

**As Introduced**

**135th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2023-2024**

**H. B. No. 437**

**Representatives Lear, Lorenz**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 3501.01, 3503.09, 3503.10, 1  
3503.11, 3503.14, 3503.15, 3503.151, 3503.152, 2  
3503.153, 3503.16, 3503.19, 3503.20, 3503.23, 3  
3503.28, 3505.181, 3509.02, 3509.04, 3509.07, 4  
3509.08, 3513.041, 3513.05, 3513.07, 3513.18, 5  
3513.19, 3513.191, 3513.257, 3517.012, and 6  
3599.12; to enact section 3503.071; and to 7  
repeal sections 3513.192, 3513.20, and 3517.013 8  
of the Revised Code to require an elector to 9  
register as a member of a political party at 10  
least ninety days in advance in order to 11  
participate in that party's primary election and 12  
to require a primary candidate to have voted in 13  
that party's last primary. 14

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 3501.01, 3503.09, 3503.10, 15  
3503.11, 3503.14, 3503.15, 3503.151, 3503.152, 3503.153, 16  
3503.16, 3503.19, 3503.20, 3503.23, 3503.28, 3505.181, 3509.02, 17  
3509.04, 3509.07, 3509.08, 3513.041, 3513.05, 3513.07, 3513.18, 18  
3513.19, 3513.191, 3513.257, 3517.012, and 3599.12 be amended 19  
and section 3503.071 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as 20

follows:	21
<b>Sec. 3501.01.</b> As used in the sections of the Revised Code	22
relating to elections and political communications:	23
(A) "General election" means the election held on the	24
first Tuesday after the first Monday in each November.	25
(B) "Regular municipal election" means the election held	26
on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each	27
odd-numbered year.	28
(C) "Regular state election" means the election held on	29
the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each	30
even-numbered year.	31
(D) "Special election" means any election other than those	32
elections defined in other divisions of this section. A special	33
election may be held only on the first Tuesday after the first	34
Monday in May or November, on the first Tuesday after the first	35
Monday in August in accordance with section 3501.022 of the	36
Revised Code, or on the day authorized by a particular municipal	37
or county charter for the holding of a primary election, except	38
that in any year in which a presidential primary election is	39
held, no special election shall be held in May, except as	40
authorized by a municipal or county charter, but may be held on	41
the third Tuesday after the first Monday in March.	42
(E) (1) "Primary" or "primary election" means an election	43
held for the purpose of nominating persons as candidates of	44
political parties for election to offices, and for the purpose	45
of electing persons as members of the controlling committees of	46
political parties and as delegates and alternates to the	47
conventions of political parties. Primary elections shall be	48
held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May of each	49

year except in years in which a presidential primary election is held. 50  
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(2) "Presidential primary election" means a primary 52  
election as defined by division (E)(1) of this section at which 53  
an election is held for the purpose of choosing delegates and 54  
alternates to the national conventions of the major political 55  
parties pursuant to section 3513.12 of the Revised Code. Unless 56  
otherwise specified, presidential primary elections are included 57  
in references to primary elections. In years in which a 58  
presidential primary election is held, all primary elections 59  
shall be held on the third Tuesday after the first Monday in 60  
March except as otherwise authorized by a municipal or county 61  
charter. 62

(F) "Political party" means any group of voters meeting 63  
the requirements set forth in section 3517.01 of the Revised 64  
Code for the formation and existence of a political party. 65

(1) "Major political party" means any political party 66  
organized under the laws of this state whose candidate for 67  
governor or nominees for presidential electors received not less 68  
than twenty per cent of the total vote cast for such office at 69  
the most recent regular state election. 70

(2) "Minor political party" means any political party 71  
organized under the laws of this state that meets either of the 72  
following requirements: 73

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this division, the 74  
political party's candidate for governor or nominees for 75  
presidential electors received less than twenty per cent but not 76  
less than three per cent of the total vote cast for such office 77  
at the most recent regular state election. A political party 78

that meets the requirements of this division remains a political 79  
party for a period of four years after meeting those 80  
requirements. 81

(b) The political party has filed with the secretary of 82  
state, subsequent to its failure to meet the requirements of 83  
division (F) (2) (a) of this section, a petition that meets the 84  
requirements of section 3517.01 of the Revised Code. 85

A newly formed political party shall be known as a minor 86  
political party until the time of the first election for 87  
governor or president which occurs not less than twelve months 88  
subsequent to the formation of such party, after which election 89  
the status of such party shall be determined by the vote for the 90  
office of governor or president. 91

(G) "Dominant party in a precinct" or "dominant political 92  
party in a precinct" means that political party whose candidate 93  
for election to the office of governor at the most recent 94  
regular state election at which a governor was elected received 95  
more votes than any other person received for election to that 96  
office in such precinct at such election. 97

(H) "Candidate" means any qualified person certified in 98  
accordance with the provisions of the Revised Code for placement 99  
on the official ballot of a primary, general, or special 100  
election to be held in this state, or any qualified person who 101  
claims to be a write-in candidate, or who knowingly assents to 102  
being represented as a write-in candidate by another at either a 103  
primary, general, or special election to be held in this state. 104

(I) "Independent candidate" means any candidate who ~~claims~~ 105  
~~is not to be~~ affiliated with a political party, and whose name 106  
has been certified on the office-type ballot at a general or 107

special election through the filing of a statement of candidacy 108  
and nominating petition, as prescribed in section 3513.257 of 109  
the Revised Code. 110

(J) "Nonpartisan candidate" means any candidate whose name 111  
is required, pursuant to section 3505.04 of the Revised Code, to 112  
be listed on the nonpartisan ballot, including all candidates 113  
for judge of a municipal court, county court, or court of common 114  
pleas, for member of any board of education, for municipal or 115  
township offices in which primary elections are not held for 116  
nominating candidates by political parties, and for offices of 117  
municipal corporations having charters that provide for separate 118  
ballots for elections for these offices. 119

(K) "Party candidate" means any candidate who ~~claims to be~~ 120  
~~a member of~~ is affiliated with a political party and who has 121  
been certified to appear on the office-type ballot at a general 122  
or special election as the nominee of a political party because 123  
the candidate has won the primary election of the candidate's 124  
party for the public office the candidate seeks, has been 125  
nominated under section 3517.012, or is selected by party 126  
committee in accordance with section 3513.31 of the Revised 127  
Code. 128

(L) "Officer of a political party" includes, but is not 129  
limited to, any member, elected or appointed, of a controlling 130  
committee, whether representing the territory of the state, a 131  
district therein, a county, township, a city, a ward, a 132  
precinct, or other territory, of a major or minor political 133  
party. 134

(M) "Question or issue" means any question or issue 135  
certified in accordance with the Revised Code for placement on 136  
an official ballot at a general or special election to be held 137

in this state.	138
(N) "Elector" or "qualified elector" means a person having the qualifications provided by law to be entitled to vote.	139 140
(O) "Voter" means an elector who votes at an election.	141
(P) "Voting residence" means that place of residence of an elector which shall determine the precinct in which the elector may vote.	142 143 144
(Q) "Precinct" means a district within a county established by the board of elections of such county within which all qualified electors having a voting residence therein may vote at the same polling place.	145 146 147 148
(R) "Polling place" means that place provided for each precinct at which the electors having a voting residence in such precinct may vote.	149 150 151
(S) "Board" or "board of elections" means the board of elections appointed in a county pursuant to section 3501.06 of the Revised Code.	152 153 154
(T) "Political subdivision" means a county, township, city, village, or school district.	155 156
(U) "Election officer" or "election official" means any of the following:	157 158
(1) Secretary of state;	159
(2) Employees of the secretary of state serving the division of elections in the capacity of attorney, administrative officer, administrative assistant, elections administrator, office manager, or clerical supervisor;	160 161 162 163
(3) Director of a board of elections;	164

(4) Deputy director of a board of elections;	165
(5) Member of a board of elections;	166
(6) Employees of a board of elections;	167
(7) Precinct election officials;	168
(8) Employees appointed by the boards of elections on a temporary or part-time basis.	169 170
(V) "Acknowledgment notice" means a notice sent by a board of elections, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, informing a voter registration applicant or an applicant who wishes to change the applicant's residence or name of the status of the application; the information necessary to complete or update the application, if any; and if the application is complete, the precinct in which the applicant is to vote.	171 172 173 174 175 176 177
(W) "Confirmation notice" means a notice sent by a board of elections, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, to a registered elector to confirm the registered elector's current address.	178 179 180 181
(X) "Designated agency" means an office or agency in the state that provides public assistance or that provides state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities and that is required by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to implement a program designed and administered by the secretary of state for registering voters, or any other public or government office or agency that implements a program designed and administered by the secretary of state for registering voters, including the department of job and family services, the program administered under section 3701.132 of the Revised Code by the department of health, the department of mental health and addiction services, the	182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193

department of developmental disabilities, the opportunities for 194  
Ohioans with disabilities agency, and any other agency the 195  
secretary of state designates. "Designated agency" does not 196  
include public high schools and vocational schools, public 197  
libraries, or the office of a county treasurer. 198

(Y) "National Voter Registration Act of 1993" means the 199  
"National Voter Registration Act of 1993," 107 Stat. 77, 42 200  
U.S.C.A. 1973gg. 201

(Z) "Voting Rights Act of 1965" means the "Voting Rights 202  
Act of 1965," 79 Stat. 437, 42 U.S.C.A. 1973, as amended. 203

(AA) (1) "Photo identification" means one of the following 204  
documents that includes the individual's name and photograph and 205  
is not expired: 206

(a) An Ohio driver's license, state identification card, 207  
or interim identification form issued by the registrar of motor 208  
vehicles or a deputy registrar under Chapter 4506. or 4507. of 209  
the Revised Code; 210

(b) A United States passport or passport card; 211

(c) A United States military identification card, Ohio 212  
national guard identification card, or United States department 213  
of veterans affairs identification card. 214

(2) A "copy" of an individual's photo identification means 215  
images of both the front and back of a document described in 216  
division (AA) (1) of this section, except that if the document is 217  
a United States passport, a copy of the photo identification 218  
means an image of the passport's identification page that 219  
includes the individual's name, photograph, and other 220  
identifying information and the passport's expiration date. 221



(BB) "Driver's license" means a license or permit issued 222  
by the registrar or a deputy registrar under Chapter 4506. or 223  
4507. of the Revised Code that authorizes an individual to 224  
drive. "Driver's license" includes a driver's license, 225  
commercial driver's license, probationary license, restricted 226  
license, motorcycle operator's license, or temporary instruction 227  
permit identification card. "Driver's license" does not include 228  
a limited term license issued under section 4507.09 of the 229  
Revised Code. 230

(CC) "State identification card" means a card issued by 231  
the registrar or a deputy registrar under sections 4507.50 to 232  
4507.52 of the Revised Code. 233

(DD) "Interim identification form" means the document 234  
issued by the registrar or a deputy registrar to an applicant 235  
for a driver's license or state identification card that 236  
contains all of the information otherwise found on the license 237  
or card and that an applicant may use as a form of 238  
identification until the physical license or card arrives in the 239  
mail. 240

