

Ely MN 2018 Veteran/Student Election Training and Service at the Midterm Elections



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Thank you for accepting this submission for the 2018 Clearies for Election Worker Competition. I will send another email of this submission for consideration for Outstanding Innovations Competition.

While a pretty good civics teacher/recruiter, I can't lay claim to the current standard for multi-media presentations, and hope that the substance of the Ely Veteran/Student Training Program will shine through my imperfect presentation of the effort.

I'm relying primarily on the attached pdfs of news articles and participant reflections to tell the story, but wanted to provide some background to what has accomplished, and why it was done in Ely. I will leave it to the Commission to assess the program's ability to achieve success in the six domains listed: Efficacy, Innovation, Sustainability, Outreach Efforts, Cost-Effectiveness, and Replicability. I believe it offers a multiplicity of benefits to elections administration.

The pages that follow are a simple primer for the attached articles, images, etc., and perhaps fill in some blanks about the model and highlight contributions the news stories don't cover, as well as describing the special ingredients Ely brought to bear in executing this civic mission. Every student and a number of Veterans that were trained were called upon and served as election judges at the Midterm Elections.

The communities of Ely and Morse exceeded expectations, and deserve a heartfelt thanks for the effort they put into this project.

Thanks for your time and attention.

Regards,

Cole H. Kleitsch
Walking Civics

Walking Civics in Ely, Minnesota, 2014-2018

The purpose of this training model is to recruit High School students and Veterans to be trained and serve together at the polls on Election Day. It is intended as much to inspire civic virtue and predispositions as well as to train competent election workers. The Veterans have already “walked the talk” in answering their call to serve their country, and training alongside the students is what transforms a training session into something quite special for both groups.

Given that elections are now considered critical national infrastructure by the Federal Government, the recruitment and training of election workers takes on a more security-centric approach, as these folks are and will be the front line of elections now and into the future. This perspective of “defending the election” did catch the imagination of some of the students, and more than a few of the Veterans; a helpful mindset for this type of service.

The City of Ely, and the Township of Morse which surrounds it, are in northeastern Minnesota’s Iron Range, and have a rich history and long legacy of civic and military service, as evidenced by having nearly a quarter of Ely’s 6,000 citizens in uniform through WWII, even as the Iron Range mines, including five near Ely, that remained at peak capacity throughout the war. The young men -and more than a few remarkable women- of Ely have answered the call to service for generations, some as far back as the Spanish-American War. That tradition of service continues, with a high concentration of Veterans that served in Viet Nam and the Cold War, along with younger Veterans of the post-9/11 theaters of operations in Afghanistan and Southwest Asia. There are, fortunately, a few members in the area from WWII and Korea still around the area as well.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the Ely area (Morse Twp. included) have consistently higher voter turnouts for elections that reflect another facet of Ely’s disposition to civic engagement. The area has deep vein of rich civic tradition to draw upon for inspiration, and bring a unique flavor to Ely’s Vet/Student training model for the 2018 Midterms.

The Ely High School (EHS) Principal, Mrs. Megan Anderson, met with local election officials earlier in the fall and arranged for recruiting from EHS History Teacher Mr. Frank Ivancich’s classes of Juniors and Seniors a week before the October 29th training at the Ely High School Media Center. On Friday, Oct. 26, the students received copies of the 2018 Election Judge Manual printed from pdf sent from Michael at the MNOSS Office of Voter Outreach and Education.

The Veteran recruitment was organized by Marine Veteran and Honor Guard Leader, Bob Niskala, who was very generous with his time and put his Veteran telephone network into operation to recruit for the two-hour training, and then be available to serve on Election day if needed. I will let the articles and reflections speak for themselves about the effectiveness of the Veteran participation at the training and on Election Day itself, as

The Morse Elections Clerk, Nick Wognum, and Ely City Clerk Harold Langowski both agreed to provide the state-required training, and agreed that Nick would run the Vet/Student training at the high school on Oct. 29th. We had a recruiting advantage in that the election officials committed to find spots for the trainees to supplement the existing pool of poll workers at the Midterms, so the call to service was authentic, and made more so by the attention the news gave to upcoming election and turnout projections.

Attached below are articles and Op/Eds that have appeared about this project in the two weekly papers: The Ely Echo, and the Timberjay, and give a more succinct account than I could about the particulars.

included brief and informal reflections/reviews from some of the partners in the program, as again they give more eloquent testimony about the program's effectiveness, including from elections officials, EHS

The Stone Soup fable shows up in many cultures around the world: hungry travelers with nothing but a large pot and a "special stone" ask a community bring the other remaining ingredients needed for the amazing soup this stone creates. In the end, everyone shares in the creation of something greater than the sum of its parts.

