



Maryland State 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

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 16, 2025) – Today, the Maryland State Board of Elections announced they were recognized for excellence in election administration with a national [Clearinghouse Award](#) for **Innovations or New Practices in Election Administration – State Level**. 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 Maryland State Board of Elections Text2Cure program was one of 53 programs that were recognized with a Clearie Award. The Text2Cure program offered mail-in ballot voters who sent back their voted ballot without a signature the opportunity to cure their ballot by text in lieu of going to a local board of election office or email.

“The Maryland State Board of Elections is committed to ensuring all eligible voters are able to participate in the electoral process. Mail-in ballots cast and postmarked before or on Election Day are legal ballots and a technical omission shouldn’t disenfranchise voters.” said Jared DeMarinis, Maryland State Board of Elections Administrator. “Using technology in a secure and verified method eases the burdens

on the voters for curing while maintaining the integrity of the vote. This award validates our efforts and mission.”

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.

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