education Credits For Poll Workers

If you are an Ohio attorney who completes PEO training required by the Franklin County BOE and works as a PEO in Franklin County on election day, can you earn continuing legal education (CLE) credits for that service?

Yes, you can! The Supreme Court of Ohio (SCO) now permanently permits an Ohio attorney to earn 4 CLE credit hours for completing PEO training required by a county BOE in Ohio and working a full day as a PEO for that BOE on election day, with a maximum of 12 credit hours for service as a PEO during the attorney's biennial compliance period. To receive the CLE credits, sign in and provide your attorney registration number during PEO training and on election day. The Ohio Secretary of State's Office will verify with the BOE your service as a PEO, and report attendance to the Commission on Continuing Legal Education for the SCO.

What about continuing education (CE) credits for realtors, counselors and social workers, and accountants, who train and work as PEOs for an election?

The Ohio Real Estate Commission has approved 3 credit hours of Core Law for any real estate licensee who serves as an election day poll worker for the August 8 Special Election or the November 7 General Election. If you are an election day poll worker who holds an Ohio real estate license and seeks CE credits, download a PEO CE certificate through the Ohio Division of Real Estate. On election day, have the Voting Location Manager complete and sign the certificate to certify that you served as a PEO. Submit a copy of the completed certificate to the Ohio Division of Real Estate at webreal@com.ohio.gov. Contact the Division for further information.

Counselors and social workers should contact the Ohio Counselor and Social Worker Board, and accountants should contact the Accountancy Board of Ohio, to check eligibility for CE credits for serving as PEOs for an election.

The form is titled "Continuing Education credit for working as a Precinct Election Official". It includes sections for attorneys, social workers, and accountants to provide their LID# and registration numbers. It also has a section for the Voting Location Manager to complete and sign. The form is green and white.

DATES TO REMEMBER

2023

June 26
In-person PEO training begins

July 10
Last day to register to vote

July 11
Absentee voting by mail begins

Early in-person voting begins at BOE

August 1
Absentee ballot applications must be received by BOE by 8:30 pm

August 6
Early in-person voting ends at BOE

August 7
Absentee ballots mailed to BOE must be postmarked by this date

August 8
Special Election

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

August 12
Last day for BOE to receive absentee ballots postmarked on or before August 7



PEO Training Manual Used for Training Poll Workers in Nepal

Would you be surprised to learn that the PEO Training Manual of the Franklin County BOE was used as a resource for elections in a country with an emerging democracy on the other side of the world? Well, during BOE Deputy Director David Payne's recent trip to Kathmandu, Nepal, through the Professional Fellows Program (PFP) for Governance and Society, South and Central Asia, he learned just that! A few years ago, David had given the PEO Training Manual to Nepali delegates when they visited the BOE, through Columbus' International Visitors Council, which hosts emerging world leaders who meet with their professional counterparts and visit governmental agencies in Central Ohio as part of the Council's efforts to strengthen democratic ideals. While David was in Nepal, he attended a meeting of the National Election Observation Committee (NEOC), which is a coalition of human rights groups and civil societies, and a founding member of the Asian Network for Free Elections. During the meeting, which was for the release of NEOC's February 2023 Election Observation Mission Report, David discovered that the PEO Training Manual—which he had given to the Nepali delegates at the BOE—was used by the Nepali Government as a guide to train poll workers for the 2022 Nepalese elections.

The PFP for Governance and Society is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and administered by World Learning, a nonprofit educational institution that offers international exchange programs to build relationships among people across diverse cultures and backgrounds. David was one of a delegation of six American professionals to travel to Nepal for civil society and governance-focused events to allow for exchange of ideas, strategies, and best practices to support principles of good governance.



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: vote.franklincountyohio.gov for the online application. Or scan the QR code here with your smartphone camera for the online application.

