



GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2020

Innovative Government Solutions

Traverse City – The Grand Traverse County Clerk, Bonnie Scheele, has been innovative in finding alternative ways to handle the election precinct inspector training this year. County Clerks are required, by law, to train all election workers in jurisdictions with less than 10,000 registered voters. Township and City Clerks in jurisdictions with 10,000 or more registered voters have the option to train their workers or have the County Clerk train them.

Grand Traverse County's IT Director, Cliff DuPuy, included the Clerk's office in the plans for acquiring effective learning management software that can be used for providing interactive training for employees. This software, now called Grand Traverse County University (GTCU), was used by the County Clerk's office to create the online precinct inspector training. Bonnie Scheele and her Chief Deputy, Sam Gedman, we're preparing to have in-person training for almost 300 people in groups of around 10 people per training this summer. The larger jurisdictions in the County also have close to 200 more workers that will be trained in person by the local clerk or will be taking the online training course. The efficiency created by utilizing an online training approach has been a great cost saving to the county, as well as being very convenient for the inspectors, allowing them to work around their busy schedules. The training provides a continuous learning environment for the election workers and has created opportunities to have more direct communication with those workers. Questions can be answered and demonstrated, modules are added to highlight areas in need of emphasis and improvement and inspectors can test their knowledge by taking quizzes and completing assignments. The training will be updated and overtime used to supplement traditional in-person training. GTCU has also been used during the Coronavirus pandemic to pass along information and provide remote training to county employees.

None of these innovations would be possible without excellent cooperation between county departments, the townships, and city, which are key in making elections successful and secure in Grand Traverse County.

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