

## Heroes in Democracy Form Letter

Dear Company President/Chamber/Business Roundtable,

Right now our state, and our nation, faces a shortage of poll workers. During the pandemic every county needs young healthy citizens to step up and help others make their voice heard. While organizations and nonprofits are helping spread the word on absentee voting and voting early in person, Ohio companies are becoming heroes in democracy by giving their staff and workforce Election Day off to be a poll worker.

Poll workers are essential to running elections. Ohio's 88 county Boards of Elections have historically relied on over 35,000 patriotic Ohioans to operate voting locations and assist fellow voters with casting a ballot. With more than 65% of Ohio poll workers being age 61 or over, there is a concern that many may choose not to serve this November due to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on older populations.

Your employees who choose to be a poll worker will be part of something bigger, helping others in their community take part in the American experience. Though the hours are long and safety protocols taxing, I guarantee poll workers will get more out of the experience than they put in. This non-partisan effort will also be appreciated by older employees who do not have the option of being poll workers this fall but appreciate your efforts to defend democracy. Further, a recent Harvard's Kennedy School study concluded that, for the 2018 Midterm Elections, "companies' civic engagement strategies not only helped get voters to the polls, but created additional business value."

You have an opportunity to help Ohioans make their voice heard in this coming election. Have your company be a hero in democracy.

Sincerely,