

# MORSEcode

Precinct Election Officials (PEO) Division Newsletter



MARCH 2023

## OUR MISSION

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

## GOOD TO KNOW

- Under House Bill 458, high school students no longer need to be seniors to serve as PEOs through Youth At The Booth (YAB). To participate in the program, a student still must be at least 17 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Franklin County resident. The student must apply through YAB at the student's school and, if the student is appointed by the Franklin County Board of Elections (BOE), may serve as a PEO. You can look forward to meeting and working with these exceptional students in upcoming elections.
- Brush up on **Morse Code** and decipher the important message hidden throughout the newsletter. The answer is on the bottom of the next page.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### OHIO ELECTION LAW CHANGES

The new year ushered in election law changes with House Bill 458. On January 6, Gov. Mike DeWine signed into law new state voting requirements passed in 2022 by the Ohio legislature. Beginning with the May Primary/Special Election, a voter must show a valid photo ID to cast a Regular Ballot. A valid ID is one of the following documents that includes the person's name and photograph, and is not expired:

- an Ohio driver's license, State of Ohio ID card, or interim ID form issued by the Ohio BMV;
- a U.S. passport or passport card; or
- a U.S. military ID card, Ohio National Guard ID card, or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ID card.

#### What if a person does not have a valid photo ID on Election Day?

A voter without a valid photo ID may still vote a Provisional Ballot. A provisional voter will now have until the fourth day after Election Day to seek to cure a ballot.

If a voter has a religious objection to being photographed, that person may vote provisionally and will be required to sign an **Affidavit of Religious Objection (Form No. 12-O)**, prescribed by the Ohio Secretary of State.

A voter can no longer vote a Regular Ballot by using a current utility bill, bank or savings and loan statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter's name and address. In early April, Ohioans 17 years of age or older will be eligible for free state photo ID cards from the BMV. These state photo ID cards will be available at deputy registrar license agencies in Ohio.

New photo ID requirements and other procedures will be addressed in your PEO training and manual.

## VOTING LOCATION MANAGER

When a voter declares a religious exemption to the photo ID requirement on Election Day, you will need to ask the voter to complete the Affidavit of Religious Objection (Form No. 12-O). The form requires the voter to: (1) print the voter's first and last name; (2) declare under penalty of election falsification that the voter does not have a photo ID because of a sincere religious objection to being photographed; (3) provide the voter's date of birth; (4) add the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number; and (5) sign and date the form. You will then affix the form to a properly completed Provisional Envelope (Form No. 12-B), and handwrite "RE" on the upper right corner of the envelope.

## ROSTER JUDGE



When a voter appears with a photo ID at the polling location, you will need to check that the name on the ID is an acceptable match for the name in the Signature Poll Book. The voter's photo ID does not need to include the individual's current address.

## VOTING MACHINE JUDGE

Expect changes with Ballot Markers and Kiosks for the May Primary/Special Election. When booting up machines on Tuesday, you will enter an Election Code. Also, the screens will show multiple races rather than a single race at a time, and a new way to cancel ballots will reduce risk that voters will cancel ballot cards mistakenly. Ballot Markers and Kiosks will no longer have USB Sticks.

## PAPER BALLOT JUDGE

A voter without a valid photo ID in the voter's possession on Election Day may cast a Provisional Ballot. You will give the voter a Provisional Ballot Notice (Form No. 12-H) that explains what is required of the voter for the provisional vote to be eligible to be counted. The voter must then present a valid photo ID to the BOE within four days after Election Day.

## ★ PROBLEMS &amp; SOLUTIONS

**NONE of the Ballot Markers are working correctly:**

Vote regular voters on Pre-printed Ballots at the Regular Ballot Paper Table. Next, call the PEO Hotline.

**NONE of the Ballot Counters are working correctly:**

Follow the steps outlined on the tabbed packet in the VLM Supply Bag: "STEPS TO USE THE BALLOT COUNTER AUXILIARY BIN TO COLLECT MARKED BALLOTS." Next, call the PEO Hotline.

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**May a PEO open a Voted Ballot Bag to retrieve a ballot after the envelope containing the ballot is deposited in the bag?**

No! Once the envelope containing a voter's ballot is placed in the Voted Ballot Bag, that envelope MUST remain secure in the bag until the ballots are returned to the BOE on Election Night.

After a voter completes a ballot and puts it in the appropriate envelope, that envelope MUST be placed in the Voted Ballot Bag immediately. NEVER set aside a voted ballot and envelope to give the voter a chance to go home and return with a valid ID.

**Has the BOE considered split-shifts for PEOs on Election Day?**

Yes, and that is a great suggestion offered over the years. But we believe the challenges that come with split-shifts (i.e., needing to recruit twice as many PEOs, having chain of custody concerns for materials and equipment, and determining which PEOs stay all day if others do not show up in the afternoon on Election Day) far outweigh the benefits.

## SECRETARY OF STATE

**Secretary of State Frank LaRose Testifies About Voter Photo ID Legislation**

On January 23, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose offered testimony to Pennsylvania legislators about voter photo ID legislation. He testified to the recent launching of "a brand-new Public Integrity Division whose mission is to address allegations of voter fraud [and] suppression, among other tasks designed to strengthen the confidence of voters in our elections."

Secretary LaRose testified further before these lawmakers that "Ohio leaders in our General Assembly took action. Last month, they passed legislation requiring photo identification to vote, and they did it the right way. In order to ensure no one will be left out, they are making state-issued photo identification available for free. Additionally, exceptions were made for religious reasons, and no additional identification requirements were made for our successful and secure vote-by-mail system." Watch Secretary LaRose's full testimony and read a transcript of his testimony at [www.ohiosos.gov](http://www.ohiosos.gov).

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**April 3**

Last day to register to vote

**April 4**

Absentee voting by mail begins

Early in-person voting begins

**April 22**

In-person PEO training begins

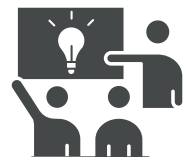
**May 2**

Primary/Special Election Day

## WHAT ELSE?

Seven new trainers join the BOE's PEO Division. During interviews, candidates demonstrated lessons of their choosing, such as how to play the ukulele, catalogue a library book, or throw a shot put. Chris Binder, PEO Training Coordinator, explains that "trainers have experience as VLMs or VLDs, are good communicators, and are passionate about the election process. Trainers must command the attention of a classroom of PEOs and ensure that they are ready for Election Day."

Who knows! You might have one of these new trainers in your class.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## ★ SUM-THING INTERESTING...

Here are SUM interesting statistics from Franklin County about PEOs for the November 2022 General Election. How many questions can you answer correctly? Find the answers on the bottom of this page.

**(1) What is the correct SUM of in-person training classes held for all PEOs?**

- (a) 320 training classes (b) 380 training classes (c) 405 training classes

**(2) What is the correct SUM of students who participated in Youth At The Booth (YAB)?**

- (a) 140 YAB students (b) 311 YAB students (c) 615 YAB students

**(3) What is the correct SUM of PEOs who worked on Election Day?**

- (a) 3,105 PEOs (b) 4,303 PEOs (c) 4,523 PEOs

Answers for SUM-THING INTERESTING... statistics: (1)(c); (2)(b); and (3)(b)

**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](http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov) and click on the Poll Worker link (toward the bottom of the screen) for the online application "REQUEST TO BE A POLL WORKER." Or, scan the QR code here with a cell phone camera for the online application.

