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Editorial: A plus at the polls

We like the sound of the new Precinct Partners program Escambia County Supervisor of Elections David Stafford is ramping up. It sounds like a win-win for the elections office and for local organizations.

The elections office needs a reliable corps of workers to staff polling places during elections. And in these tough economic times local civic groups, charities and other organizations need new ways to raise money.

The Precinct Partners effort gives civic-minded volunteers a way to earn money for their organizations at the same time it brings motivated volunteers to work the polls.

It's obvious that fair, efficient elections are the backbone of our democratic form of government. And at the heart of any election operation are the poll workers who ensure that voters get to make their choices with a minimum of hassle. Going to the polls is our civic duty -- but it should be as painless as possible.

That means having the best workers available at the polls. A program like this one helps ensure that motivated, civic-minded people are available to work the polls. The deeper the pool of experienced workers, the better able the supervisor of elections is to cover all contingencies.

It is also one more way for people interested in serving their community to step up and help with one of our most important institutions.

And of course it doesn't hurt that it also provides a new source of revenue for organizations badly in need of it. Each volunteer can earn up to \$130 per election for his or her organization.

This is a good, innovative program.
