Challenges of past year led to innovations on voting security, poll worker recruitment and poll locations across the state.

Over a year ago, I wrote on my chief of staff’s white board that “on Nov. 4, the world will know and believe the results of Ohio’s presidential election.” That mission was accomplished.

FINALLY, KEEPING OHIOANS SAFE

Finally, keeping Ohioans safe also meant easing the burden on poll workers. Even before the election, we knew tens of thousands of poll workers were older Ohioans who had served for many years and that a younger generation of patriotic Ohioans was needed.

We launched over a half dozen recruitment programs — such as Lawyers for Liberty, where attorneys received required continuing legal education credits for being a poll worker this year; and Youth at the Booth, where high school seniors (17-year-olds) could work the polls for school credit.

Thanks to these aggressive recruitment campaigns, more than 56,000 trained poll workers stood ready to open nearly 4,000 polling locations on Nov. 3.

SUMMISSIONS WELCOME

This page is designed to be a forum for legislators and constitutional officers. The opinions expressed on this page do not reflect those of the Council of State Governments or the Midwestern Legislative Conference. Responses to any First Person article are welcome, as are pieces written on other topics. For more information, contact Tim Anderson at 630.925.1922 or tanderson@csg.org.