Sec. 3503.071. (A) Subject to division (D) of this 241  
section, an elector's political party affiliation shall be 242  
determined based on the most recent of the following: 243

(1) The elector's affiliation, if any, with a currently 244  
recognized political party as indicated on the elector's most 245  
recent voter registration application or voter registration 246  
update form; 247

(2) In the case of an elector who is registered to vote in 248  
this state before the effective date of this section, the 249  
currently recognized political party, if any, whose ballot the 250

elector most recently cast at a primary election held during the 251  
calendar year of the effective date of this section or the 252  
previous two calendar years. 253

(B) (1) Each voter registration application and voter 254  
registration update form prescribed by the secretary of state 255  
shall include all of the following: 256

(a) A list of the political parties that are recognized in 257  
this state, accompanied by boxes for the applicant to check to 258  
select a party with which the applicant wishes to be affiliated; 259

(b) A space for the applicant to write the name of a 260  
recognized political party that is not listed on the form, if 261  
the applicant wishes to be affiliated with that party; 262

(c) A box for the applicant to check to indicate that the 263  
applicant does not wish to be affiliated with any political 264  
party; 265

(d) A notice that the applicant may select or write the 266  
name of only one recognized political party and that the 267  
applicant is not required to select a political party; 268

(e) A notice that if the applicant is submitting a change 269  
of political party affiliation, the applicant must submit the 270  
form not later than the ninetieth day before the day of the next 271  
primary election in order to vote the applicant's new political 272  
party's ballot at that election. 273

(2) An applicant who submits a voter registration 274  
application or update form shall be considered unaffiliated if 275  
either of the following apply: 276

(a) The applicant indicates on the application or form 277  
that the applicant does not wish to be affiliated with any 278

political party. 279

(b) The applicant is not currently registered as 280  
affiliated with a political party, does not select or write the 281  
name of a recognized political party, and does not indicate that 282  
the applicant does not wish to be affiliated with any political 283  
party. 284

(3) An applicant who submits a voter registration update 285  
form shall remain registered as affiliated with the applicant's 286  
current political party if the applicant currently is affiliated 287  
with a political party, does not select or write the name of a 288  
recognized political party, and does not indicate that the 289  
applicant does not wish to be affiliated with any political 290  
party. 291

(C) (1) A registered elector who wishes to change the 292  
elector's political party affiliation in order to vote in a 293  
party's primary election shall submit a voter registration 294  
update form reflecting the change of political party affiliation 295  
not later than the ninetieth day before the day of the primary 296  
election. The board of elections shall record the elector's date 297  
of affiliation change as the date the elector submits the form. 298

(2) When an elector's registration in this state is 299  
canceled and the elector subsequently submits a new voter 300  
registration application that indicates a different political 301  
party affiliation than the elector's previous affiliation 302  
determined under division (A) of this section, the board of 303  
elections shall record the elector's date of affiliation change 304  
as the date the elector submits the new voter registration 305  
application, as though the elector had submitted a voter 306  
registration update form. 307

(3) When an elector who has not been previously registered to vote in this state registers to vote, the board of elections shall not record a date of affiliation change for the elector. 308  
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(D)(1) An elector is not eligible to vote any political party's ballot at a primary election or to sign or circulate a petition of candidacy for party nomination or election under section 3513.05 of the Revised Code if the elector's date of affiliation change is after the ninetieth day before the day of the primary election. 311  
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(2) An elector who is ineligible to vote a political party's ballot under division (D)(1) of this section may vote on any question or issue appearing on the ballot at a special election held on the day of the primary election. 317  
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**Sec. 3503.09.** (A) (1) The secretary of state shall adopt rules for the electronic transmission by boards of elections, designated agencies, offices of deputy registrars of motor vehicles, public high schools and vocational schools, public libraries, and offices of county treasurers, where applicable, of ~~name and residence changes for voter registration records in the statewide voter registration database~~ update forms. 321  
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(2) The secretary of state shall adopt rules for the purpose of improving the speed of processing new voter registrations that permit information from a voter registration application received by a designated agency or an office of deputy registrar of motor vehicles to be made available electronically, in addition to requiring the original voter registration application to be transmitted to the applicable board of elections under division (E) (2) of section 3503.10 or section 3503.11 of the Revised Code. 328  
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(B) Rules adopted under division (A) of this section shall 337  
do all of the following: 338

(1) Prohibit any direct electronic connection between a 339  
designated agency, office of deputy registrar of motor vehicles, 340  
public high school or vocational school, public library, or 341  
office of a county treasurer and the statewide voter 342  
registration database; 343

(2) Require any updated voter registration information to 344  
be verified by the secretary of state or a board of elections 345  
before the information is added to the statewide voter 346  
registration database for the purpose of modifying an existing 347  
voter registration; 348

(3) Require each designated agency or office of deputy 349  
registrar of motor vehicles that transmits voter registration 350  
information electronically to transmit an identifier for data 351  
relating to each new voter registration that shall be used by 352  
the secretary of state or a board of elections to match the 353  
electronic data to the original voter registration application. 354

**Sec. 3503.10.** (A) Each designated agency shall designate 355  
one person within that agency to serve as coordinator for the 356  
voter registration program within the agency and its 357  
departments, divisions, and programs. The designated person 358  
shall be trained under a program designed by the secretary of 359  
state and shall be responsible for administering all aspects of 360  
the voter registration program for that agency as prescribed by 361  
the secretary of state. The designated person shall receive no 362  
additional compensation for performing such duties. 363

(B) Every designated agency, public high school and 364  
vocational school, public library, and office of a county 365

treasurer shall provide in each of its offices or locations 366  
voter registration applications and assistance in the 367  
registration of persons qualified to register to vote, in 368  
accordance with this chapter. 369

(C) Every designated agency shall distribute to its 370  
applicants, prior to or in conjunction with distributing a voter 371  
registration application, a form prescribed by the secretary of 372  
state that includes all of the following: 373

(1) The question, "Do you want to register to vote or 374  
update your current voter registration?"--followed by boxes for 375  
the applicant to indicate whether the applicant would like to 376  
register or decline to register to vote, and the statement, 377  
highlighted in bold print, "If you do not check either box, you 378  
will be considered to have decided not to register to vote at 379  
this time."; 380

(2) If the agency provides public assistance, the 381  
statement, "Applying to register or declining to register to 382  
vote will not affect the amount of assistance that you will be 383  
provided by this agency."; 384

(3) The statement, "If you would like help in filling out 385  
the voter registration application form, we will help you. The 386  
decision whether to seek or accept help is yours. You may fill 387  
out the application form in private."; 388

(4) The statement, "If you believe that someone has 389  
interfered with your right to register or to decline to register 390  
to vote, your right to privacy in deciding whether to register 391  
or in applying to register to vote, or your right to choose your 392  
own political party or other political preference, you may file 393  
a complaint with the prosecuting attorney of your county or with 394

the secretary of state," with the address and telephone number 395  
for each such official's office. 396

(D) Each designated agency shall distribute a voter 397  
registration form prescribed by the secretary of state to each 398  
applicant with each application for service or assistance, and 399  
with each written application or form for recertification, 400  
renewal, or change of address. 401

(E) Each designated agency shall do all of the following: 402

(1) Have employees trained to administer the voter 403  
registration program in order to provide to each applicant who 404  
wishes to register to vote and who accepts assistance, the same 405  
degree of assistance with regard to completion of the voter 406  
registration application as is provided by the agency with 407  
regard to the completion of its own form; 408

(2) Accept completed voter registration applications, and 409  
~~voter registration change of residence forms, and voter~~ 410  
~~registration change of name update forms,~~ regardless of whether 411  
the application or form was distributed by the designated 412  
agency, for transmittal to the office of the board of elections 413  
in the county in which the agency is located. Each designated 414  
agency and the appropriate board of elections shall establish a 415  
method by which the voter registration applications and other 416  
voter registration forms are transmitted to that board of 417  
elections within five days after being accepted by the agency. 418

(3) If the designated agency is one that is primarily 419  
engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities under 420  
a state-funded program, and that agency provides services to a 421  
person with disabilities at a person's home, provide the 422  
services described in divisions (E) (1) and (2) of this section 423

at the person's home; 424

(4) Keep as confidential, except as required by the 425  
secretary of state for record-keeping purposes, the identity of 426  
an agency through which a person registered to vote or updated 427  
the person's voter registration records, and information 428  
relating to a declination to register to vote made in connection 429  
with a voter registration application issued by a designated 430  
agency. 431

(F) The secretary of state shall prepare and transmit 432  
written instructions on the implementation of the voter 433  
registration program within each designated agency, public high 434  
school and vocational school, public library, and office of a 435  
county treasurer. The instructions shall include directions as 436  
follows: 437

(1) That each person designated to assist with voter 438  
registration maintain strict neutrality with respect to a 439  
person's political philosophies, a person's right to register or 440  
decline to register, and any other matter that may influence a 441  
person's decision to register or not register to vote; 442

(2) That each person designated to assist with voter 443  
registration not seek to influence a person's decision to 444  
register or not register to vote, not display or demonstrate any 445  
political preference or party allegiance, and not make any 446  
statement to a person or take any action the purpose or effect 447  
of which is to lead a person to believe that a decision to 448  
register or not register has any bearing on the availability of 449  
services or benefits offered, on the grade in a particular class 450  
in school, or on credit for a particular class in school; 451

(3) Regarding when and how to assist a person in 452



completing the voter registration application, what to do with 453  
the completed voter registration application or voter 454  
registration update form, and when the application must be 455  
transmitted to the appropriate board of elections; 456

(4) Regarding what records must be kept by the agency and 457  
where and when those records should be transmitted to satisfy 458  
reporting requirements imposed on the secretary of state under 459  
the National Voter Registration Act of 1993; 460

(5) Regarding whom to contact to obtain answers to 461  
questions about voter registration forms and procedures. 462

(G) If the voter registration activity is part of an in- 463  
class voter registration program in a public high school or 464  
vocational school, whether prescribed by the secretary of state 465  
or independent of the secretary of state, the board of education 466  
shall do all of the following: 467

(1) Establish a schedule of school days and hours during 468  
these days when the person designated to assist with voter 469  
registration shall provide voter registration assistance; 470

(2) Designate a person to assist with voter registration 471  
from the public high school's or vocational school's staff; 472

(3) Make voter registration applications and materials 473  
available, as outlined in the voter registration program 474  
established by the secretary of state pursuant to section 475  
3501.05 of the Revised Code; 476

(4) Distribute the statement, "applying to register or 477  
declining to register to vote, or registering as affiliated with 478  
a particular political party or registering to vote and 479  
remaining unaffiliated, will not affect or be a condition of 480  
your receiving a particular grade in or credit for a school 481

course or class, participating in a curricular or 482  
extracurricular activity, receiving a benefit or privilege, or 483  
participating in a program or activity otherwise available to 484  
pupils enrolled in this school district's schools."; 485

