

County Board of Elections Election Prep Teams

May 18, 2021, LWV of Ohio Convention Workshop



BOE TEAMS VISION

- ❖ By building a relationship between the county board of elections and a team of outside voter advocates, we can significantly improve elections in Ohio.
- ❖ By lifting up the profile of the BOE teams, we can improve the efficacy of our nonpartisan Election Protection program and help more voters in real time.



ULTIMATE GOAL: TO SERVE VOTERS!

Why Build a Long-term relationship?

- Boards of Elections (BOEs) are the experts and administrators of all things in elections in your county.
- As voter advocates, we can assist BOEs with challenges (such as poll worker shortages or financial constraints), give feedback on voter needs/experiences, and hold BOE officials accountable when needed.
- With increased knowledge we can better help experts and statewide orgs defend voter rights.



BOE Team Nuts and Bolts

- Setting up a BOE team
- Attending public hearings, meetings, and events hosted by your BOE
- Setting up a private meeting
- Topics to cover/Using the BOE Teams Questionnaire
- Sharing info with the Ohio Voter Rights Coalition
- Joining our standing monthly meeting
- Finding others to work with in your county



Setting up a BOE Team

- ❑ Finding folks in your area who want to start a team or are already running one
- ❑ OVRC can share names of others in your county who are interested
- ❑ Election Protection volunteers
- ❑ LWV Chapter and LWV of Ohio
- ❑ Other ideas??
- ❑ Established teams can adopt neighboring counties that do not have a LWV chapter



Public BOE Events

Attend public hearings, meetings, and events hosted by your BOE

- Wear buttons or name tags
- Greet Elections Officials and BOE Staff
- Take notes to share with your local BOE Team
- Use the info to help better plan your private meetings with the BOE and prioritize areas of advocacy
- Public meetings and Ohio's Sunshine laws



Why Meet Privately with your BOE?

- Build and strengthen relationships
- Identify challenges
- Learn of new procedures
- Be better informed about election operations, expected turnout, etc.
- Share feedback on voter experiences
- Review past election issues and ask how they've been corrected
- Gather info/materials



Topics to Cover in your Meeting (Questionnaire)

- General Administration
- Communication, Voter Education
- Voter Registration
- Early Voting
- Absentee Ballots
- Provisional Ballots
- Poll Workers
- Polling Locations
- Voter Check-In on
- Jailed & Hospitalized Voters
- Contingency Plans
- Post Election Audits/Review



Why share info with OVRC?

- Helps inform voter education efforts, Rides to the Polls, Election Protection, etc.
- Systematic Intra/Inter County Trends, Challenges, Best Practices
- Background info for our advocacy with the SOS and Ohio Legislature
- We may be able to help you address challenges/questions!



BOE Team Stories & Experiences

- Getting started
- Building a long term relationship
- Bumps along the way
- Stories of success
- Election day
- Future plans



Next Steps

- Sign up to join the BOE Teams to receive emails:
bit.ly/BOETeam
- Join our regular BOE team calls: first Thursday of the month, then every two weeks before an election. Register here:
bit.ly/BOETeamCall
- Next calls: 6/3, 7/1, 8/5, 9/2
- Reach out to OVRC for info on joining or starting a BOE team.



Thank You!

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