Some ingredients to the Ely recipe:

Mr. Michael Wall, the Voter Outreach Specialist at the Minnesota Secretary of State's was aware of the program, and was a was an extraordinary resource in a number of ways, including pdf of election-related information, including the Election Judge Manuals. In an extraordinary gesture, Michael was able to get MN SOS Steve Simon to record and send an inspirational greeting to Ely's trainees from to play at the outset of the training:

Link to Secretary Simon's Message to Ely Veterans and Students:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TnJ7rW-511_eu5znBSKN282QCOUHUEr1/view?usp=sharing

Secretary Simon's message brought an immediacy and validation to the training, as everyone there was just told by MN's top election official that he's aware of *their* training and likes what *they* are doing. It's a valuable eighty-second demonstration of the lost art of morale-building, as during WWII when Five-Star Gen. Hap Arnold would walk B-17 and B-29 lines at the Boeing plant to greet the workers, and inspire the entire workforce.

Another nice video clip was from the end of training of the administration of the Oath of Office by Morse Clerk Nick Wognum to the class, as posted by Ely Mayor Chuck Novak:

<https://twitter.com/mayorchucknovak/status/1057043144733310982>

As an aside, and perhaps with some irony, Mayor Novak is a Navy Veteran, and was responsible for the only social media presence we had during the training and again on election day with Tweets from the training, as well as posting the Oath video above.

Service Flags:

In the photos, you'll notice EHS's Media Center has US military service flags that were hung along the side of the room to honor the Veterans at the training. These flags were donated for

this training by Ely Surplus and Outdoor Store. The flags will remain at EHS and were used during the Veterans Day ceremony at school.

State Theater Marquee:

A local developer is renovating the 1936 “State” cinema that has an iconic marquee, and agreed to put a little pre-election, high turnout messages up to get inspire voter turnout, and to generate some fun.

Turned out to be a great backdrop to Mayor Novak’s Tweets on Election Day bragging on Ely’s registration and turnout: <https://twitter.com/mayorchucknovak/status/1059988749797548033>



Radio:

The local radio station, WELY, the “End of the Road Radio” AM/FM station hosted a segment that included Ely elections official (Casey Velcheff), who reviewed election basics, and answered voter FAQ’s in advance of the election.

Newspapers:

Newspaper articles attached from the Timberjay and the Ely Echo were a critical lift to communications, and none of this could have been accomplished without editorial and personal support of Nick Wognum, who is the editor of the Echo, as well as being Morse Twp.’s City Clerk. Nick importance to making all of this happen cannot be overstated.

Below are copies of articles and Op/Eds from the Ely Echo and the Timberjay newspapers from 2014 and this year.

Enjoy the story.



Ely students, veterans will pair up to become election judges

Submitted by admin on Fri, 10/24/2014 - 12:22

How do we better educate future voters? In Ely a real life civics lesson will involve pairing up Ely high school students and local veterans to become election judges.

The City of Ely, Town of Morse, Ely High School, and the International Wolf Center are working together to engage this next generation of Americans in a creative approach to election judge training to a group of high school students.

Ely and the surrounding communities are typically the turnout leaders in a state that led the nation in the 2010 midterms.

Fewer than 40% of Americans eligible to vote will do so in the upcoming elections, with 18-24 year olds the least likely to show up. How to engage the next generation of Americans in the civil requirements and dispositions of citizenship is a complicated challenge, and small steps may lead to effective-albeit slow-progress. Election experience can be one of those small steps.

“Walking Civics is an educational non-profit dedicated to innovative civics education initiatives that links schools, election officials, and veterans of communities and coordinates efforts at providing high school students an opportunity to be trained and certified to assist and administer elections in their states.

“By inviting and including area veterans to the training, we link a generation that seeks to serve with one that knows something about it. By using unique venues, we extend the experience. Pizza helps as well,” said Cole Kleitsch, Director of Walking Civics.

“This is a great opportunity for the students and veterans to learn more about election law, whether they serve as an election judge or not,” said Morse clerk Nick Wognum. “Plus most cities and townships have aging election judges so training high school students will create a pool of future judges to serve wherever they may live in the future.”

The training is scheduled to take place in space provided by the International Wolf Center in Ely, on Wednesday, Oct. 29 from 3:30-5 p.m., and will involve 13 students from Ely High School and other members of the Ely community.