(5) Establish a method by which the voter registration 486  
application and other voter registration forms are transmitted 487  
to the board of elections within five days after being accepted 488  
by the public high school or vocational school. 489

(H) Any person employed by the designated agency, public 490  
high school or vocational school, public library, or office of a 491  
county treasurer may be designated to assist with voter 492  
registration pursuant to this section. The designated agency, 493  
public high school or vocational school, public library, or 494  
office of a county treasurer shall provide the designated 495  
person, and make available such space as may be necessary, 496  
without charge to the county or state. 497

(I) The secretary of state shall prepare and cause to be 498  
displayed in a prominent location in each designated agency a 499  
notice that identifies the person designated to assist with 500  
voter registration, the nature of that person's duties, and 501  
where and when that person is available for assisting in the 502  
registration of voters. 503

A designated agency may furnish additional supplies and 504  
services to disseminate information to increase public awareness 505  
of the existence of a person designated to assist with voter 506  
registration in every designated agency. 507

(J) This section does not limit any authority a board of 508  
education, superintendent, or principal has to allow, sponsor, 509  
or promote voluntary election registration programs within a 510

high school or vocational school, including programs in which 511  
pupils serve as persons designated to assist with voter 512  
registration, provided that no pupil is required to participate. 513

(K) Each public library and office of the county treasurer 514  
shall establish a method by which voter registration forms are 515  
transmitted to the board of elections within five days after 516  
being accepted by the public library or office of the county 517  
treasurer. 518

(L) The department of job and family services and its 519  
departments, divisions, and programs shall limit administration 520  
of the aspects of the voter registration program for the 521  
department to the requirements prescribed by the secretary of 522  
state and the requirements of this section and the National 523  
Voter Registration Act of 1993. 524

**Sec. 3503.11.** When any person applies for a driver's 525  
license, commercial driver's license, a state of Ohio 526  
identification card issued under section 4507.50 of the Revised 527  
Code, or motorcycle operator's license or endorsement, or the 528  
renewal or duplicate of any license or endorsement under Chapter 529  
4506. or 4507. of the Revised Code, the registrar of motor 530  
vehicles or deputy registrar shall offer the applicant the 531  
opportunity to register to vote or to update the applicant's 532  
voter registration. The registrar of motor vehicles or deputy 533  
registrar also shall make available to all other customers voter 534  
registration applications and ~~change of residence and change of~~ 535  
~~name, voter registration update~~ forms, but is not required to 536  
offer assistance to these customers in completing a voter 537  
registration application or other form. 538

The deputy registrar shall send any registration 539  
application or any ~~change of residence or change of name~~ voter 540

registration update form that was completed and submitted in 541  
paper form to the deputy registrar to the board of elections of 542  
the county in which the office of the deputy registrar is 543  
located, within five days after accepting the application or 544  
other form. The registrar shall send any completed registration 545  
application received at the bureau of motor vehicles 546  
headquarters location and any completed ~~change of residence or~~ 547  
~~change of name~~ voter registration update form processed 548  
electronically in systems or programs operated and maintained by 549  
the bureau of motor vehicles to the secretary of state within 550  
five days after accepting the application or other form. 551

The registrar shall collect from each deputy registrar 552  
through the reports filed under division (J) of section 4503.03 553  
of the Revised Code and transmit to the secretary of state 554  
information on the number of voter registration applications and 555  
~~change of residence or change of name~~ voter registration update 556  
forms completed or declined, and any additional information 557  
required by the secretary of state to comply with the National 558  
Voter Registration Act of 1993. No information relating to an 559  
applicant's decision to decline to register or update the 560  
applicant's voter registration at the office of the registrar or 561  
deputy registrar may be used for any purpose other than voter 562  
registration record-keeping required by the secretary of state, 563  
and all such information shall be kept confidential. 564

The secretary of state shall prescribe voter registration 565  
applications and ~~change of residence and change of name~~ voter 566  
registration update forms for use by the bureau of motor 567  
vehicles. The bureau of motor vehicles shall supply all of its 568  
deputy registrars with a sufficient number of voter registration 569  
applications and ~~change of residence and change of name~~ voter 570  
registration update forms. 571

**Sec. 3503.14.** ~~(A)(A)~~ (1) The secretary of state shall 572  
prescribe the form and content of the voter registration, change 573  
~~of residence, and change of name~~ voter registration update forms 574  
used in this state. The forms shall meet the requirements of the 575  
National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and shall include spaces 576  
for all of the following: 577

~~(1)~~ (a) The voter's name; 578

~~(2)~~ (b) The voter's address; 579

~~(3)~~ (c) The current date; 580

~~(4)~~ (d) The voter's date of birth; 581

~~(5)~~ (e) The voter to provide at least one of the following 582  
forms of identification: 583

~~(a)~~ (i) The voter's Ohio driver's license or state 584  
identification card number; 585

~~(b)~~ (ii) The last four digits of the voter's social 586  
security number. 587

~~(6)~~ (f) The voter's signature. 588

(2) The form shall include the political party affiliation 589  
fields and notices described in division (B)(1) of section 590  
3503.071 of the Revised Code. 591

(3) The registration form shall include a space on which 592  
the person registering an applicant shall sign the person's name 593  
and provide the person's address and a space on which the person 594  
registering an applicant shall name the employer who is 595  
employing that person to register the applicant. 596

(4) Except for forms prescribed by the secretary of state 597  
under section 3503.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of 598

state shall permit boards of elections to produce forms that 599  
have subdivided spaces for each individual alphanumeric 600  
character of the information provided by the voter so as to 601  
accommodate the electronic reading and conversion of the voter's 602  
information to data and the subsequent electronic transfer of 603  
that data to the statewide voter registration database 604  
established under section 3503.15 of the Revised Code. 605

(B) None of the following persons who are registering an 606  
applicant in the course of that official's or employee's normal 607  
duties shall sign the person's name, provide the person's 608  
address, or name the employer who is employing the person to 609  
register an applicant on a form prepared under this section: 610

- (1) An election official; 611
- (2) A county treasurer; 612
- (3) A deputy registrar of motor vehicles; 613
- (4) An employee of a designated agency; 614
- (5) An employee of a public high school; 615
- (6) An employee of a public vocational school; 616
- (7) An employee of a public library; 617
- (8) An employee of the office of a county treasurer; 618
- (9) An employee of the bureau of motor vehicles; 619
- (10) An employee of a deputy registrar of motor vehicles; 620
- (11) An employee of an election official. 621

(C) Except as provided in section 3501.382 of the Revised 622  
Code, any applicant who is unable to sign the applicant's own 623  
name shall make an "X," if possible, which shall be certified by 624

the signing of the name of the applicant by the person filling 625  
out the form, who shall add the person's own signature. If an 626  
applicant is unable to make an "X," the applicant shall indicate 627  
in some manner that the applicant desires to register to vote or 628  
to ~~change~~ update the applicant's ~~name or residence~~ voter 629  
registration. The person registering the applicant shall sign 630  
the form and attest that the applicant indicated that the 631  
applicant desired to register to vote or to ~~change the~~ 632  
~~applicant's name or residence~~ update the applicant's voter 633  
registration. 634

(D) No registration, ~~change of residence, or change of~~ 635  
~~name~~ update form shall be rejected solely on the basis that a 636  
person registering an applicant failed to sign the person's name 637  
or failed to name the employer who is employing that person to 638  
register the applicant as required under division (A) of this 639  
section. 640

(E) A voter registration application or voter registration 641  
update form submitted online through the internet pursuant to 642  
section 3503.20 of the Revised Code is not required to contain a 643  
signature to be considered valid. The signature obtained under 644  
division (B) of that section shall be considered the applicant's 645  
signature for all election and signature-matching purposes. 646

(F) As used in this section, "registering an applicant" 647  
includes any effort, for compensation, to provide voter 648  
registration forms or to assist persons in completing or 649  
returning those forms. 650

**Sec. 3503.15.** (A) The secretary of state shall establish 651  
and maintain a statewide voter registration database that shall 652  
be administered by the office of data analytics and archives in 653  
the office of the secretary of state and made continuously 654

available to each board of elections and to other agencies as 655  
authorized by law. 656

The statewide voter registration database shall be the 657  
official list of registered electors for all elections conducted 658  
in this state. 659

(B) The statewide voter registration database shall, at a 660  
minimum, include all of the following: 661

(1) An electronic network that connects all board of 662  
elections offices with the office of the secretary of state and 663  
with the offices of all other boards of elections; 664

(2) A computer program that harmonizes the records 665  
contained in the database with records maintained by each board 666  
of elections; 667

(3) An interactive computer program that allows access to 668  
the records contained in the database by each board of elections 669  
and by any persons authorized by the secretary of state to add, 670  
delete, modify, or print database records, and to conduct 671  
updates of the database; 672

(4) A search program capable of verifying registered 673  
electors and their registration information by name, driver's 674  
license or state identification card number, birth date, social 675  
security number, or current address; 676

(5) Safeguards and components to ensure that the 677  
integrity, security, and confidentiality of the voter 678  
registration information is maintained; 679

(6) Methods to retain canceled voter registration records 680  
for not less than five years after they are canceled and to 681  
record the reason for their cancellation. 682



(C) For each registered elector, the statewide voter registration database shall include all of the following information:	683 684 685
(1) The elector's name;	686
(2) The elector's birth date;	687
(3) The elector's current residence address;	688
(4) The elector's precinct number;	689
(5) The elector's Ohio driver's license or state identification card number, if available;	690 691
(6) The last four digits of the elector's social security number, if available;	692 693
(7) The elector's telephone number, if available;	694
(8) The elector's electronic mail address, if available;	695
(9) (a) The elector's voter registration date, which shall be determined based on the elector's most recent application to register to vote in this state, subject to division (C) (9) (b) of this section, as follows:	696 697 698 699
(i) In the case of an application delivered in person to a state or local office of a designated agency, the office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public library, or the office of a county treasurer, the date stamped on the application upon receipt by the entity that transmits the application to the board of elections or the secretary of state;	700 701 702 703 704 705 706
(ii) In the case of an application delivered in person to a board of elections or the secretary of state, the date stamped on the application upon receipt by the board of elections or the	707 708 709

secretary of state, as applicable;	710
(iii) In the case of an application delivered by mail to a board of elections or the secretary of state, the date the application is postmarked;	711 712 713
(iv) In the case of an application submitted through the online voter registration system established under section 3503.20 of the Revised Code, the date of the online submission;	714 715 716
(v) In the case of an application submitted to a board of elections by facsimile transmission or electronic mail under Chapter 3511. of the Revised Code, the date of the receipt of the transmission or electronic mail by the board of elections;	717 718 719 720
(vi) In the case of a provisional ballot affirmation that serves as an application to register to vote in future elections because the individual who cast the ballot is not registered to vote, the date the board of elections determines that the provisional ballot is invalid under section 3505.183 of the Revised Code.	721 722 723 724 725 726
(b) For purposes of determining an elector's voter registration date under division (C) (9) (a) of this section, all of the following apply:	727 728 729
(i) An elector's voter registration date shall not be during the period beginning on the day after the close of voter registration before an election and ending on the day of the election. If the date determined under division (C) (9) (a) of this section would be during that period, the voter registration date instead shall be the date on which the board of elections processes the application to register to vote after the day of the election.	730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737
(ii) <del>A change of address or change of name voter</del>	738

registration update form, including a provisional ballot 739  
affirmation that serves as a ~~change of address or change of name~~ 740  
voter registration update form, is not considered an application 741  
to register to vote. 742

