

Press Release  
Craighead County Election Commission

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***Craighead County Teams Up with Nonpartisan Nonprofit to Invest in Safe Elections During COVID-19***

*Project Will Support Poll Worker Training and Recruitment, Early Voting, and Vote by Mail*

Craighead County announced today they have successfully secured \$59,856 in nonprofit grants to fund safe and secure elections. The grants, awarded by the nonpartisan Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL), will help the Craighead County Election Commission administer elections this year in the midst of the deadly coronavirus pandemic.

The national recession that accompanied the pandemic has now caused serious budget challenges for localities across the country. State and local governments around the nation are now grappling with unexpected deficits, raising the serious prospect of deep and difficult cuts to core services. As a result, localities are struggling with how to conduct safe and accessible elections -- especially if a second wave of coronavirus erupts this fall.

To meet this extraordinary challenge, Craighead County applied for grant funds from CTCL to support elections operations. This grant program will enable localities to prepare for and operate safe elections by investing in priorities that would otherwise be challenging to accomplish -- such as securely opening an adequate number of voting sites; setting up the drive-thru absentee drop off location (209 W. Washington); and recruiting and training a sufficient number of poll workers.

The Craighead County grant application has been awarded in full by CTCL.

"We are excited about this partnership with CTCL. Craighead County has a long history of running fair, safe and accountable elections and during this unprecedented time, this additional revenue will help us continue to accomplish our goals." Craighead County Judge Marvin Day

"It is wonderful that we received this grant. We are proud that the county is protecting its voters while also being fiscally responsible. The Election Commission and Coordinator have done a great job to make this happen." Barbara Weinstock, Justice of the Peace District 5

“Election departments are facing an unprecedented challenge of administering safe and secure elections that provide healthy voting options to the public,” said **Center for Tech and Civic Life Executive Director Tiana Epps-Johnson**. “To meet this challenge, CTCL is providing support to Craighead County so no voter is required to make a choice between their health and their ability to vote. From ensuring that polling places are following the latest public health guidelines to making options available for voters to participate, to protecting those who step up to serve as poll workers, we’re proud to partner with Craighead County to deliver a smooth voting process that inspires confidence.”

The **Center for Tech and Civic Life** is a nationally-recognized, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of civic technologists, trainers, researchers, election administration and data experts working to help modernize U.S. elections. CTCL connects election officials with guidance, expertise, tools, and trainings so they can best serve their communities, and ensure that elections are more professional, safe, and secure. CTCL works with the federal government, as well as local and state governments of all sizes across the nation and regardless of partisanship to highlight best practices and create easy-to-use resources for administrators.

*(<https://www.techandcivicliflife.org/>)*