

# THE POLL WATCHER

AN ONLINE NEWSLETTER FOR PRECINCT ELECTION OFFICIALS

## FROM THE DIRECTORS

Our thanks to all of you who worked in the November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 General Election. We especially appreciate all those who filled in for cancellations at the last minute. On Monday November 7<sup>th</sup>, we had 16 poll workers cancel for various reasons. We were definitely scrambling to get replacements for all those precincts. It was necessary to have workers travel from one end of the county to the other in order to have four workers assigned to each precinct, but we were successful thanks to the commitment and dedication of our substitute worker base. With a mid-winter Primary Date of March 6<sup>th</sup>, we will need to recruit more precinct officials to cover our "snowbirds" who travel to a warmer climate for the winter. We have scheduled new poll worker classes for Wednesday February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012. If you know of anyone who would be willing to attend this class and work on March 6<sup>th</sup>, please let us know and we'll contact them.

Many of our precincts and polling places within the City of Mansfield, the City of Shelby and the City of Ontario will be changing due to the redistricting necessitated by the new census figures. A few township and village polling places will also change. Please bear with us as we make this conversion in our databases. It will be very confusing and difficult to ensure that our poll workers are assigned to the same precinct name and same polling place. As with any large data conversion, we expect there will be problems. The assignment letters for the March Election will go out around the first part of February. If you feel you are assigned incorrectly, let us know. If we are able to correct it for the March Election, we will; however, it may not be possible to make the changes until the next election cycle. We ask for your patience and cooperation during this challenging period.

Finally it's Official! There will be only one Primary in 2012 – on March 6<sup>th</sup>. It's possible we'll have a Special Election in August if any school district or other taxing authority files the necessary paperwork. The General Election will be held on Tuesday November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Hopefully you had a great Holiday Season and experience a prosperous New Year!  
*- Paulette and Bill*



## Richland County Board of Elections

1495 W. LONGVIEW AVE.  
SUITE 101  
MANSFIELD, OHIO 44906

Phone 419.774.5530  
Fax 419.774.5534

[boardofelections@richlandcountyoh.us](mailto:boardofelections@richlandcountyoh.us)  
[www.richlandcountyoh.us/boe](http://www.richlandcountyoh.us/boe)

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY  
MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2012

**Deadline to register to vote in the March  
2012 Primary is Monday February 6<sup>th</sup>.**

### Recognized Political Parties for the 2012 Primary

- Americans Elect Party\*
- Constitutional Party
- Democratic Party
- Green Party
- Libertarian Party
- Republican Party
- Socialist Party

\*Americans Elect Party is a recognized minor party in Ohio but will not be conducting a Primary Election in our state.

### Calendar of Events

Tues. Jan. 31 – Absentee Voting starts

Mon. Feb. 6 – Voter Registration Deadline

Wed. Feb. 8 – New Poll Worker Training

Fri. Mar.2 – 6:00 P.M. Absentee Deadline

Mon. Mar. 5 – Pick-Up/Set-Up Day

Tues. Mar. 6 – Primary Election Day

### Problem Areas in November General Election

- One precinct put memory cards in the TSX's at their Monday set-up, and did so with only 2 Republicans present. We stress at every training class that you **CANNOT** insert the memory cards on Monday, or even access the contents of the large blue ballot bag on Monday. All four workers should be present Tuesday when you unseal this bag.
- A voter complained about the process poll workers implemented in another precinct when a paper jam occurred and the voter could not read his VVPAT tape. If a paper jam occurs while a voter is printing his/her summary, our recommendation is for 1 poll worker from each party assist the voter in cancelling that ballot. Then a new voter access card should be reissued for the voter to use on another machine, allowing the poll worker the opportunity to replace the paper roll or fix the jam in the original unit.
- Several voters called our office to complain that the TSX's were not arranged to ensure privacy in some precincts. The units should not be out in the middle of the room, but rather off to the side, with the privacy shield facing the middle of the room and check-in table.
- Three precincts allowed voters to cast their ballot ***before*** 6:30 A.M. The law is very strict about the voting hours. Although at training we state that you can turn on your electronic poll books before 6:30 A.M. to have them ready to process voters, it is **absolutely forbidden** to allow voters to actually cast their ballot before that time, or after 7:30 P.M. (unless they were in line prior to 7:30.)
- Some precincts did not have all the poll workers sign the accountability form, or did not complete the form.