“More than 40 states now allow students as young as 16 (The Show Me State of Missouri allows 15) a chance to participate in administering an election that they are not yet allowed to vote in,” Kleitsch said.

“The training itself answers many of the fundamental questions that many younger non-voters cite as the reason they don’t participate. In addition, and more importantly, students take on the role of public responsibility that often requires an oath of office. When the students train alongside members of local veterans groups, it adds to an often powerful experience,” Kleitsch added.

Area veterans interested in participating should contact Ely operations director Harold Langowski at 365-3224. ##

THE ELY ECHO

Teaching our young people about voting by pairing them with veterans

Submitted by admin on Sun, 11/02/2014 - 11:27



Veteran Nick Jordan between students Annie Lindgren and Alison Zaverl.

A question was posed to a group of Ely high school students and veterans gathered for training to be election judges Wednesday in Ely.

How can we get 18 year-olds to vote when they are 18 and every single election after that?

The organizer of the event, Ely summer resident Cole Kleitsch, explained it was 1971 when the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed to allow 18 year-olds to vote.

"It was ratified within three months and eight days making it the fastest amendment every to be ratified," said Kleitsch, Director of Walking Civics. "Why do you think this was important in 1971?"

The answer was clear, the Vietnam War. What the students didn't know was there was a veteran of that war in the room.

"I'm Jim Belehar and I'm a Vietnam vet. I did two tours in Vietnam and I ended up coming back from Vietnam before I could vote," said Belehar. "It makes a difference."

A veteran closer in age to the teens was also in the room. Nick Jordan served six years in the active Army and was in Afghanistan three weeks after 9/11. He's also been in the National Guard for the last nine years.

Jordan explained he moved back to Ely to be part of a small town. He owns Ely Safe Ride and will be offering voters rides to the polls at a discount on election day.

Stressing the importance of voting to our young people is not a new cause. But Kleitsch's idea to bring veterans and high school students to be trained as election judges is new. And it just

might work.

“No matter what else happens, you’re going to know about election law,” Kleitsch told the students. “You’re going to know the process of an election and you’ll leave here as a fully qualified election judge.”

Kleitsch said that may not sound like a cool thing but down the road they will be the ambassadors when somebody asks about registering to vote or how an election works.

The students, veterans and two new election judges received training from Ely city clerk Harold Langowski and Town of Morse clerk Nick Wognum.

Last week Kleitsch’s idea received an important endorsement:

“The Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools is delighted to endorse Walking Civics and your initiative.

We are especially pleased to note the inter-generational nature of this project. The engagement of veterans with students, as poll workers, is powerfully compelling and a superb educational experience in and of itself.”

The class in Ely was a first step toward getting young voters to the polls. And barring allowing people to vote via their cell phones, it’s going to take ideas like pairing kids and vets to keep our democratic process a vibrant one.

##



Elections are the final poll

Submitted by admin on Mon, 06/18/2018 - 06:51

We're heading into prime time for the political season with a highly contested primary August 14 and a mid-term general election Nov. 14 where Minnesota will be in the national spotlight. Wednesday, election officials from cities, school districts and townships in St. Louis County gathered in Clinton Township for training on this year's primary and general elections.

Present were representatives from the Town of Morse, City of Ely and the Ely School District. And by the next day, the rules had changed.

The Supreme Court ruled Minnesota's law liberally banning the wearing of political apparel and buttons in polling places was unconstitutional.

Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon will now be left with trying to interpret the ruling. He'll pass that on to the 87 county auditors who will in turn pass it on to the same people gathered in a town hall off Highway 37 Wednesday afternoon.

Minnesota, like most states, has plenty of rules dealing with elections. Here's a few:

- Election judges can be neutral and there can be many neutral judges as long as there are an equal number of Republican and Democrats.
- Townships will need to prepare for four elections in 2020. A Presidential Primary in March, Township election in March, primary election in August and general election in November.
- Since there are seven candidates for St. Louis County Commissioner in the Fourth District, those polling places will have double the number of test ballots to run through the machines. Northeast Minnesota and the state in general are frequently in the top 10 for voter turnout and this year should be no exception.

Ely and Morse are again working on a joint election project this year, getting student election judges to go through a training session along with area veterans.

In 2004 the experiment was deemed a success after a training session held at the International Wolf Center.

The brainchild of summer visitor Cole Kleitsch, pairing up students and veterans could be used nationwide to up voter turnout for decades to come. The training will be held Monday, July 21 in Ely.