(iii) An application to register to vote that is submitted 743  
by an individual who is already registered to vote in this state 744  
is not considered an application to register to vote. 745

(10) The elector's voting history, including all of the 746  
following for each election in which the elector cast a ballot 747  
that was counted: 748

(a) The date of the election; 749

(b) If the election was a primary election, the political 750  
party whose ballot the elector cast at the primary election or 751  
an indication that the elector voted only on the questions and 752  
issues appearing on the ballot at a special election held on the 753  
day of the primary election; 754

(c) The type of ballot the elector cast. 755

(11) The elector's last activity date, which shall be 756  
determined in accordance with rules adopted by the secretary of 757  
state pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. 758

(12) The elector's political party affiliation, if any, 759  
and the elector's date of affiliation change, if any, as 760  
determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code; 761

(13) Any other information the secretary of state requires 762  
to be included by rule adopted pursuant to Chapter 119. of the 763  
Revised Code. 764

(D) Every day during the period beginning on the forty- 765  
sixth day before an election and ending on the eighty-first day 766

after the day of the election, a board of elections shall create 767  
a daily record of its voter registration database as of four 768  
p.m. and shall transmit the daily record to the secretary of 769  
state in a secure manner prescribed by the secretary of state. 770  
The secretary of state shall archive the daily record and retain 771  
it for at least twenty-two months after the day of the election. 772

(E) The secretary of state shall adopt rules pursuant to 773  
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to implement this section and 774  
sections 3503.151 to 3503.153 of the Revised Code, including 775  
rules doing all of the following: 776

(1) Specifying the manner in which any voter registration 777  
records maintained by boards of elections in other data formats 778  
shall be converted for inclusion in the statewide voter 779  
registration database; 780

(2) Establishing a uniform method for entering voter 781  
registration records into the statewide voter registration 782  
database on an expedited basis, but not less than once per day, 783  
if new registration information is received, and for 784  
transmitting information securely to the secretary of state; 785

(3) Establishing a uniform method for purging canceled 786  
voter registration records from the statewide voter registration 787  
database in accordance with section 3503.21 of the Revised Code; 788

(4) Specifying the persons authorized to add, delete, 789  
modify, or print records contained in the statewide voter 790  
registration database and to make updates of that database; 791

(5) Establishing a process for annually auditing the 792  
information contained in the statewide voter registration 793  
database. 794

(F) A board of elections promptly shall purge a voter's 795

name and voter registration information from the statewide voter registration database in accordance with the rules adopted by the secretary of state under division (E) (3) of this section after the cancellation of a voter's registration under section 3503.21 of the Revised Code.

(G) The secretary of state shall provide training in the operation of the statewide voter registration database to each board of elections and to any persons authorized by the secretary of state to add, delete, modify, or print database records, and to conduct updates of the database.

(H) A board of elections and any vendor with which it contracts to provide voter registration software or related services shall ensure that the board's voter registration system and practices comply with the requirements of this section and any rules adopted under this section.

**Sec. 3503.151.** (A) The secretary of state, through the office of data analytics and archives, and the boards of elections shall maintain the accuracy of the statewide voter registration database in accordance with this section.

(B) (1) State agencies, including, but not limited to, the department of health, the bureau of motor vehicles, the department of job and family services, the department of medicaid, and the department of rehabilitation and corrections, shall provide any information and data to the secretary of state that is collected in the course of normal business and that is necessary to register to vote, to update an elector's registration, or to maintain the statewide voter registration database, except where prohibited by federal law or regulation. The department of health, the bureau of motor vehicles, the department of job and family services, the department of

medicaid, and the department of rehabilitation and corrections 826  
shall provide that information and data to the secretary of 827  
state not later than the last day of each month. The secretary 828  
of state shall ensure that any information or data provided to 829  
the secretary of state that is confidential in the possession of 830  
the entity providing the data remains confidential while in the 831  
possession of the secretary of state. No public office, and no 832  
public official or employee, shall sell that information or data 833  
or use that information or data for profit. 834

(2) The secretary of state shall adopt rules under Chapter 835  
119. of the Revised Code that establish, by mutual agreement 836  
with the bureau of motor vehicles, the content and format of the 837  
information and data the bureau of motor vehicles shall provide 838  
to the secretary of state under division (B)(1) of this section 839  
and the frequency with which the bureau shall provide that 840  
information and data. 841

(C)(1) The secretary of state shall enter into agreements 842  
to share information or data that is in the possession of the 843  
secretary of state with other states or groups of states, as the 844  
secretary of state considers necessary, in order to maintain the 845  
statewide voter registration database. Except as otherwise 846  
provided in division (C)(2) of this section, the secretary of 847  
state shall ensure that any information or data provided to the 848  
secretary of state that is confidential in the possession of the 849  
state providing the data remains confidential while in the 850  
possession of the secretary of state. 851

(2) The secretary of state may provide such otherwise 852  
confidential information or data to persons or organizations 853  
that are engaging in legitimate governmental purposes related to 854  
the maintenance of the statewide voter registration database. 855

The secretary of state shall adopt rules pursuant to Chapter 856  
119. of the Revised Code identifying the persons or 857  
organizations who may receive that information or data. The 858  
secretary of state shall not share that information or data with 859  
a person or organization not identified in those rules. The 860  
secretary of state shall ensure that a person or organization 861  
that receives confidential information or data under this 862  
division keeps the information or data confidential in the 863  
person's or organization's possession by, at a minimum, entering 864  
into a confidentiality agreement with the person or 865  
organization. Any confidentiality agreement entered into under 866  
this division shall include a requirement that the person or 867  
organization submit to the jurisdiction of this state in the 868  
event that the person or organization breaches the agreement. 869

(3) No person or entity that receives information or data 870  
under division (C) of this section shall sell the information or 871  
data or use the information or data for profit. 872

(D) The secretary of state shall regularly transmit to the 873  
boards of elections, to the extent permitted by state and 874  
federal law, the information and data the secretary of state 875  
receives under divisions (B) and (C) of this section that is 876  
necessary to do the following, in order to ensure that the 877  
accuracy of the statewide voter registration database is 878  
maintained on a regular basis in accordance with applicable 879  
state and federal law: 880

(1) Require the boards of elections to maintain the 881  
database in a manner that ensures that the name of each 882  
registered elector appears in the database, that only 883  
individuals who are not registered or eligible to vote are 884  
removed from the database, and that duplicate registrations are 885

eliminated from the database; 886

(2) Require the boards of elections to make a reasonable 887  
effort to remove individuals who are not eligible to vote from 888  
the database; 889

(3) Establish safeguards to ensure that eligible electors 890  
are not removed in error from the database. 891

(E) (1) The secretary of state shall adopt rules under 892  
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to establish a uniform method 893  
for addressing instances in which records contained in the 894  
statewide voter registration database do not conform with 895  
records maintained by an agency, state, or group of states 896  
described in division (B) or (C) of this section. That method 897  
shall prohibit an elector's voter registration from being 898  
canceled on the sole basis that the information in the 899  
registration record does not conform to records maintained by 900  
such an agency. 901

(2) Information provided under division (B) or (C) of this 902  
section for maintenance of the statewide voter registration 903  
database shall not be used to update the name or address of a 904  
registered elector. The name or address of a registered elector 905  
shall only be updated as a result of the elector's actions in 906  
filing a ~~notice of change of name, change of address, or~~ 907  
~~both~~ voter registration update form. 908

(3) A board of elections shall contact a registered 909  
elector pursuant to the rules adopted under division (E) (1) of 910  
this section to verify the accuracy of the information in the 911  
statewide voter registration database regarding that elector if 912  
that information does not conform with information provided 913  
under division (B) or (C) of this section and the discrepancy 914



would affect the elector's eligibility to cast a regular ballot. 915

**Sec. 3503.152.** The secretary of state shall conduct an 916  
annual review of the statewide voter registration database to 917  
identify persons who appear not to be United States citizens, as 918  
follows: 919

(A) The secretary of state shall compare the information 920  
in the statewide voter registration database with the 921  
information the secretary of state obtains from the bureau of 922  
motor vehicles under section 3503.151 of the Revised Code to 923  
identify any person who does all of the following, in the 924  
following order: 925

(1) Submits documentation to the bureau of motor vehicles 926  
that indicates that the person is not a United States citizen; 927

(2) Registers to vote, ~~submits a~~ updates the person's 928  
voter registration ~~change of residence or change of name form,~~ 929  
or votes in this state; 930

(3) Submits documentation to the bureau of motor vehicles 931  
that indicates that the person is not a United States citizen. 932

(B) The secretary of state shall send a written notice to 933  
each person identified under division (A) of this section, 934  
instructing the person either to confirm that the person is a 935  
United States citizen or to submit a completed voter 936  
registration cancellation form to the secretary of state. The 937  
secretary of state shall include a blank voter registration 938  
cancellation form with the notice. If the person fails to 939  
respond to the secretary of state in the manner described in 940  
division (C) or (D) of this section not later than thirty days 941  
after the notice is sent, the secretary of state promptly shall 942  
send the person a second notice and form. 943

(C) If, not later than sixty days after the first notice 944  
is sent, a person who is sent a notice under division (B) of 945  
this section responds to the secretary of state, confirming that 946  
the person is a United States citizen, the secretary of state 947  
shall take no action concerning the person's voter registration. 948

(D) If, not later than sixty days after the first notice 949  
was sent, a person who receives a notice under division (B) of 950  
this section sends a completed voter registration cancellation 951  
form to the secretary of state, the secretary of state shall 952  
instruct the board of elections of the county in which the 953  
person is registered to cancel the person's registration. 954

(E) If a person who is sent a second notice under division 955  
(B) of this section fails to respond to the secretary of state 956  
in the manner described in division (C) or (D) of this section 957  
not later than thirty days after the second notice is sent, the 958  
secretary of state shall refer the matter to the attorney 959  
general for further investigation and possible prosecution under 960  
section 3599.11, 3599.12, 3599.13, or any other applicable 961  
section of the Revised Code. If, after the thirtieth day after 962  
the second notice is sent, the person sends a completed voter 963  
registration cancellation form to the secretary of state, the 964  
secretary of state shall instruct the board of elections of the 965  
county in which the person is registered to cancel the person's 966  
registration and shall notify the attorney general of the 967  
cancellation. 968

(F) The secretary of state shall not conduct the review 969  
described in this section during the ninety days immediately 970  
preceding a primary or general election for federal office. 971

