

BOARD MEMBERS: Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman ★ Bradley K. Sinnott, Esq. ★ Kimberly E. Marinello ★ Michael E. Sexton

Edward J. Leonard, DIRECTOR David R. Payne, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release
May 8, 2017

Media Contact:
Aaron Sellers, Public Information Officer
614-525-5351
amseller@vote.franklincountyohio.gov

Board of Elections Shares ADA App with Iowa Secretary of State's Office

(Columbus) The Franklin County Board of Elections is excited to announce that it has shared its award-winning computer application with the Iowa Secretary of State's office. The Iowa Secretary of State's office thanked both the Franklin County Board of Elections and Ohio Secretary of State's office for their generosity in sharing the application with them. The Iowa effort to improve voter accessibility with the help of the Franklin County app has been recognized as a finalist for the 2017 Ideas Award by the National Association of Secretaries of State.

The Franklin County application was such a success that it was nominated and won The Election Center 2015 Professional Practices Independence Award-Voting Accessibility Innovation. The software app will ensure that polling places comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All of Iowa's ninety-nine county's will use the ADA checklist program app on computer tablets to guarantee voter accessibility.

"We are quite proud of the work that our team here at the Board of Elections has done to develop and share this software tool that is designed to improve the accessibility of our voting locations to those with physical disabilities," said Ed Leonard, Director of the Board of Elections (BOE).

Election officials can use the app to determine if polling places have required accessibility features to be compliant with the ADA. The app provides a checklist that officials can navigate through to survey the polling places. The checklist focuses on the accessibility of polling places, parking, entrances, and voting areas. Photos can be uploaded onto the tablet that will document how signage and others ADA compliant steps are taken to enhance the voting location's accessibility. Precinct Officials are then provided photos from the app showing them how to step up their voting location on Election Day to ensure ADA compliance.

In 2015, the BOE worked with the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division to make sure that all voting locations in Franklin County were ADA compliant. Members of the BOE warehouse team wanted to integrate the SOS checklist on a computer tablet to make the process quicker. The Board's

IT staff was able to write a program incorporating the checklist into an application that was loaded onto tablets to quickly and efficiently check voting locations.

For more information on Iowa rolling out the computer tablet ADA app see release from Iowa Secretary of State at https://sos.iowa.gov/news/2017_04_4.html

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