



# Daniel J. O'Connor Jr.

## Franklin County Recorder

\*\*\*Press Release\*\*\*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Franklin County Recorder's Office Supports Passage of Democracy Bonus Act

*The Franklin County Recorder's Office issued a statement of support for the passage of H.B. 398, Democracy Bonus Act, in the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Ohio Legislature.*

**Columbus, OH** – On August 31, 2021, the Franklin County Recorder's Office issued an official statement in support of the passage of H.B. 398, the Democracy Bonus Act, sponsored in the Ohio House of Representatives by Representative Richard D. Brown (D) and Representative Bride Rose Sweeney (D). The Democracy Bonus Act provides a one-time \$1,000 bonus to all members of the Ohio National Guard who served in a full-time capacity after March 9, 2020, in order to recognize their expanded service in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*"The Franklin County Recorder's Office is proud to serve our veterans every day by issuing Veteran I.D. cards and Recorder O'Connor fully supports the Democracy Bonus Act, which recognizes the unprecedented work our Ohio National Guard members have participated in over the past year and a half,"* the office said in an official statement released on Tuesday. *"These service members stepped up during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, helping to distribute food to our neighbors at local food banks and aiding in mass vaccination efforts across the state. We should take every chance we get to thank our hometown heroes, especially after such an active year of service to our state and country."*

The Franklin County Recorder's Office Veteran I.D. card program allows veterans to receive a wallet sized photo identification card when they record their DD-214 discharge form for safe keeping with the Recorder's Office. The Veterans I.D. Card is a valid form of identification by the State of Ohio and can be used to prove eligibility for employment applications, veteran hospital services, and burial benefits that are exclusive to service members.

Ohio National Guard members have participated in multiple missions responding to the COVID-19 pandemic including food distribution at foodbanks, assistance in vaccination efforts, and providing aid to long-term care facilities. There are currently over 11,000 Ohio National Guard soldiers in the state of Ohio, located at over 50 facilities across the state.<sup>1</sup>

Richard D. Brown is the state representative for Ohio House District 20. Bride Rose Sweeney is the state representative for Ohio House District 14.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nationalguard.com/select-your-state/OH>