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)

*"The greatest thing is to know when to speak and when to keep quiet."*  
– author unknown

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## Poll Worker Training Schedule Primary March 6, 2012

Presiding Judges and Presiding Assistants should choose one of the classes to attend between February 13<sup>th</sup> and February 18<sup>th</sup>. You may attend more than one class, but you will only be compensated for one training session.

Other poll workers may attend one of these classes if they so desire, but it's not mandatory for this election.



As always, we strongly recommend that you individually, or as a group of your precinct workers, attend open practice at your convenience for additional hands-on, last-minute experience on each type of equipment.

**Wednesday February 8, 2012** - New Poll Worker Training 6:00 P.M. thru 8:30 P.M. – Longview Center, Upper Classroom - \$25 Compensation (for workers who have never worked the polls)

**Saturday February 11, 2012** – New Electronic Poll Book Training – 9:00 A.M. thru 11:00 A.M. – Longview Center – Lower Level Classroom - \$20.00 Compensation (for workers who have never worked the polls)

**Monday February 13, 2012** – Regular Poll Worker Training and EP Review – 9:00 A.M. thru 11:00 A.M., or 1:00 P.M. thru 3:00 P.M. , or 6:00 P.M. thru 8:00 P.M. – Longview Center, Lower Level Classroom - \$20.00 Compensation (PJ's and PA's must attend – other workers optional)

**Wednesday February 15, 2012** - Regular Poll Worker Training and EP Review – 1:00 P.M. thru 3:00 P.M. , or 6:00 P.M. thru 8:00 P.M. – Longview Center, Lower Level Classroom - \$20.00 Compensation (PJ's and PA's must attend – other workers optional)

**Thursday February 16, 2012** - Regular Poll Worker Training and EP Review – 9:00 A.M. thru 11:00 A.M., or 1:00 P.M. thru 3:00 P.M., or 6:00 P.M. thru 8:00 P.M. – Longview Center, Lower Level Classroom - \$20.00 Compensation (PJ's and PA's must attend – other workers optional)

**Saturday February 18, 2012** - - Regular Poll Worker Training and EP Review – 9:00 A.M. thru 11:00 A.M. Lower Level Classroom - \$20.00 Compensation (PJ's and PA's must attend – other workers optional)

**Tuesday February 21, 2012** – New Presiding Judge Training - 6:00 P.M. thru 8:00 P.M. – Longview Center, Lower Level Classroom - \$20.00 Compensation (for Poll Workers who will be a PJ for first time)

**Monday and Tuesday February 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>** – Open Practice – 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. No Compensation

**REMEMBER TO VOTE ABSENTEE BETWEEN JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> AND MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> IF YOU'RE WORKING OUTSIDE YOUR HOME PRECINCT!**

*'The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people.'* - Theodore Roosevelt

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## *2012 Primary*

*Please let us know as soon as possible if you are unable to work the March 6<sup>th</sup> Primary Election. It will be a very challenging and busy year for all of us!*

*Very few changes will be in effect for this Primary. One of the most significant changes is the drastic reduction in the number of party challenges you will be required to conduct at the polls. A recent Directive from the Secretary of State (Dir. 2011-43) states that the only challenges to party affiliation should be those of which the election official has personal knowledge. It also states that the challenges will be rare, and are not to be just routine challenges based on prior affiliation. We will review this in more depth at our training classes in February.*



Recent close races in Richland County emphasize that every vote DOES count!

## **RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

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### ADMINISTRATION

PAULETTE HANKINS, DIRECTOR  
phankins@richlandcountyoh.us  
BILL FREYTAG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
bfreytag@richlandcountyoh.us

### STAFF

DEBBIE OBENOUR, IT TECHNICAL SUPPORT ELECTION SPECIALIST V  
ANDREW BRINLEY, ELECTION SPECIALIST II, CARRIE HILL, ELECTION SPECIALIST II

*Central Committee Candidates who are also Poll Workers may work in their precinct if they're unopposed on the ballot.*

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