**Sec. 3503.153.** (A) The statewide voter registration 972  
database shall be made available on a web site of the office of 973

the secretary of state as follows:	974
(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (A) (2) of this section, the following information from the statewide voter registration database regarding a registered elector shall be made available on the web site:	975 976 977 978
(a) The elector's name;	979
(b) The elector's birth date;	980
(c) The elector's current residence address;	981
(d) The elector's precinct number;	982
(e) The elector's voter registration date, as described in division (C) (9) of section 3503.15 of the Revised Code;	983 984
(f) The elector's voting history, as described in division (C) (10) of section 3503.15 of the Revised Code;	985 986
(g) The elector's last activity date, as described in division (C) (11) of section 3503.15 of the Revised Code;	987 988
<u>(h) The elector's political party affiliation, if any, and the elector's date of affiliation change, if any, as determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code.</u>	989 990 991
(2) During the thirty days before the day of a primary or general election, the web site interface of the statewide voter registration database shall permit an elector to search for the polling location at which that elector may cast a ballot.	992 993 994 995
(3) No information in the statewide voter registration database that is exempt from disclosure under division (A) (2) of section 3503.13 of the Revised Code shall be made available on the web site.	996 997 998 999
(B) (1) The secretary of state shall establish, by rule	1000

adopted under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, a process for 1001  
boards of elections to notify the secretary of state of changes 1002  
in the locations of precinct polling places for the purpose of 1003  
updating the information made available on the secretary of 1004  
state's web site under division (A) (2) of this section. Those 1005  
rules shall require a board of elections, during the thirty days 1006  
before the day of a primary or general election, to notify the 1007  
secretary of state within one business day of any change to the 1008  
location of a precinct polling place within the county. 1009

(2) During the thirty days before the day of a primary or 1010  
general election, not later than one business day after 1011  
receiving a notification from a county pursuant to division (B) 1012  
(1) of this section that the location of a precinct polling 1013  
place has changed, the secretary of state shall update that 1014  
information on the secretary of state's web site for the purpose 1015  
of division (A) (2) of this section. 1016

**Sec. 3503.16.** ~~(A) Except as otherwise provided in division~~ 1017  
~~(E) of section 111.44 of the Revised Code, whenever (A) (1)~~ 1018  
Whenever a registered elector changes the place of residence of 1019  
that registered elector ~~from one precinct to another within a~~ 1020  
~~county or from one county to another this state,~~ or has a change 1021  
of name or a change of political party affiliation, that 1022  
registered elector shall report the change by ~~delivering a~~ 1023  
~~change of residence or change of name form, whichever is~~ 1024  
~~appropriate, as prescribed by the secretary of state under~~ 1025  
~~section 3503.14 of the Revised Code to the state or local office~~ 1026  
~~of a designated agency, a public high school or vocational~~ 1027  
~~school, a public library, the office of the county treasurer,~~ 1028  
~~the office of the secretary of state, any office of the~~ 1029  
~~registrar or deputy registrar of motor vehicles, or any office~~ 1030  
~~of a board of elections in person or by a third person. Any~~ 1031

~~voter registration, change of address, or change of name~~ 1032  
~~application, returned by mail, may be sent only to the secretary~~ 1033  
~~of state or the board of elections.~~ 1034

~~A registered elector also may update the registration of~~ 1035  
~~that registered elector by filing a change of residence or~~ 1036  
~~change of name form on the day of a special, primary, or general~~ 1037  
~~election at the polling place in the precinct in which that~~ 1038  
~~registered elector resides or at the board of elections or at~~ 1039  
~~another site designated by the board one of the methods~~ 1040  
~~described in section 3503.19 of the Revised Code.~~ 1041

(2) Any registered elector who wishes to change the 1042  
elector's political party affiliation before a primary election 1043  
shall submit a voter registration update form reflecting the 1044  
change of political party affiliation not later than the 1045  
ninetieth day before the day of the primary election. If the 1046  
elector submits a valid voter registration update form at any 1047  
time after that deadline, the form shall be processed in 1048  
accordance with section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, but elector 1049  
shall be eligible to vote that political party's ballot only 1050  
beginning with the next primary election held at least ninety 1051  
days after the elector submits the form. 1052

(B) (1) (a) Any registered elector who moves within a 1053  
precinct on or prior to the day of a general, primary, or 1054  
special election and has not ~~filed a notice of reported the~~ 1055  
~~change of residence with the board of elections under section~~ 1056  
~~3503.19 of the Revised Code~~ may vote in that election by going 1057  
to that registered elector's assigned polling place, completing 1058  
and signing a ~~notice of change of residence voter registration~~ 1059  
~~update form~~, showing photo identification, and casting a ballot. 1060

(b) Any registered elector who changes the name of that 1061

registered elector and remains within a precinct on or prior to 1062  
the day of a general, primary, or special election and has not 1063  
~~filed a notice of reported the~~ change of name ~~with the board of~~ 1064  
~~elections~~ under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code may vote in 1065  
that election by going to that registered elector's assigned 1066  
polling place, completing and signing a ~~notice of a change of~~ 1067  
~~name~~ voter registration update form, and casting a provisional 1068  
ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised Code. If the 1069  
registered elector provides to the precinct election officials 1070  
proof of a legal name change, such as a marriage license or 1071  
court order that includes the elector's current and prior names, 1072  
the elector may complete and sign a ~~notice of change of name~~ 1073  
voter registration update form and cast a regular ballot. 1074

(2) Any registered elector who moves from one precinct to 1075  
another within a county or moves from one precinct to another 1076  
and changes the name of that registered elector on or prior to 1077  
the day of a general, primary, or special election and has not 1078  
~~filed a notice of reported the~~ change of residence or change of 1079  
name, whichever is appropriate, ~~with the board of elections~~ 1080  
under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code may vote in that 1081  
election if that registered elector complies with division (G) 1082  
of this section or does all of the following: 1083

(a) Appears at anytime during regular business hours on or 1084  
after the twenty-eighth day prior to the election in which that 1085  
registered elector wishes to vote or, if the election is held on 1086  
the day of a presidential primary election, the twenty-fifth day 1087  
prior to the election, through noon of the Saturday prior to the 1088  
election at the office of the board of elections, appears at any 1089  
time during regular business hours on the Monday prior to the 1090  
election at the office of the board of elections, or appears on 1091  
the day of the election at either of the following locations: 1092

- (i) The polling place for the precinct in which that registered elector resides;
- (ii) The office of the board of elections or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated another location in the county at which registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of the office of the board of elections.
- (b) Completes and signs, under penalty of election falsification, the written affirmation on the provisional ballot envelope, which shall serve as a ~~notice of change of residence or change of name, whichever is appropriate~~ voter registration update form;
- (c) Votes a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised Code at the polling place, at the office of the board of elections, or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated another location in the county at which registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of the office of the board of elections, whichever is appropriate, using the address to which that registered elector has moved or the name of that registered elector as changed, whichever is appropriate;
- (d) Completes and signs, under penalty of election falsification, a statement attesting that that registered elector moved or had a change of name, whichever is appropriate, on or prior to the day of the election, has voted a provisional ballot at the polling place for the precinct in which that registered elector resides, at the office of the board of elections, or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated another location in the county at which registered electors may vote, at that other

location instead of the office of the board of elections, 1123  
whichever is appropriate, and will not vote or attempt to vote 1124  
at any other location for that particular election. 1125

(C) Any registered elector who moves from one county to 1126  
another county within the state on or prior to the day of a 1127  
general, primary, or special election and has not ~~registered to~~ 1128  
~~vote in the county to which that registered elector moved~~ 1129  
reported the change of residence under section 3503.19 of the 1130  
Revised Code may vote in that election if that registered 1131  
elector complies with division (G) of this section or does all 1132  
of the following: 1133

(1) Appears at any time during regular business hours on 1134  
or after the twenty-eighth day prior to the election in which 1135  
that registered elector wishes to vote or, if the election is 1136  
held on the day of a presidential primary election, the twenty- 1137  
fifth day prior to the election, through noon of the Saturday 1138  
prior to the election at the office of the board of elections 1139  
or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the 1140  
Revised Code the board has designated another location in the 1141  
county at which registered electors may vote, at that other 1142  
location instead of the office of the board of elections, 1143  
appears during regular business hours on the Monday prior to the 1144  
election at the office of the board of elections or, if pursuant 1145  
to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board 1146  
has designated another location in the county at which 1147  
registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of 1148  
the office of the board of elections, or appears on the day of 1149  
the election at the office of the board of elections or, if 1150  
pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code 1151  
the board has designated another location in the county at which 1152  
registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of 1153



the office of the board of elections; 1154

(2) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 1155  
falsification, the written affirmation on the provisional ballot 1156  
envelope, which shall serve as a ~~notice of change of residence~~ 1157  
voter registration update form; 1158

(3) Votes a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of 1159  
the Revised Code at the office of the board of elections or, if 1160  
pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code 1161  
the board has designated another location in the county at which 1162  
registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of 1163  
the office of the board of elections, using the address to which 1164  
that registered elector has moved; 1165

(4) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 1166  
falsification, a statement attesting that that registered 1167  
elector has moved from one county to another county within the 1168  
state on or prior to the day of the election, has voted at the 1169  
office of the board of elections or, if pursuant to division (C) 1170  
of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated 1171  
another location in the county at which registered electors may 1172  
vote, at that other location instead of the office of the board 1173  
of elections, and will not vote or attempt to vote at any other 1174  
location for that particular election. 1175

(D) A person who votes by absent voter's ballots pursuant 1176  
to division ~~(G)~~ (E) of this section shall not make written 1177  
application for the ballots pursuant to Chapter 3509. of the 1178  
Revised Code. Ballots cast pursuant to division ~~(G)~~ (E) of this 1179  
section shall be set aside in a special envelope and counted 1180  
during the official canvass of votes in the manner provided for 1181  
in sections 3505.32 and 3509.06 of the Revised Code insofar as 1182  
that manner is applicable. The board shall examine the pollbooks 1183

to verify that no ballot was cast at the polls or by absent voter's ballots under Chapter 3509. or 3511. of the Revised Code by an elector who has voted by absent voter's ballots pursuant to division ~~(C)~~ (E) of this section. Any ballot determined to be insufficient for any of the reasons stated above or stated in section 3509.07 of the Revised Code shall not be counted.

Subject to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code, a board of elections may lease or otherwise acquire a site different from the office of the board at which registered electors may vote pursuant to division (B) or (C) of this section.

