Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Among Knight News Challenge Winners Announced Today

Team of experts to develop new resources for 2016 elections nationwide

Hillsborough County, FL--Elections offices throughout the country will have new and better ways to serve voters in 2016, thanks to a partnership that brings elections officials from Hillsborough County, Florida; Cook County, Illinois; and Inyo County, California together with elections experts specializing in technology and design.

With $400,000 in support announced today from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation as part of its Knight News Challenge on Elections, the group will develop the Civic Engagement Toolkit for Local Elections Officials, an online clearinghouse of tested resources and communication tools, along with step-by-step instructions, that any election official can use for the 2016 General Election and beyond.

“We are drawing upon years of elections research and practical experience running elections for different constituencies to develop and test tools that will be useful to elections offices all across the country,” said Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Craig Latimer. “Collaboration allows all of us to stretch our capabilities.”

“The toolkit will make civic information more accessible and allow people to better connect with their local governments to help ensure that they are aware of what is taking place in their names,” said John Bracken, Knight Foundation vice president for media innovation.

The group came together in response to the Knight News Challenge on Elections, which is funding breakthrough ideas that better inform voters and increase civic participation before, during and after elections. More at www.newschallenge.org.

ABOUT THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

The Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections is a recognized role model for conducting elections in Florida and is the first elections office to earn the Governor’s Sterling Award, a Malcolm Baldrige-based award for performance excellence. Hillsborough County is the fourth largest in Florida and has more than 760,000 registered voters. For more, visit VoteHillsborough.org.

ABOUT THE JOHN S. AND JAMES L. KNIGHT FOUNDATION

Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities and foster the arts. The foundation believes that democracy thrives when people and communities are informed and engaged. For more, visit knightfoundation.org.

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