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Lawyers Can Now Earn Continuing Legal Education Credit by Answering Our Call to Serve

(Columbus) This week the Ohio Supreme Court issued an order allowing Ohio attorneys to receive Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit for serving as precinct election officials for the upcoming Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020 General Election. The Franklin County Board of Elections is looking to employ upwards of 5,000 poll workers to staff the county's roughly 330 voting locations.

"It's fantastic news that lawyers can receive CLE credit for serving their community as poll workers - it's a win-win", said Director Ed Leonard, who is an attorney. The BOE is always looking to recruit new professionals to step up and serve their community and this is a perfect opportunity. Poll workers play a vital role in running elections here in Franklin County and across Ohio.

During this unprecedented national pandemic, recruitment of poll workers has become even more challenging. Poll workers serve largely out of a sense of civic duty. That recognition led to this season's theme of a Call to Serve. "If ever there was a time to serve as a poll worker, that time is now," said Director Leonard.

Deputy Director David Payne said, "We would like to thank Secretary of State LaRose's Office, the Ohio Supreme Court and the Ohio Association of Elections Officials for their role in making this a reality." Wednesday's order by the Ohio Supreme Court makes a temporary rule change to allow any Ohio attorney who serves as a poll worker eligible to receive CLE credits.

This order makes Ohio the first state in the nation to take this innovative approach to strengthening elections. Lawyers who are interested in serving can sign up to be a poll worker at <http://VoteOhio.gov/DefendDemocracy>.

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