Area students age 16-17 and any area veterans interested in participating should contact Ely operations director Harold Langowski at 365-3224 or Morse clerk Nick Wognum at 365-3141.

"By inviting and including area veterans to the training, we link a generation that seeks to serve with one that knows something about it," said Kleitsch, Director of Walking Civics.

"This is a great opportunity for the students and veterans to learn more about election law, whether they serve as an election judge or not," said Morse clerk Nick Wognum. "Plus most cities and townships have aging election judges so training high school students will create a

pool of future judges to serve wherever they may live in the future.”

There are sure to be more twists and turns in this year’s election cycle before voters cast their ballots Aug. 14 and Nov. 6.

In Ely, voters will see new vote counting machines. Election officials are bracing for a busy two days and nights this fall.

Early voting for the 2018 Primary Election begins on June 29. Be sure to cast your ballot, either in the polling place or via absentee ballot.

##

the TIMBERJAY



Posted Wednesday, October 31, 2018 5:30 pm

For young voters, elections are a teachable moment



Young election judges certified with veterans

Along with efforts to get out the vote at Vermilion Community College, municipal officials recognize that voting isn't the only need at election time. The need for election judges is on the rise, and young people are the prime target to replace aging baby boomers and other older generations who make up the largest percentage of judges.

The city of Ely and Morse Township are again working on a joint election project with student election judges training along with area veterans for next week's election.

The experiment was deemed a success in 2014 after a similar training session was held at the International Wolf Center through the efforts of Ely summer visitor Cole Kleitsch, director of Walking Civics, who paired up students and veterans together. "This could be used nationwide to up voter turnout for decades to come," he said.

As many as 20 Ely-area students, age 16-18, and a like number of area military veterans, gathered Monday at the Ely Memorial School Media Center for the two-hour election judge training session.

“By including area veterans in the training, we link a generation that is looking to serve with another generation that knows something about it,” Kleitsch told the Timberjay. “Nowhere else in the country is this being done. Certain places are, of course, training young people, but nowhere else are they next to a veteran who knows something about service.”

He said the point of the session is to create a competent poll worker. As many as 30,000 election judges are used in Minnesota for every election. “Hopefully for the rest of your lives,” he told the students, “as a voter you will remember who you were next to when you learned to do this.”

The city of Ely uses as many as 20 election judges for each election and Morse Township will use as many as 15.

“In addition, this is a great way to help preserve a pool of election judges who have nobody following them.”

Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon provided an exclusive videotaped message to the Ely training session participants thanking them for their civic-mindedness. “Those veterans that are in the room there helped us all to protect one of our fundamental rights- the right to vote,” he said.

Morse Township officials actually conducted the required testing of their voting equipment at the training session to give the students an actual hands-on look at what the process is all about.

Ely Clerk Treasurer Harold Langowski and Deputy Clerk Casey Velchef also participated in the training session. “We are actually interested in getting a couple of election judges that would be eligible after this training,” Langowski said.

Ely Memorial High School Principal Megan Anderson assured any of the students who wanted to help with the election that they would get a half-day pass to go to the voting poll at the Senior Center.

Morse Township Clerk Nick Wognum said many election judges are needed to make for a successful election day. “Most of them are over the age of 60. Some of them are over 70. You are the future. We need you. This year, in two years, in four years, whenever, we are going to need more election judges,” he said.

##



Students, veterans team up to become election judges

Submitted by admin on Fri, 11/02/2018 - 12:20



NEW ELECTION JUDGES: Charles Dammann, Ely veteran Chuck Novak, Nic Jordan, Ely veteran Steve Saari, Collen Seliskar, U.S. Army Recruiter Sergeant Dawn Mellesmoen, Shane Spangler, Ely veteran Tony Colarich, Haley Hopkins, Lucy Stouffer, Madelene Johnson, Luke Olson, Jeremiah Kaercher, Ely veteran Dave Streit, Raif Olson, Nate Nettifee, James Schwinghamer, Kjetil Midttun, Ely veteran Bob Niskala. Photo by Cole Kleitsch.

Ely Echo Report -

Ely high school students and several area veterans combined to participate in an election judge training class held last Monday.

The class was the second round of a project based in Ely to get students involved in the election process and have them meet and talk to local veterans.

In 2014 a similar class was held. This time there were more students and more veterans.

On Monday the class was greeted by a personalized video message from Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon.

"Thank you to all of you in Ely participating today," said Simon. "This is a fascinating and really important pairing between students and veterans.

