

# THE POLL WATCHER

AN ONLINE NEWSLETTER FOR PRECINCT ELECTION OFFICIALS

## FROM THE DIRECTORS – *Paulette and Bill*

Welcome to the first edition of our online Newsletter which will be sent to our Poll Workers via email and posted on our website. In a continuing effort to reduce costs, we will be discontinuing our mailed version of our Newsletter. Any worker who does not have access to email or a computer may pick up a hard copy of the newsletter in the board office. Each Newsletter will be posted on our website under the poll worker recruitment section, and copies will also be available at our training classes.

Besides the cost-savings, we also feel this is a more efficient and timely manner in which to communicate with our more than 600 workers. A last minute change in law or procedure can be relayed to all of you within seconds. Please let us know if there's an email address you'd like added to our database.

We would appreciate your feedback on subjects you'd like to have addressed in this newsletter. Provisional Voting and the Rights of Observers will be covered in depth in a future issue of the newsletter.

New poll workers are needed. In each Election cycle, approximately 10% of our worker database is removed due to various circumstances. Another 25% or so usually cancel for that specific Election for personal reasons. And with so many of our workers migrating to a warmer climate for the November and March Elections, we usually need a base of twice the number of required workers from which to draw. A new poll worker session is scheduled for Wednesday October 12<sup>th</sup> in the upper classroom at the Longview Center from 6:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. If you know someone who would be willing to train, please call our office or give them the information to attend the class. It's not necessary to register in advance. Recruiting a sufficient number of workers for the March 2012 Election will be especially challenging. Please let us know as soon as possible if you will not be available to work the polls for the March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Presidential Primary Election.



## Richland County Board of Elections

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GENERAL ELECTION DAY  
NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2011

*Thank you for your service  
to our community!*



HB 194 will not be in effect for the November 8, 2011 General Election

## HOUSE BILL 194

The Election Reform Bill, HB 194 was passed in July 2011, but will not take effect by the November Election. A Referendum was recently filed which puts a stay on the bill. This means the bill does not become law and will be on the ballot in November of 2012 for a vote of the people. Therefore, our office is preparing for the November Election under the former legal guidelines.

Many changes were incorporated into the bill, including reducing the number of absentee voting days, revising poll worker duties and responsibilities, changing observer and challenge procedures, and revising provisional and curbside voting procedures. This bill also changed the Primary date in Presidential Elections to May, but since it will not be in effect due to the Referendum – **the 2012 Primary date will be Tuesday March 6, 2012** – barring another unforeseen surprise! Training classes for the 2012 Primary will be scheduled for the middle of February.

The bottom line is that no major changes will be in effect for poll workers to learn for the November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 General Election. Our training classes will be similar to the past couple of years. In the first half of our training classes, we will review the procedures and laws pertinent to a General Election – emphasizing the proper way to process Provisional Voters. The second half of the class will be focused on the Electronic Poll Book procedures/review.

Open practice is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. As always, techs will be available to assist in setting up TSX's, running reports, closing the polls, EP's, etc.

### Calendar of Events

- Tues. Oct. 4 – Absentee Voting Starts
- Tues. Oct. 11 – Deadline to Register to Vote
- Wed. Oct. 12 - New Worker Training
- Oct. 15 – 26 - Regular Worker Classes
- Thurs Oct. 27 – New PJ Class
- Mon. Oct. 31 – Open Practice
- Tues. Nov. 1 – Open Practice
- Mon. Nov. 7 – Deadline to vote absentee

Please note:

Make-up classes will be scheduled as needed. If there aren't enough people to justify holding a make-up class, either Paulette or Bill can review the training material on a one-on-one basis, if needed, at your convenience.

ABSENTEE REQUESTS, CANDIDATE AND ISSUE LISTS, POLLING PLACE LOCATIONS, AND MORE ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.RICHLANDCOUNTYOH.US/BOE](http://WWW.RICHLANDCOUNTYOH.US/BOE)

*"You don't have to hold a position in order to be a leader." - Author Unknown*



Re-Pack Printer Bags to ensure adequate protection of the housing unit and components in transport.

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES & REMINDERS



## COMMON SENSE

### SNIPPETS

Be Polite and Helpful to the Voters

Do not keep food or drink on front tables around voting records and equipment

Allow children to watch parents vote

Please try to attend the set-up on Monday

Be on time Tuesday morning! Set several alarms!

Dress appropriately for the public and the weather

Limit the chatter – it is a distraction to the voter trying to concentrate as well as to your co-workers.

- Observers may be present in each precinct
- Poll workers do not ask party affiliation in a General
- 17 year old voters may not vote in a General
- No cell phones or electronic devices allowed in polling place, except for poll workers, rovers and media
- Media may enter the polling place if they're not disruptive to the voting process
- Write-Ins are certified for the City of Ontario only
- Your Rover name and cell numbers will be distributed to the PJ on pick-up day
- Call 911 if a voter or poll worker becomes ill, or if you have an irate person at your polling location
- Revert to creating voter access cards on your encoder if your Electronic Poll Book fails and contact our office or your Rover immediately
- Provisionals must be voted on Paper Ballots and placed in gray envelope
- The Poll Worker signs "ENV" in the EP for a Curbside voter which denotes that the voter has signed the Gold Envelope
- Poll Workers may not discuss candidates or issues, or politics in general, at the polls
- Anyone of their choice may assist a voter, except a Candidate, their Boss, or their Union Representative. If Poll Workers assist the voter, you must have one worker from each party present.

**BY LAW, THE COUNTY SHERIFF IS ON CALL FOR IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY**

*"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."*

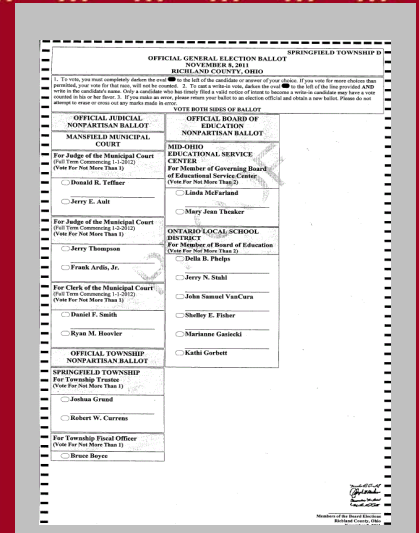
- Harry S. Truman

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## *Paper Ballots & Splits*

Paper Ballots are issued for Provisional Voters, Curbside Voters and any Voter who requests to vote on paper instead of the electronic units. Provisionals require a grey envelope, curbside voters are issued a gold envelope, and voters requesting a paper ballot to vote a regular ballot do not need an envelope (they sign in the EP).

Some precincts may have splits within the precinct between 2 or more school districts, house districts, township districts, etc. If your precinct has a split, you must be conscience of this fact when issuing a paper ballot. The bundles of paper ballots are clearly marked with split information. You need to notice the voter's split information when you bring up the voter's info on the EP in order to issue them the correct paper ballot. If they're voting on the TSX, the EP encodes the proper split on the voter access card.



## **RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

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Please visit the Secretary of State's Online Training  
[www.ohioelectiontraining.com](http://www.ohioelectiontraining.com)