

MORSEcode

MAY 2026 Precinct Election Officials (PEO) Division Newsletter



Franklin County
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Decipher important Morse Code message hidden throughout newsletter; find answer on next page.

OUR MISSION

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

Partisan Primaries: Time to "Party Up"!

Ohioans must vote in a Partisan Primary Election to affiliate with a political party. A registered voter is designated as Unaffiliated until the voter selects a party ballot and votes in a Partisan Primary. If a voter does not affiliate with a political party, the voter may request an issues-only ballot if there is one in the voter's precinct.



If a voter does NOT vote in two CONSECUTIVE Partisan Primaries within two years, that voter's party status is automatically designated as Unaffiliated.

Party designation matters if a poll worker wishes to serve as a Voting Location Manager (VLM), because a VLM must be registered as a Democratic or Republican voter.

Election Support Specialists Are Here to Help . . . and to Stay.

Remember when the Board of Elections (BOE) launched an initiative for the 2023 General Election with a pilot program involving Election Support Specialists (ESSs) who received over 30 hours of training? For that election, the BOE deployed 25 ESSs to 75 voting locations to assist poll workers. Fast forward to the May 5, 2026, Primary: the BOE is now deploying 93 ESSs to 298 voting locations! ESSs still undergo extensive training and provide support to poll workers. Here is what some VLMs say when asked if they would request their same ESSs for future elections:

"YES YES YES. She is part of our team."

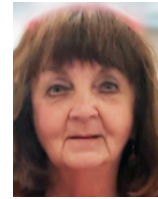
"Yes. The ESS is an essential resource."

"Yes. He has been very helpful to us and very knowledgeable of the voting process and the equipment."



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In Memory of Marsha Hinton

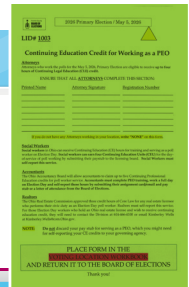


We are deeply saddened to say goodbye to our dear friend and colleague Marsha Hinton who passed peacefully at home with her family on February 12, 2026. Marsha joined the BOE PEO Division in 2005, where she became the longest-serving Placement Team Member, having recruited and placed PEOs in voting locations for 46 elections. We at the BOE know how much Marsha cherished her family, but she unhesitatingly treated us as "family" by spoiling us with treats (often homemade), frequently including us in celebrations and festivities, and simply being sensitive to us as individuals. Marsha truly never knew a stranger and is fondly remembered for her gentle spirit and unwavering kindness, good sense, and quick wit, which often took the form of a well-timed quip. We miss her tremendously.

VOTING LOCATION MANAGER

When closing the voting location on Election Day, retrieve the green "Continuing Education Credit for Working as a PEO" form and put it in the Location Workbook even if the form is devoid of names and signatures of PEOs who are attorneys. Each form has a LID #. Return the form with the supplies to the BOE so we can accurately report to the Secretary of State's Office PEOs who may receive Continuing Legal Education credits.

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ROSTER JUDGE

When you scan a voter's Ohio-issued Photo ID on the Touchpad, if you encounter an Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) mismatch alert (information in the voter registration system does not match BMV ID information), immediately inform the VLM or VLD of the BMV mismatch, and one of them will complete the processing of the voter.

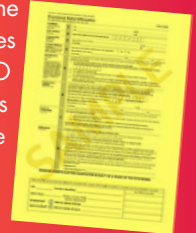
MACHINE JUDGE

Avoid jams! Take the ATV Slip and blank Ballot Card from a regular voter and insert the Ballot Card into the Ballot Marker or Kiosk. Be careful not to inadvertently scan the ATV Slip. **Wait 5 seconds** for the ballot selection to appear on-screen. Now scan the ATV Slip with the external scanner on the Ballot Marker or the internal scanner on the Kiosk.



PAPER BALLOT JUDGE

The yellow Provisional Ballot Envelope (Form 12-B) has important changes, including a Proof of Citizenship requirement in item 7 of the Affirmation. Be sure to follow the instructions on pages 184 – 188 of your PEO Training Manual and as outlined in item 7 on the envelope.



★ FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



Antone White, Director
Franklin County Board of Elections

As we prepare for the upcoming election, I highlight two key parts of your role: helping voters understand the importance of a Primary Election and ensuring they receive accurate information.

In Ohio, voters' primary ballot choices help determine their party affiliation for the next two-year election cycle. Some voters may have questions at check-in, and your ability to clearly explain ballot options—while remaining neutral—is essential to a seamless voting experience.

We also navigate an environment where election misinformation can spread quickly. Voters may arrive with incorrect information about voting procedures, eligibility, or election integrity. In these moments, your role is not to debate, but to provide calm, factual guidance based on your training. When needed, rely on your VLM, Election Support Specialist, or PEO Hotline to obtain more accurate information.

Thank you for your professionalism, patience, and commitment to serving voters. Your work is critical to maintaining fair, impartial, and accurate elections in Franklin County.

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March 30 – May 3
In-person PEO
Training Occurs

April 6
Last Day to
Register to Vote

April 7
Absentee Voting
by Mail Begins

Early In-person
Voting Begins at BOE

April 28
Absentee Ballot
Applications
Must Be Received
by BOE by 8:30 pm

May 2 – May 3
Practice Makes Perfect
For VLMs and
VLDs Occurs

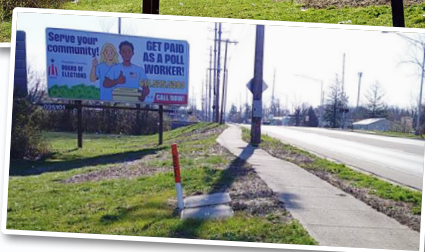
May 3
Early In-person Voting
Ends at BOE

May 5
Primary Election Day

Absentee Ballots Must
Be Received by BOE
by 7:30 pm

★ SOMETHING'S UP . . . JUST SOUTH OF GREENLEAF!

The Franklin County BOE secured 2 billboards near the Greenleaf community to recruit poll workers. Drivers near Harrisburg Pike received a grand invitation in the sky to work the May 5th Primary.



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★ **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 BOE website for the online application:

<https://electionwork.franklincountyohio.gov/TED/ElectionForcePortal/Landing.aspx>

Or scan the QR code here with your smartphone camera for the online application.



Morse Code hidden in banner: PEO; Morse Code hidden in newsletter: PICK A POLITICAL PARTY IN THE PARTISAN PRIMARY ELECTION!

