



NEWS RELEASE

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Summit County welcomes community to new Board of Elections facility

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—Yesterday, Summit County officials cut the ribbon and officially welcomed the community to the new Board of Elections facility, now located at 1050 E. Tallmadge Ave. in Akron. The new location will improve voter access and increase operational efficiency and security of election services.

In recent years, the increased demand for in-person early voting stretched the capacity of the former Board of Elections facility on Grant St. Parking was limited during peak early voting and traffic was difficult to manage. The Board of Elections staff also identified the need to update technology and invest in in-house ballot printing to reduce costs and enhance security. Such improvements were not feasible in the existing space.

“One of the most important responsibilities of county government is to conduct elections. We take this role very seriously in Summit County and we are proud to have invested our local dollars in this new, state-of-the art facility to benefit our voters and improve Board of Elections operations,” said County Executive Ilene Shapiro. “This project was a big lift, and its success is attributable to strong collaboration between the Summit County Land Bank, the Board of Elections, my own team and many others.”

In Summit County, the Executive’s Office is responsible for maintaining county-owned buildings. The Executive’s team identified Tallmadge Ave., already home to various other county and state offices and easily accessible from Route 8, as a possible new location for the Board of Elections. After discussing with the Summit County Land Bank, owner of the Tallmadge Ave. office complex since 2019, more than 40,000 square feet of space was identified as available in the facility.

Renovation of the existing space began in June 2024. Hasenstab served as the project architect and Welty Building Company led construction. The Land Bank served as the project manager. The project

was completed with County funds at a cost of \$15 million. It was finished on time and with no cost overruns.

"The Summit County Land Bank was proud to support this transformational project from start to finish," said Kristen Scalise, Chairwoman of the Summit County Land Bank. "Repurposing this space for the Board of Elections not only strengthens local infrastructure but also demonstrates how collaboration and smart reinvestment can turn underutilized properties into valuable assets that serve the community well into the future."

In addition to investing in a new early vote center, the project also enabled the Board of Elections to invest in its own ballot printing operations. This greatly enhances election security and will save money on future printing costs. The new center also houses the new poll book equipment, purchased by the County in 2024.

"This new facility represents a major step forward in ensuring secure, efficient, and accessible elections for our community. By investing in a dedicated early vote center and bringing ballot printing operations in-house, we're not only improving how we serve voters today, but also preparing to meet the needs of voters in the years ahead," said Lance Reed, BOE Director. "This project was made possible through strong collaboration with our community partners, whose support was essential in making this vision a reality."

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