~~(E) Upon receiving a notice of change of residence or change of name, the board of elections shall immediately send the registrant an acknowledgment notice. If the change of residence or change of name notice is valid, the board shall update the voter's registration as appropriate. If that form is incomplete, the board shall inform the registrant in the acknowledgment notice specified in this division of the information necessary to complete or update that registrant's registration.~~

~~(F) Change of residence and change of name forms shall be available at each polling place, and when these forms are completed, noting changes of residence or name, as appropriate, they shall be filed with election officials at the polling place. Election officials shall return completed forms, together with the pollbooks and tally sheets, to the board of elections.~~

~~The board of elections shall provide change of residence and change of name forms to the probate court and court of common pleas. The court shall provide the forms to any person eighteen years of age or older who has a change of name by order~~

~~of the court or who applies for a marriage license. The court— 1214  
shall forward all completed forms to the board of elections— 1215  
within five days after receiving them. 1216~~

~~(G)~~A registered elector who otherwise would qualify to 1217  
vote under division (B) or (C) of this section but is unable to 1218  
appear at the office of the board of elections or, if pursuant 1219  
to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board 1220  
has designated another location in the county at which 1221  
registered electors may vote, at that other location, on account 1222  
of personal illness, physical disability, or infirmity, may vote 1223  
on the day of the election if that registered elector does all 1224  
of the following: 1225

(1) Makes a written application on a form prescribed by 1226  
the secretary of state that includes all of the information 1227  
required under section 3509.03 of the Revised Code to the 1228  
appropriate board for an absent voter's ballot on or after the 1229  
twenty-seventh day prior to the election in which the registered 1230  
elector wishes to vote through the close of business on the 1231  
seventh day prior to that election and requests that the absent 1232  
voter's ballot be sent to the address to which the registered 1233  
elector has moved if the registered elector has moved, or to the 1234  
address of that registered elector who has not moved but has had 1235  
a change of name; 1236

(2) Declares that the registered elector has moved or had 1237  
a change of name, whichever is appropriate, and otherwise is 1238  
qualified to vote under the circumstances described in division 1239  
(B) or (C) of this section, whichever is appropriate, but that 1240  
the registered elector is unable to appear at the board of 1241  
elections because of personal illness, physical disability, or 1242  
infirmity; 1243

(3) Completes and returns a voter registration update form 1244  
along with the completed absent voter's ballot ~~a notice of~~ 1245  
~~change of residence indicating the address to which the~~ 1246  
~~registered elector has moved, or a notice of change of name,~~ 1247  
~~whichever is appropriate;~~ 1248

(4) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 1249  
falsification, a statement attesting that the registered elector 1250  
has moved or had a change of name on or prior to the day before 1251  
the election, has voted by absent voter's ballot because of 1252  
personal illness, physical disability, or infirmity that 1253  
prevented the registered elector from appearing at the board of 1254  
elections, and will not vote or attempt to vote at any other 1255  
location or by absent voter's ballot mailed to any other 1256  
location or address for that particular election. 1257

**Sec. 3503.19.** ~~(A) Persons~~ (A) (1) Except as otherwise 1258  
provided in division (E) of section 111.44 of the Revised Code, 1259  
persons qualified to register or to ~~change~~ update their 1260  
registration because of a change of address ~~or~~ change of name, 1261  
or change of political party affiliation may register or ~~change~~ 1262  
update their registration in ~~by doing any of the following:~~ 1263

(a) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1264  
registration update form in person or through another person at 1265  
any state or local office of a designated agency, at the office 1266  
of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor vehicles, at a 1267  
public high school or vocational school, at a public library, at 1268  
the office of a county treasurer, or at a branch office 1269  
established by the board of elections, ~~or in~~; 1270

(b) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1271  
registration update form in person or through another person at 1272  
a probate court or a court of common pleas. The board of 1273

elections shall provide the forms to the courts, and the courts 1274  
shall provide the forms to any person eighteen years of age or 1275  
older who has a change of name by order of the court or who 1276  
applies for a marriage license. 1277

(c) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1278  
registration update form in person, through another person, or 1279  
by mail at the office of the secretary of state or at the office 1280  
of ~~a any~~ board of elections. ~~A registered elector may also~~ 1281  
~~change the elector's registration on;~~ 1282

(d) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1283  
registration update form through the online voter registration 1284  
system under section 3503.20 of the Revised Code; 1285

(e) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1286  
registration update form in person to the election officials on 1287  
election day at any polling place ~~where the elector is eligible~~ 1288  
~~to vote, in the manner provided under section 3503.16 of the~~ 1289  
~~Revised Code. Voter registration applications and voter~~ 1290  
registration update forms shall be available at each polling 1291  
place, and the election officials shall return all completed 1292  
forms, together with the pollbooks and tally sheets, to the 1293  
board of elections. 1294

(f) In the case of a person who is eligible to vote as a 1295  
uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in accordance with 1296  
52 U.S.C. 20310, returning the person's completed voter 1297  
registration application or voter registration update form 1298  
electronically to the office of the secretary of state or to the 1299  
board of elections of the county in which the person's voting 1300  
residence is located pursuant to Chapter 3511. of the Revised 1301  
Code. 1302

(2)(a) Any state or local office of a designated agency, 1303  
the office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor 1304  
vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public 1305  
library, a probate court or court of common pleas, or the office 1306  
of a county treasurer shall date stamp a voter registration 1307  
application or voter registration update form it receives using 1308  
a date stamp that does not disclose the identity of the state or 1309  
local office that receives it and shall transmit any voter- 1310  
registration-the application or change of registration form that- 1311  
it receives to the board of elections of the county in which the 1312  
state or local office is located, within five days after 1313  
receiving the ~~voter registration application or change of~~ 1314  
~~registration~~ form. 1315

(b) If a board of elections or the office of the secretary 1316  
of state receives a voter registration application or voter 1317  
registration update form before the thirtieth day before an 1318  
election, the board or the office of the secretary of state, as 1319  
applicable, shall forward the application or form to the board 1320  
of elections of the county in which the applicant resides within 1321  
ten days after receiving it. If a board of elections or the 1322  
office of the secretary of state receives a voter registration 1323  
application or voter registration update form on or after the 1324  
thirtieth day before an election, the board or the office of the 1325  
secretary of state, as applicable, shall forward the application 1326  
or form to the board of elections of the county in which the 1327  
applicant resides within thirty days after that election. 1328

(3) Except as otherwise provided in section 3503.16 of the 1329  
Revised Code: 1330

(a) An otherwise valid voter registration application that 1331  
is returned to the appropriate office other than by mail must be 1332

received by a state or local office of a designated agency, the 1333  
office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor 1334  
vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public 1335  
library, a probate court or court of common pleas, the office of 1336  
a county treasurer, the office of the secretary of state, or the 1337  
office of a board of elections no later than the thirtieth day 1338  
preceding a primary, special, or general election for the person 1339  
to qualify as an elector eligible to vote at that election. An 1340  
otherwise valid registration application received after that day 1341  
entitles the elector to vote at all subsequent elections. 1342

~~Any state or local office of a designated agency, the 1343  
office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor 1344  
vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public 1345  
library, or the office of a county treasurer shall date stamp a 1346  
registration application or change of name or change of address 1347  
form it receives using a date stamp that does not disclose the 1348  
identity of the state or local office that receives the 1349  
registration. 1350~~

(b) Voter registration applications, if otherwise valid, 1351  
that are returned by mail to the office of the secretary of 1352  
state or to the office of a board of elections must be 1353  
postmarked no later than the thirtieth day preceding a primary, 1354  
special, or general election in order for the person to qualify 1355  
as an elector eligible to vote at that election. If an otherwise 1356  
valid voter registration application that is returned by mail 1357  
does not bear a postmark or a legible postmark, the registration 1358  
shall be valid for that election if received by the office of 1359  
the secretary of state or the office of a board of elections no 1360  
later than twenty-five days preceding any special, primary, or 1361  
general election. 1362

~~(B) (1)~~ (B) Any person may apply in person, by telephone, 1363  
by mail, or through another person for voter registration forms 1364  
to the office of the secretary of state or the office of a board 1365  
of elections. An individual who is eligible to vote as a 1366  
uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in accordance with 1367  
42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6 also may apply for voter registration forms 1368  
by electronic means to the office of the secretary of state or 1369  
to the board of elections of the county in which the person's 1370  
voting residence is located pursuant to section 3503.191 of the 1371  
Revised Code. 1372

~~(2) (a)~~ An applicant may return the applicant's completed 1373  
registration form in person or by mail to any state or local 1374  
office of a designated agency, to a public high school or 1375  
vocational school, to a public library, to the office of a 1376  
county treasurer, to the office of the secretary of state, or to 1377  
the office of a board of elections. An applicant who is eligible 1378  
to vote as a uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in 1379  
accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6 also may return the 1380  
applicant's completed voter registration form electronically to 1381  
the office of the secretary of state or to the board of 1382  
elections of the county in which the person's voting residence 1383  
is located pursuant to section 3503.191 of the Revised Code. 1384

~~(b)~~ Subject to division (B) (2) (c) of this section, an 1385  
applicant may return the applicant's completed registration form 1386  
through another person to any board of elections or the office 1387  
of the secretary of state. 1388

~~(c)~~ A person who receives compensation for registering a 1389  
voter shall return any registration form entrusted to that 1390  
person by an applicant to any board of elections or to the 1391  
office of the secretary of state. 1392



~~(d) If a board of elections or the office of the secretary of state receives a registration form under division (B) (2) (b) or (c) of this section before the thirtieth day before an election, the board or the office of the secretary of state, as applicable, shall forward the registration to the board of elections of the county in which the applicant is seeking to register to vote within ten days after receiving the application. If a board of elections or the office of the secretary of state receives a registration form under division (B) (2) (b) or (c) of this section on or after the thirtieth day before an election, the board or the office of the secretary of state, as applicable, shall forward the registration to the board of elections of the county in which the applicant is seeking to register to vote within thirty days after that election.~~

(C) (1) A board of elections that receives a voter registration application or voter registration update form and is satisfied as to the truth of the statements made in the ~~registration application or form~~ shall register the applicant or update the elector's registration not later than twenty business days after receiving the application, unless that application is received during the thirty days immediately preceding the day of an election. The board shall promptly notify the ~~applicant~~ person in writing of each of the following:

(a) The applicant's fact that the person is registered to vote or has had the person's registration updated;

~~(b)~~ (b) (i) The person's political party affiliation, if any, as determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code;

(ii) If the person has had a change of political party affiliation, the date of the next primary election at which the

person is eligible to cast that party's ballot; 1423

(c) The precinct in which the ~~applicant~~ person is to vote; 1424

~~(e)~~ (d) In bold type as follows: 1425

"Voters must bring photo identification to the polls in 1426  
order to verify identity. Voters who do not provide photo 1427  
identification will still be able to vote by casting a 1428  
provisional ballot." 1429

The notification shall be by nonforwardable mail. If the 1430  
mail is returned to the board, it shall investigate and cause 1431  
the notification to be delivered to the correct address. 1432

(2) If, after investigating as required under division (C) 1433  
(1) of this section, the board is unable to verify the voter's 1434  
correct address, it shall cause the voter's name in the official 1435  
registration list and in the poll list or signature pollbook to 1436  
be marked to indicate that the voter's notification was returned 1437  
to the board. 1438

At the first election at which a voter whose name has been 1439  
so marked appears to vote, the voter shall be required to vote 1440  
by provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised 1441  
Code. If the provisional ballot is counted pursuant to division 1442  
(B) (3) of section 3505.183 of the Revised Code, the board shall 1443  
correct that voter's registration, if needed, and shall remove 1444  
the indication that the voter's notification was returned from 1445  
that voter's name on the official registration list and on the 1446  
poll list or signature pollbook. If the provisional ballot is 1447  
not counted pursuant to division (B) (4) (a) (i), (v), or (vi) of 1448  
section 3505.183 of the Revised Code, the voter's registration 1449  
shall be canceled. The board shall notify the voter by United 1450  
States mail of the cancellation. 1451

(3) If a notice of the disposition of an otherwise valid registration application is sent by nonforwardable mail and is returned undelivered, the person shall be registered as provided in division (C) (2) of this section and sent a confirmation notice by forwardable mail. If the person fails to respond to the confirmation notice, update the person's registration, or vote by provisional ballot as provided in division (C) (2) of this section in any election during the period of two federal elections subsequent to the mailing of the confirmation notice, the person's registration shall be canceled.