"For the veterans in the room, thank you and thank you for your service. I think everyone needs to acknowledge the veterans who are in the room helped us protect one of our fundamental rights and that is the right to vote.

"To the students...you have a role to play not just today but beyond. When you turn 18 you get a lot of things in this country. A slice of birthday cake, maybe a pat on the back, maybe a present or two. You know what else you get? Formal political power. You ought to use it, not leave it on the table, not surrender it.

"This is the first step in doing that. This collaboration I think is exciting. I think it's a model for

the future in Minnesota and elsewhere.”

Doing the training was Town of Morse Clerk Nick Wognum and Treasurer Mary Ann Lekatz along with City of Ely Operations Director Harold Langowski and Deputy Clerk Casey Velcheff. Veterans who participated included:

Bob Niskala who was born and raised in Ely and served in the U.S. Marine Corps, getting out in 1972.

“There’s a whole bunch of us when we were 18 years old we were sent overseas. We never had the privilege to vote. So it’s very important to be involved,” said Niskala.

The students were encouraged by Langowski to work as a judge on election day Tuesday as well as into the future.

Steve Saari, a graduate of Ely Memorial High School, and a 26-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

“One of things I liked to do to give back to the community was flying over on the Fourth of July for about eight years in a row. That was awesome.”

U.S. Army recruiter Dawn Mellesmoen from Duluth told the group she has been in the service for 10 years and served in the military police.

“I’ve been to Kuwait and Guantanamo Bay. I really enjoy it,” said Mellesmoen.

Ely Mayor Chuck Novak encouraged the students to get involved. He is also a veteran, having served in the U.S. Navy.

“Participate, it’s important long term for your future,” said Novak.

Ely veteran Tony Colarich said the first time he voted was in 1969 and hasn’t missed an election since.

Dave Streit told the group he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1968 and spent 19 and a half months overseas including 13 and a half months in Korea.

Nic Jordan spent six years in the active Army doing reconnaissance.

“I was in Afghanistan three weeks after 9/11,” said Jordan.

He later went into the National Guard and served in Minnesota, Massachusetts and Indiana.

“I’m here to help the community in any way I can,” said Jordan.

Class facilitator Cole Kleitsch noted Jordan also participated in the students and veterans election judge class in 2014.

“All of these veterans here, we all took an oath,” said Saari. “We took an oath to support and defend the Constitution. And one of those freedoms, those rights is the right to vote. That’s why it wasn’t very hard to get us here today.”

Students included juniors and seniors Charles Dammann, Collen Seliskar, Shane Spangler, Haley Hopkins, Lucy Stouffer, Madelene Johnson, Luke Olson, Jeremiah Kaercher, Raif Olson, Nate Nettifee, James Schwinghamer and foreign exchange student Kjetil Midttun from Norway. Principal Megan Anderson thanked everyone gathered in the high school Media Center. She told the students she would work with them to assure they could work at a polling place on election day.

Wognum then ran the class through the training required to be an election judge in the State of Minnesota.

The class learned about the need for 30,000 election judges in the state. Election judges must be able to vote in Minnesota, read, write and speak English but cannot be related to a candidate who is on the ballot or serve with a relative at the same time in the same precinct.

Wognum encouraged the class to be courteous and professional with no partisan comments or

discussions and to respect the secrecy of a ballot and the privacy of voters.

At the end of the class the students assisted in the Town of Morse's voting accuracy testing where pre-marked ballots are fed through a ballot counter and the results were then checked to be sure they were accurate.

Videos from the Secretary of State's office provided information on: Setup Equipment, Roster Judge, Ballot Judge, Ballot Counter Judge, Providing Assistance, Polling Place Conduct, Challengers and Closing the Polls.

At the end of the two-hour session, the class stood in front of military flags, raised their right hands and were sworn in as election judges in the State of Minnesota.

"Do you solemnly swear that you will perform the duties of election judge according to law and the best of your ability and will diligently endeavor to prevent fraud, deceit and abuse in conducting this election. That you will perform your duties in a fair and impartial manner and not attempt to create an advantage for your party or for any candidate. If so say I will," said Wognum.

"I will," the group responded.

"You are all election judges," said Wognum.

