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Hillsborough County Elections Office Recognized for Excellence with two National Awards

Hillsborough County, FL – Today, Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Craig Latimer announced that his office earned two of the 32 national Clearinghouse Awards (known as "Clearies") awarded by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) this year to recognize excellence in elections administration, as well as one honorable mention.

<u>Winner - Distinguished Voter Education and</u> <u>Communications Initiatives, Large Jurisdictions</u>

Supervisor Latimer won this award for his VoteHillsborough Video Series – a 16-episode, 3-chapter series that dives behind the scenes into the world of

elections, explaining what the elections office does and how they do it.

Winner - Best Practices in Recruiting, Retaining, and Training Poll Workers

This award recognized Supervisor Latimer's VoteHillsborough Training Labs, an immersive experience for poll workers that markedly improved training on election technology and increased worker confidence prior to work assignments.

Honorable Mention - Creative and Original "I Voted" Stickers

This recognition went to the VoteHillsborough Art Contest, which morphed from a poster contest to a sticker contest in 2022, when Supervisor Latimer challenged high school students to design a new "I Voted" sticker. In 2023, he invited younger students to design a "Future Voter" sticker.

"I'm proud to have once again earned national recognition for work we are doing to serve Hillsborough County's voters," said Supervisor Latimer. "This is the second year in a row that we've been recognized with Clearies, reinforcing our continuous effort to be a leader and innovator in election administration."

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.

"We hope these winning programs inspire election officials to replicate them in their jurisdiction and want to recognize all the winners and those who applied across the country," said EAC Chairman Ben Hovland, Vice Chair Donald Palmer, Commissioner Thomas Hicks, and Commissioner Christy McCormick in a joint statement. "With the rise of artificial intelligence and the increased need for reliable election information, we are pleased to introduce the Distinguished Voter Education and Communications Initiatives award category for small and large jurisdictions. Effective and innovative communications is critical, and we hope the winners in this new category can provide useful best practices for 2024 and beyond."

More information on the Clearies and each awardee is available on eac.gov.