



American Electric Power
1 Riverside Plaza
Columbus, OH 43215-2373
AEP.com

Nicholas K. Akins
President and CEO

614-716-3800

April 16, 2012

As president and chief executive officer of American Electric Power, I highly recommend the Champions of Democracy program conducted by the Franklin County Board of Elections. AEP has been a proud participant in Champions of Democracy since its inception in 2004, and AEP employees have participated as election workers in every election in Franklin County since. I urge other companies to consider supporting the program.

We cannot take our democratic process or the integrity of our elections for granted. Knowledgeable, well-trained poll workers are an essential part of our form of self-government. That's why we support the Champions of Democracy program and allow our employees to take time off to volunteer as poll workers.

I encourage other employers in Franklin County to participate in Champions of Democracy. When employees have the opportunity to become poll workers, they learn more about our democratic process, the importance of our representative form of government and the role of political parties in our society. I think that knowledge and experience can make us all better citizens and, as a result, better employees. Support of the election process also can strengthen ties to the communities where we live and work.

As the election process becomes more sophisticated, it's critical that poll workers be able to understand and apply new technologies. Private sector employees are an excellent source of trained, adaptable and technology-savvy workers to meet this need. I hope you will join me and the employees of AEP in supporting this essential community service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas K. Akins", is written over a light-colored background.