



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

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Frances Jennings Casement Elected as Lake County's America 250 Commemorative Bobblehead Honoree

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, March 20, 2026 — The Lake County Board of Elections, in partnership with the Lake County Commissioners and Tour Lake County, has announced that Frances Jennings Casement has been elected as the featured figure for the 2026 America 250 commemorative bobblehead following a successful community-wide voting initiative.

Casement received the highest number of votes, earning 204 votes (31.7%) out of a total of 643 ballots cast. Voting was conducted both in person—using official touchscreen voting equipment at the Lake County Board of Elections—and online, giving residents a unique opportunity to engage in the democratic process while participating in a historic community decision. Voting concluded on March 17.



Frances Jennings Casement

Frances Jennings Casement (1821–1890) was a prominent abolitionist and women's rights advocate whose work connected Lake County to some of the most transformative reform movements in American history. A resident of Painesville, she and her husband, General John S. Casement, opened their home as a stop on the Underground Railroad, assisting freedom seekers on their journey north. Following the Civil War, she became a leader in the women's suffrage movement, serving as president of the Ohio Woman Suffrage Association, and working alongside Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton to advance equal rights. She is also recognized on Lake Erie College's Women's History Walkway.

Today, the legacy of the Casement family continues to be honored in Painesville, where a new residential development, the Village of Casement, reflects the community's ongoing commitment to preserving and celebrating its rich local history.

"We were thrilled to see the community come together and take part in this unique voting experience," said Dante Lewis, Director of the Lake County Board of Elections. "This initiative not only showcased our voting system but also reinforced the importance of civic participation in a fun and meaningful way."

"America 250 is about honoring our shared history and the democratic ideals that define our nation," said Lake County Commissioner John T. Plecnik. "In voting to honor Frances Jennings Casement, we're recognizing a figure whose legacy of courage and advocacy continues to inspire our community today."

The full voting results are as follows: Frances Jennings Casement (204 votes, 31.7%), Charles Anderson Wickliffe (105, 16.3%), Dr. Westel Willoughby Jr. (101, 15.7%), Frances Payne Bolton (83, 12.9%), The Patriot Woman (82, 12.8%), and John Adams (68, 10.6%).

The winning bobblehead design featuring Frances Jennings Casement will be officially unveiled for a free giveaway to the first 1,000 visitors at the Lake County Fair on Saturday, August 1, 2026. For more information about the America 250 initiative, visit: <https://www.tourlakecounty.com/america250>

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