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Franklin County Board of Elections Wins Two National Awards

(Columbus) The Franklin County Board of Elections received national recognition today for an ongoing effort to train poll workers and for a software application to ensure polling places are accessible for voters with disabilities.

The Election Center, an organization that trains and certifies election administrators nationwide, presented its “ Professional Practices” award to Franklin County for “Practice Makes Perfect,” a review of instruction for poll workers and for “ADA Survey,” an interactive software program that helps Franklin County comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The awards were presented at the Election Center’s 31st annual national conference in Houston, Texas.

Steve Bulen, precinct election official manager, accepted the award for “Practice Makes Perfect.” The program is conducted on the weekend prior to an election to give poll workers the option to review what they learned in earlier mandatory training. The most recent session was attended by nearly 40 percent of the poll workers hired for the 2015 May primary.

Dennis Landuyt, assistant manager of Election Technology, accepted the award for “ADA Survey,” an application he created so that Franklin County can gather information on hundreds of polling places to demonstrate steps needed to make the locations ADA compliant. The application allows users to take photos and print instructions for board employees to deliver ADA items where needed on Election Day.

The Election Center conducts a Professional Practices contest annually to identify the best practices of local election officials and share them with election professionals nationwide.

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