**Sec. 3503.20.** (A) The secretary of state shall establish a secure online voter registration system. The system shall provide for all of the following:

(1) An applicant to submit a voter registration application to the secretary of state online through the internet;

(2) The online applicant to be registered to vote, if all of the following apply:

(a) The application contains all of the following information:

(i) The applicant's name;

(ii) The applicant's address;

(iii) The applicant's date of birth;

(iv) The last four digits of the applicant's social security number;

(v) The applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the number of the applicant's state identification card issued under section 4507.50 of the Revised Code.

(b) The applicant's name, address, and date of birth, the 1480  
last four digits of the applicant's social security number, and 1481  
the applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the number of 1482  
the applicant's state identification card as they are provided 1483  
in the application are not inconsistent with the information on 1484  
file with the bureau of motor vehicles; 1485

(c) The applicant is a United States citizen, will have 1486  
lived in this state for thirty days immediately preceding the 1487  
next election, will be at least eighteen years of age on or 1488  
before the day of the next general election, and is otherwise 1489  
eligible to register to vote; 1490

(d) The applicant attests to the truth and accuracy of the 1491  
information submitted in the online application under penalty of 1492  
election falsification. 1493

(3) The application includes the political party 1494  
affiliation fields and notices described in division (B)(1) of 1495  
section 3503.071 of the Revised Code. 1496

(B) If an individual registers to vote or a registered 1497  
elector updates the elector's ~~name, address, or both~~ 1498  
registration under this section, the secretary of state shall 1499  
obtain an electronic copy of the applicant's or elector's 1500  
signature that is on file with the bureau of motor vehicles. 1501  
That electronic signature shall be used as the applicant's or 1502  
elector's signature on voter registration records, for all 1503  
election and signature-matching purposes. 1504

(C) The secretary of state shall employ whatever security 1505  
measures the secretary of state considers necessary to ensure 1506  
the integrity and accuracy of voter registration information 1507  
submitted electronically pursuant to this section. Errors in 1508

processing voter registration applications in the online system 1509  
shall not prevent an applicant from becoming registered or from 1510  
voting. 1511

(D) The online voter registration application established 1512  
under division (A) of this section shall include the following 1513  
language: 1514

"By clicking the box below, I affirm all of the following 1515  
under penalty of election falsification, which is a felony of 1516  
the fifth degree: 1517

(1) I am the person whose name and identifying information 1518  
is provided on this form, and I desire to register to vote, or 1519  
update my voter registration, in the State of Ohio. 1520

(2) All of the information I have provided on this form is 1521  
true and correct as of the date I am submitting this form. 1522

(3) I am a United States citizen. 1523

(4) I will have lived in Ohio for thirty days immediately 1524  
preceding the next election. 1525

(5) I will be at least eighteen years of age on or before 1526  
the day of the next general election. 1527

(6) I authorize the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to transmit 1528  
to the Ohio Secretary of State my signature that is on file with 1529  
the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and I understand and agree that 1530  
the signature transmitted by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will 1531  
be used by the Secretary of State to validate this electronic 1532  
voter registration application as if I had signed this form 1533  
personally." 1534

In order to register to vote or update a voter 1535  
registration under division (A) of this section, an applicant or 1536

elector shall be required to mark the box in the online voter 1537  
registration application that appears in conjunction with the 1538  
previous statement. 1539

(E) ~~The online voter registration process established~~ 1540  
~~under division (A) of this section shall be in operation and~~ 1541  
~~available for use by individuals who wish to register to vote or~~ 1542  
~~update their voter registration information online not earlier~~ 1543  
~~than January 1, 2017.~~ During the period beginning on the first 1544  
day after the close of voter registration before an election and 1545  
ending on the day of the election, the online voter registration 1546  
system shall display a notice indicating that the applicant will 1547  
not be registered to vote for the purposes of that election. 1548

(F) Notwithstanding section 1.50 of the Revised Code, if 1549  
any provision of this section or of division (E) of section 1550  
3503.14 of the Revised Code is held invalid, or if the 1551  
application of any provision of this section or of that division 1552  
to any person or circumstance is held invalid, then this section 1553  
and that division cease to operate. 1554

**Sec. 3503.23.** ~~(A) (A) (1)~~ Fourteen days before an election, 1555  
the board of elections shall cause to be prepared from the 1556  
statewide voter registration database established under section 1557  
3503.15 of the Revised Code a complete and official registration 1558  
list for each precinct, containing the names, addresses, and 1559  
political party ~~whose ballot the elector voted in the most~~ 1560  
~~recent primary election within the current year and the~~ 1561  
~~immediately preceding two calendar years,~~ affiliations of all 1562  
qualified registered voters in the precinct, except as otherwise 1563  
provided in section 111.44 of the Revised Code. All the names, 1564  
insofar as practicable, shall be arranged in alphabetical order. 1565  
The lists may be prepared either in sheet form on one side of 1566

the paper or in electronic form, at the discretion of the board. 1567  
Each precinct list shall be headed "Register of Voters," and 1568  
under the heading shall be indicated the district or ward and 1569  
precinct. 1570

(2) In the case of a primary election, the registration 1571  
list also shall include the date of affiliation change, as 1572  
determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code, for each 1573  
elector who has such a date. 1574

(3) Appended to each precinct list shall be attached the 1575  
names of the members of the board and the name of the director. 1576  
A sufficient number of such lists shall be provided for 1577  
distribution to the candidates, political parties, or organized 1578  
groups that apply for them. The board shall have each precinct 1579  
list available at the board for viewing by the public during 1580  
normal business hours. The board shall ensure that, by the 1581  
opening of the polls on the day of a general or primary 1582  
election, each precinct has a paper copy of the registration 1583  
list of voters in that precinct. 1584

(B) On the day of a general or primary election, precinct 1585  
election officials shall do both of the following: 1586

(1) By the time the polls open, conspicuously post and 1587  
display at the polling place one copy of the registration list 1588  
of voters in that precinct in an area of the polling place that 1589  
is easily accessible; 1590

(2) At 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. place a mark, on the official 1591  
registration list posted at the polling place, before the name 1592  
of those registered voters who have voted. 1593

(C) Notwithstanding division (B) of section 3501.35 of the 1594  
Revised Code, any person may enter the polling place for the 1595

sole purpose of reviewing the official registration list posted 1596  
in accordance with division (B) of this section, provided that 1597  
the person does not engage in conduct that would constitute 1598  
harassment in violation of the election law, as defined in 1599  
section 3501.90 of the Revised Code. 1600

**Sec. 3503.28.** (A) The secretary of state shall develop an 1601  
information brochure regarding voter registration. The brochure 1602  
shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following 1603  
information: 1604

(1) The applicable deadlines for registering to vote or 1605  
for returning an applicant's completed registration form; 1606

(2) The applicable deadline for returning an applicant's 1607  
completed registration form if the person returning the form is 1608  
being compensated for registering voters; 1609

(3) The manner in which a person may establish or change 1610  
the person's political party affiliation; 1611

(4) The locations to which a person may return an 1612  
applicant's completed registration form; 1613

~~(4)~~(5) The location to which a person who is compensated 1614  
for registering voters may return an applicant's completed 1615  
registration form; 1616

~~(5)~~(6) The registration and affirmation requirements 1617  
applicable to persons who are compensated for registering voters 1618  
under section 3503.29 of the Revised Code; 1619

~~(6)~~(7) A notice, which shall be written in bold type, 1620  
stating as follows: 1621

"Voters must bring photo identification to the polls in 1622  
order to verify identity. Voters who do not provide photo 1623



identification will still be able to vote by casting a 1624  
provisional ballot." 1625

(B) Except as otherwise provided in division (D) of this 1626  
section, a board of elections, designated agency, public high 1627  
school, public vocational school, public library, office of a 1628  
county treasurer, or deputy registrar of motor vehicles shall 1629  
distribute a copy of the brochure developed under division (A) 1630  
of this section to any person who requests more than two voter 1631  
registration forms at one time. 1632

(C) (1) The secretary of state shall provide the 1633  
information required to be included in the brochure developed 1634  
under division (A) of this section to any person who prints a 1635  
voter registration form that is made available on a web site of 1636  
the office of the secretary of state. 1637

(2) If a board of elections operates and maintains a web 1638  
site, the board shall provide the information required to be 1639  
included in the brochure developed under division (A) of this 1640  
section to any person who prints a voter registration form that 1641  
is made available on that web site. 1642

(D) A board of elections shall not be required to 1643  
distribute a copy of a brochure under division (B) of this 1644  
section to any of the following officials or employees who are 1645  
requesting more than two voter registration forms at one time in 1646  
the course of the official's or employee's normal duties: 1647

(1) An election official; 1648

(2) A county treasurer; 1649

(3) A deputy registrar of motor vehicles; 1650

(4) An employee of a designated agency; 1651

- (5) An employee of a public high school; 1652
- (6) An employee of a public vocational school; 1653
- (7) An employee of a public library; 1654
- (8) An employee of the office of a county treasurer; 1655
- (9) An employee of the bureau of motor vehicles; 1656
- (10) An employee of a deputy registrar of motor vehicles; 1657
- (11) An employee of an election official. 1658
- (E) As used in this section, "registering voters" includes 1659  
any effort, for compensation, to provide voter registration 1660  
forms or to assist persons in completing or returning those 1661  
forms. 1662
- Sec. 3505.181.** (A) All of the following individuals shall 1663  
be permitted to cast a provisional ballot at an election: 1664
- (1) An individual who declares that the individual is a 1665  
registered voter in the precinct in which the individual desires 1666  
to vote and that the individual is eligible to vote in an 1667  
election, but the name of the individual does not appear on the 1668  
official list of eligible voters for the precinct or an election 1669  
official asserts that the individual is not eligible to vote; 1670
- (2) An individual who does not have or is unable to 1671  
provide photo identification to the election officials; 1672
- (3) An individual whose name in the poll list or signature 1673  
pollbook has been marked under section 3509.09 or 3511.13 of the 1674  
Revised Code as having requested an absent voter's ballot or a 1675  
uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot for that 1676  
election and who appears to vote at the polling place; 1677
- (4) An individual whose notification of registration has 1678

been returned undelivered to the board of elections and whose 1679  
name in the official registration list and in the poll list or 1680  
signature pollbook has been marked under division (C) (2) of 1681  
section 3503.19 of the Revised Code; 1682

