



## Lake County Board of Commissioners

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# PRESS RELEASE

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DATE: February 18, 2014

Lake County Commissioners recognize the fact that our system of free and open elections is an integral part of our system of government. What takes place on Election Day is the very core of our democracy; that is, the periodic selection OF and BY the people of those individuals that are charged with carrying out the responsibilities of the government FOR the people.

“We also certainly realize that ‘ground zero’ of this process takes place at our 88 Boards of Elections offices in Ohio,” Lake County Board President Daniel P. Troy stated. “We are all too well aware that the primary responsibility for funding the process rests with the Board of County Commissioners, and we take that responsibility very seriously, and have done our best not to shortchange this basic component of our democracy.”

In that effort, the Board understands the importance of the folks that work the 14 to 15 hours at our local polling places on the front line, our precinct election officials, previously referred to as poll workers.

Their service is vital to the process and we just felt it was time to increase their compensation. At one point in the last decade, we increased the Election Day pay from approximately \$85 to the statutory maximum of \$107.91 per day.

But inflationary triggers in the Ohio Revised Code related to federal labor rates have brought that up to a current maximum of \$133 per day. Unfortunately, budgetary strains of other mandated needs have kept Lake County precinct election officials at that \$107.91 rate for some time.

“At this morning’s Board of Elections meeting, I informed the members that the Board of Commissioners has unanimously agreed to increase the current daily rate to \$125 a day, and have committed to increase the General Fund appropriation to the Board of Elections to support that increased cost,” Commissioner Troy said.

“The rationale for today’s action is threefold,” Commissioner Troy stated. “One, these folks are overdue in terms of an increase for these 14 hour days, especially in light of the ever-changing responsibilities of their positions. Second, Boards of Elections always have a difficult time recruiting enough workers to staff all of the precincts in a county, and it’s hopeful that this increase in compensation will help in that effort. Finally, and most importantly, these workers are an integral and invaluable component of our democracy and whatever we can do monetarily still pales in comparison to what they provide to our American system of government.”

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