##

Reflections on 2018 Ely Veteran/Student Election Training

2018 Ely Minnesota Student Election Judge Reflection

Madelene Johnson (EHS student)

“Recently, I had the amazing opportunity to become a certified election judge. People may think “that sounds so boring” but I actually enjoyed it. Since I was young, I highly valued those who served our country to protect the constitution for our rights. Both of my grandfathers served in the military and they made me want to help my community in any way possible. I wanted to join the Army to help protect the constitution, but recently found out it wasn’t possible due to some health conditions I have. When Mr. Kleitsch spoke to the class I was in about this opportunity of becoming a certified election judge, I was intrigued immediately. This was an opportunity to serve for my country in another way other than the military. I went through a two hour class to become a certified election judge. I honestly thought beforehand “This is going to be the most boring training I’ve gone through,” turns out I was wrong, it was definitely driver’s training. When I got to the training, we were side by side with a veteran, which I thought was pretty cool because they’re serving for our country again. We were all learning the same criteria to become an election judge and we were all different ages. There was a level of respect that I felt between us students and the veterans, it was unexplainable. We were all there for the sole purpose to serve for our country and our community. It was an amazing experience, and I am so thankful for this opportunity. I would definitely recommend that if anyone is thinking about doing this training with veterans, I say go for it. You will learn something new but you’ll also gain a whole new respect for veterans and what they have done, and what they continue to do for our country. As a result of this training, I got to be an election judge at the Town of Morse polling place. It was so neat to be a part of that- the training wasn’t pointless, it was for a good cause, one that I got to see the direct benefit of. I was amazed about the turn out of the polling place; by 2 p.m., over half of the registered voters had already voted- wow. There was a steady flow of voters coming through, and I was surprised by this. It is an experience I will never forget. I also have gained a huge respect for all election judges, they do an amazing job on keeping a steady flow and making sure every vote is accounted for. Its little jobs, like what election judges do, that are greatly important for the future of the entire country. An experience I will never forget. Thank you, Mr. Kleitsch for this amazing opportunity, I greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely, Madelene Johnson

2018 Veteran Student Election Training

Reflections from Ely High School Principal Megan Anderson:

“Our kids had a very memorable experience. They really appreciated getting to know the veterans that sat beside them as they trained and were able to continue building community

relationships, which is a personal goal of mine. The timing was great, as many of the Vets attended our Veterans Day program, with several of the "election judges" serving coffee and cookies, as yet another way to visit and discuss the outcomes of the election! Students were really excited to be able to "hit the polls" and see first-hand the entire voting process. One student was able to register voters, and two of them were able to vote for the first time, which is an exceptionally proud moment in itself! Another highlight was the ballot counter, the kids thought the process of certifying it was "pretty cool!" The greatest thing we can do as educators is to prepare our students for "real life" and this was an extraordinary opportunity and privilege to be able to share with our kids. I really don't think it gets more practical than this!

The final component was the connection with Mrs. Haynes. As I presented the students with their pin and sand from Iwo Jima, one of them said, and I quote, "Holy crap! We are literally holding a piece of history in our hands...this is SO COOL!!!!!"

Please let me know if you would like anything else, I am also looking forward to next year!

Thanks and I hope you had a great Thanksgiving,

Megan

2018 Veteran Student Election Training

Reflections from Ely City Clerk Harold Langowski:

"I would like to add that the students and veterans that completed the

training and assisted on election day did a great job and their assistance was greatly appreciated. We were short on election judges for the afternoon shift and we had one Veteran (Nick Jordan) work the entire afternoon at the new registration station. This was greatly appreciated and we have recruited Nick to be a judge for the next election. This was the second election that Nick volunteered to work with students. We also have two other Veterans that are interested in being judges for the next election. Having the students work side by side with the Veterans and our experienced judges will definitely be a memorable experience for those students. The residents voting also could recognize the involvement of the next generation of voters and the Veterans.

Thank you for your work,

Harold R. Langowski P.E.
Clerk-Treasurer
City of Ely
elyod@ely.mn.us
Office: 218-226-5474
Cell: 218-235-3083

2018 Veteran Student Election Training

Reflections from Nic Jordan, US Army Veteran, 10th Mountain Div., Afghanistan, Oct. 2001:

"I feel it's so important for future voters to understand the value of their vote. Partnering students with Vets is great because the isn't the students seeing the Veterans who are there, but

the meaning behind the Veterans who aren't. I'm looking forward to developing this into a more effective training tool before the 2020 election."

Nic participated in the 2014 effort, and again volunteered to participate again in 2018. He really came through for Ely, as you will read in Harold Langowski's after-election reflections.

A number of the photos from the Oct. 29 training and the work at the polls on Election day (samples below) can be found here:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Ino4hSAQhqvT9gDP6>

End.

