

BOARD MEMBERS: Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman ★ Bradley K. Sinnott ★ Kimberly E. Marinello ★ Gregory K. Haas

DIRECTOR: William A. Anthony, Jr., DEPUTY DIRECTOR: Dana Walch

For Immediate Release
Feb. 20, 2014

Presidential Study Recognizes Franklin County Poll Worker Recruiting Success

(Columbus) A recent study ordered by President Barack Obama to make elections more efficient has recognized the Franklin County Board of Elections for successfully recruiting poll workers under the Champions of Democracy program.

The American Voting Experience, a report from the Presidential Commission on Election Administration, calls poll worker recruitment a “persistent challenge” due to heavy reliance on retirees to work on Election Day and cites Champions of Democracy as a remedy.

The program was created in 2004 to draw poll workers from the public and private workforce in Franklin County. It has recruited and trained hundreds thanks to employers willing to give some of their best employees a day off to work the polls. A number of national studies show why they are needed. The average age of an American poll worker is 72 with one in three leaving the job every year because they no longer want to work or have died.

“We need more than 4,000 poll workers for primary and general elections in Franklin County,” board of elections Director Bill Anthony said. “Champions of Democracy makes it possible to fill those openings with people who are comfortable working with our electronic voting machines and other technology because they’re working with computers in their full time job every day.”

“Champions of Democracy is an appeal to civic duty and our partners view that as seriously as we do,” added Deputy Director Dana Walch. “They know that an election is only successful when poll workers do their jobs correctly and they’ve been doing that for the past ten years. They deserve the recognition they’ve received from this presidential study.”

The board of elections is searching for private employers, government agencies and other organizations willing to supply poll workers for the May 6 primary election. A three hour training course is required and may be possible at your work site. If interested, please contact us at the following numbers; (614) 525-5353 for private employers and (614) 525-3106 for all others.

Contact:
Ben Piscitelli
Public Information Officer
(614) 525-5351
bjpiscit@franklincountyohio.gov