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ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND PRESS RELEASE

Anne Arundel County Board of Elections Recognized for Excellence in Election Administration with National Clearinghouse Award

One of 24 Programs Honored by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission for Innovation, Sustainability, and Replicability

Dateline—Today, the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections announced they were recognized for excellence in election administration for the second election in a row with a national [Clearinghouse Award](#) for [Outstanding Innovation in Election Cybersecurity and Technology](#). 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 seventh year, this year’s Clearie Awards honored programs that took place during the 2022 midterms.

The Anne Arundel County Board of Elections’s Mail-in Ballot Check-in Automation Program was one of 24 programs recognized with a Clearie Award. The program developed a process to automate the business practice of sorting, scanning, time-stamping, and receiving mail-in ballots returned by voters. Anne Arundel County recognized how integrating mail sorting and scanning equipment with the voter registration system would improve our ballot security and care, custody, and control by increasing the speed with which ballots are checked into MDVOTERS and ensuring voters are notified their ballot has been received via email or text message.

Anne Arundel County is proud to be recognized for our leadership integrating new technology into the mail-in ballot process. As mail-in voting grows more popular, we need to be innovative to manage the hundreds of thousands of ballots we receive each election. This is the second consecutive election we have been recognized by the EAC for our dedication to improving the election process. We appreciate the opportunity to enhance the election experience for the voters in Anne Arundel County and increase their trust and confidence in our elections.

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. This year’s awards categories include:

- Outstanding Use of HAVA Grants in Elections Modernization
- Outstanding Election Official State Association Program or Local Office
- Outstanding Innovation in Election Cybersecurity and Technology
- Improving Accessibility for Voters with Disabilities
- Outstanding Innovations in Elections – Large Jurisdictions

- Outstanding Innovations in Elections – Small/Medium Jurisdictions
- Best Practices in Recruiting, Retaining, and Training Poll Workers
- Creative and Original “I Voted” Stickers

“The spotlight on U.S. elections has never been brighter, and the EAC is pleased to honor the work of these offices to make elections more secure, technologically advanced, and accessible to voters,” said EAC Chairwoman Christy McCormick, Vice Chair Ben Hovland, Commissioner Donald Palmer, and Commissioner Thomas Hicks in a joint statement. “Especially as election administrators prepare for the 2024 presidential election, we encourage them to review the great work of these Clearie Award-winning jurisdictions for ideas they may want to replicate in their communities.” More information on the Clearies and each awardee is available on eac.gov.

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