



## PRESS RELEASE

# **Washington County Board of Elections Recognized for Excellence in Election Administration with National Clearinghouse Award**

*One of 53 Programs Honored by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission for Innovation, Sustainability, and Replicability*

Hagerstown, MD—Today, the Washington County Board of Elections announced they were recognized for excellence in election administration with a national [Clearinghouse Award](#) for Poll Workers. Also known as the “Clearies,” the [U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#) (EAC) presents the awards program annually to celebrate the hard work of election offices across the country. Now in its ninth year, this year’s Clearie Awards honored programs that took place during the 2024 presidential election year.

The Board of Elections’ Election Worker Open House was one of 53 programs that were recognized with a Clearie Award. The program was held in conjunction with National Pollworker Recruitment Day on August 1, 2024. Veteran Washington County pollworkers were brought in to demonstrate the voting equipment to prospective pollworkers and show them what a typical election day looks like for election workers. It gave the attendees hands on experience with the equipment and allowed them to ask questions and get answers from the ones actually doing the job they were considering.

“We are thrilled and honored to receive a Clearie from the EAC,” said Barry Jackson, Director of the Washington County Board of Elections.

“This is truly a team award, because every member of my staff was involved in the planning, preparation, and execution of the Election Worker Open House. A huge “Thank You” to our partners at the Washington County Public Relations Department and our local media for getting the word out. As a result, we were able to add dozens of new election workers for the 2024 Presidential General Election, which was sorely needed.”

The Clearies play an essential role in fulfilling the EAC’s mission to serve as a clearinghouse for election administration information under the [Help America Vote Act](#). The EAC is an independent, bipartisan federal agency solely focused on election

administration. Submissions were judged on innovation, sustainability, outreach, cost-effectiveness, replicability, and the generation of positive results.

EAC Chairman Donald Palmer, Vice Chair Thomas Hicks, and Commissioners Christy McCormick and Ben Hovland praised the 2024 Clearie winners in a joint statement:

“This year’s Clearinghouse Award-winning programs truly shined amid the high voter turnout in 2024. They are examples of the outstanding work election officials did to support tens of millions of voters during the presidential election. After nearly a decade, the Clearinghouse Awards continue to grow with a record number of entries received this year. These programs show how state and local election offices are the incubators of innovation. We are pleased to lift their ideas up and celebrate them on a national stage.”

This year’s awards categories include:

- **Communications:** Distinguished Voter Education and Communications Initiatives – Small/Medium Jurisdictions, Large Jurisdictions, State Level
- **Security:** Innovation and New Tools in Election Security and Technology
- **Contingency Planning:** Exemplary Contingency Planning and Emergency Response Efforts – Small/Medium Jurisdictions and Large Jurisdictions
- **Election Administration:** Innovations or New Practices in Election Administration – Small/Medium Jurisdictions, Large Jurisdictions, State Level
- **Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Grants:** Outstanding Use of HAVA Grants in Election Modernization
- **Accessibility:** Best Practices for Improving Accessibility for Voters with Disabilities
- **Poll Workers:** Best Practices in Recruiting, Retaining, and Training Poll Workers – Small/Medium Jurisdictions and Large Jurisdictions
- **“I Voted” Stickers:** Creative and Original “I Voted” Stickers – Small/Medium Jurisdictions and Large Jurisdictions

More information on the Clearies and each awardee is available on [eac.gov](https://eac.gov).

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