(5) An individual who has been successfully challenged 1683  
under section 3505.20 or ~~3513.20~~ 3513.19 of the Revised Code; 1684

(6) An individual who changes the individual's name and 1685  
remains within the precinct without providing proof of that name 1686  
change under division (B) (1) (b) of section 3503.16 of the 1687  
Revised Code, moves from one precinct to another within a 1688  
county, moves from one precinct to another and changes the 1689  
individual's name, or moves from one county to another within 1690  
the state, and completes and signs the required forms and 1691  
statements under division (B) or (C) of section 3503.16 of the 1692  
Revised Code; 1693

(7) An individual whose signature, in the opinion of the 1694  
precinct officers under section 3505.22 of the Revised Code, is 1695  
not that of the person who signed that name in the registration 1696  
forms. 1697

(B) An individual who is eligible to cast a provisional 1698  
ballot under division (A) of this section shall be permitted to 1699  
cast a provisional ballot as follows: 1700

(1) An election official at the polling place shall notify 1701  
the individual that the individual may cast a provisional ballot 1702  
in that election. 1703

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (F) of this 1704  
section, the individual shall complete and execute a written 1705  
affirmation before an election official at the polling place 1706  
stating that the individual is both of the following: 1707

(a) A registered voter in the precinct in which the individual desires to vote; 1708  
1709

(b) Eligible to vote in that election. 1710

(3) An election official at the polling place shall 1711  
transmit the ballot cast by the individual and the voter 1712  
information contained in the written affirmation executed by the 1713  
individual under division (B) (2) of this section to an 1714  
appropriate local election official for verification under 1715  
division (B) (4) of this section. 1716

(4) If the appropriate local election official to whom the 1717  
ballot or voter or address information is transmitted under 1718  
division (B) (3) of this section determines that the individual 1719  
is eligible to vote, the individual's provisional ballot shall 1720  
be counted as a vote in that election. 1721

(5) (a) At the time that an individual casts a provisional 1722  
ballot, the appropriate local election official shall give the 1723  
individual written information that states that any individual 1724  
who casts a provisional ballot will be able to ascertain under 1725  
the system established under division (B) (5) (b) of this section 1726  
whether the vote was counted, and, if the vote was not counted, 1727  
the reason that the vote was not counted. 1728

(b) The appropriate state or local election official shall 1729  
establish a free access system, in the form of a toll-free 1730  
telephone number, that any individual who casts a provisional 1731  
ballot may access to discover whether the vote of that 1732  
individual was counted, and, if the vote was not counted, the 1733  
reason that the vote was not counted. The free access system 1734  
established under this division also shall provide to an 1735  
individual whose provisional ballot was not counted information 1736

explaining how that individual may contact the board of 1737  
elections to register to vote or to resolve problems with the 1738  
individual's voter registration. 1739

The appropriate state or local election official shall 1740  
establish and maintain reasonable procedures necessary to 1741  
protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of personal 1742  
information collected, stored, or otherwise used by the free 1743  
access system established under this division. The system shall 1744  
permit an individual only to gain access to information about 1745  
the individual's own provisional ballot. 1746

(6) If, at the time that an individual casts a provisional 1747  
ballot, the individual provides photo identification, the 1748  
individual shall record the type of identification provided on 1749  
the provisional ballot affirmation and, if the individual 1750  
provides an Ohio driver's license, state identification card, or 1751  
interim identification document, the individual also shall write 1752  
the individual's driver's license or state identification card 1753  
number on the provisional ballot affirmation. 1754

(7) (a) For a provisional ballot to be eligible to be 1755  
counted when it is cast by an individual who does not have photo 1756  
identification because the individual has a religious objection 1757  
to being photographed, the individual shall complete an 1758  
affidavit of religious objection under section 3505.19 of the 1759  
Revised Code. The election officials shall attach the affidavit 1760  
to the individual's provisional ballot envelope. If the 1761  
individual does not complete the affidavit at the time of 1762  
casting the provisional ballot, the individual may appear at the 1763  
office of the board of elections within four days after the day 1764  
of the election and complete the affidavit. 1765

(b) For a provisional ballot to be eligible to be counted 1766

when it is cast by any other individual who does not have or is 1767  
unable to provide photo identification to the election 1768  
officials, the individual who cast that ballot, within four days 1769  
after the day of the election, shall appear at the office of the 1770  
board of elections and provide photo identification. 1771

(8) For a provisional ballot cast by an individual who has 1772  
been successfully challenged under section 3505.20 of the 1773  
Revised Code to be eligible to be counted, the individual who 1774  
cast that ballot, within four days after the day of that 1775  
election, shall provide to the board of elections any 1776  
identification or other documentation required to be provided by 1777  
the applicable challenge questions asked of that individual 1778  
under section 3505.20 of the Revised Code. 1779

(C) (1) If an individual declares that the individual is 1780  
eligible to vote in a precinct other than the precinct in which 1781  
the individual desires to vote, or if, upon review of the 1782  
precinct voting location guide using the residential street 1783  
address provided by the individual, an election official at the 1784  
precinct at which the individual desires to vote determines that 1785  
the individual is not eligible to vote in that precinct, the 1786  
election official shall direct the individual to the precinct 1787  
and polling place in which the individual appears to be eligible 1788  
to vote, explain that the individual may cast a provisional 1789  
ballot at the current location but the ballot or a portion of 1790  
the ballot will not be counted if it is cast in the wrong 1791  
precinct, and provide the telephone number of the board of 1792  
elections in case the individual has additional questions. 1793

(2) If the individual refuses to travel to the correct 1794  
precinct or to the office of the board of elections to cast a 1795  
ballot, the individual shall be permitted to vote a provisional 1796

ballot at that precinct in accordance with division (B) of this 1797  
section. If the individual is in the correct polling location 1798  
for the precinct in which the individual is registered and 1799  
eligible to vote, the election official shall complete and sign, 1800  
under penalty of election falsification, a form that includes 1801  
all of the following, and attach the form to the individual's 1802  
provisional ballot affirmation: 1803

(a) The name or number of the individual's correct 1804  
precinct; 1805

(b) A statement that the election official instructed the 1806  
individual to travel to the correct precinct to vote; 1807

(c) A statement that the election official informed the 1808  
individual that casting a provisional ballot in the wrong 1809  
precinct would result in all or a portion of the votes on the 1810  
ballot being rejected; 1811

(d) The name or number of the precinct in which the 1812  
individual is casting a provisional ballot; and 1813

(e) The name of the polling location in which the 1814  
individual is casting a provisional ballot. 1815

(D) The appropriate local election official shall cause 1816  
voting information to be publicly posted at each polling place 1817  
on the day of each election. 1818

(E) As used in this section and sections 3505.182 and 1819  
3505.183 of the Revised Code: 1820

(1) "Precinct voting location guide" means either of the 1821  
following: 1822

(a) An electronic or paper record that lists the correct 1823  
precinct and polling place for either each specific residential 1824

street address in the county or the range of residential street 1825  
addresses located in each neighborhood block in the county; 1826

(b) Any other method that a board of elections creates 1827  
that allows a precinct election official or any elector who is 1828  
at a polling place in that county to determine the correct 1829  
precinct and polling place of any qualified elector who resides 1830  
in the county. 1831

(2) "Voting information" means all of the following: 1832

(a) A sample version of the ballot that will be used for 1833  
that election; 1834

(b) Information regarding the date of the election and the 1835  
hours during which polling places will be open; 1836

(c) Instructions on how to vote, including how to cast a 1837  
vote and how to cast a provisional ballot; 1838

(d) Instructions for mail-in registrants and first-time 1839  
voters under applicable federal and state laws; 1840

(e) General information on voting rights under applicable 1841  
federal and state laws, including information on the right of an 1842  
individual to cast a provisional ballot and instructions on how 1843  
to contact the appropriate officials if these rights are alleged 1844  
to have been violated; 1845

(f) General information on federal and state laws 1846  
regarding prohibitions against acts of fraud and 1847  
misrepresentation. 1848

(F) Nothing in this section or section 3505.183 of the 1849  
Revised Code is in derogation of section 3505.24 of the Revised 1850  
Code, which permits a blind, disabled, or illiterate elector to 1851  
receive assistance in the marking of the elector's ballot by two 1852



precinct election officials of different political parties. A 1853  
blind, disabled, or illiterate elector may receive assistance in 1854  
marking that elector's provisional ballot and in completing the 1855  
required affirmation in the same manner as an elector may 1856  
receive assistance on the day of an election under that section. 1857

**Sec. 3509.02.** (A) Any qualified elector may vote by absent 1858  
voter's ballots at an election. 1859

(B) Any qualified elector who is unable to appear at the 1860  
office of the board of elections or, if pursuant to division (C) 1861  
of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated 1862  
another location in the county at which registered electors may 1863  
vote, at that other location on account of personal illness, 1864  
physical disability, or infirmity, and who moves from one 1865  
precinct to another within a county, changes the elector's name 1866  
and moves from one precinct to another within a county, or moves 1867  
from one county to another county within the state, on or prior 1868  
to the day of a general, primary, or special election and has 1869  
not filed a notice of change of residence or change of name may 1870  
vote by absent voter's ballots in that election as specified in 1871  
division ~~(G)~~(E) of section 3503.16 of the Revised Code. 1872

**Sec. 3509.04.** (A) If a board of elections receives an 1873  
application for absent voter's ballots that does not contain all 1874  
of the required information or is not submitted on an 1875  
appropriate form, the board promptly shall notify the applicant 1876  
of the additional information required to be provided by the 1877  
applicant to complete that application, direct the applicant to 1878  
use an appropriate form, or both, as applicable. 1879

(B) Upon receipt by the board of elections of an 1880  
application for absent voter's ballots that contains all of the 1881  
required information and is submitted on an appropriate form, as 1882

provided by section 3509.03 and division ~~(G)~~(E) of section 1883  
3503.16 of the Revised Code, the board, if the board finds that 1884  
the applicant is a qualified elector, shall deliver to the 1885  
applicant in person or mail directly to the applicant by special 1886  
delivery mail, air mail, or regular mail, postage prepaid, 1887  
proper absent voter's ballots. The board shall deliver or mail 1888  
with the ballots an unsealed identification envelope upon the 1889  
face of which shall be printed a form substantially as follows: 1890

"Identification Envelope Statement of Voter 1891

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of voter), declare under 1892  
penalty of election falsification that the within ballot or 1893  
ballots contained no voting marks of any kind when I received 1894  
them, and I caused the ballot or ballots to be marked, enclosed 1895  
in the identification envelope, and sealed in that envelope. 1896

My voting residence in Ohio is 1897

\_\_\_\_\_ 1898

(Street and Number, if any, or Rural Route and Number) 1899

of \_\_\_\_\_ (City, Village, or Township) 1900

Ohio, which is in Ward \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct \_\_\_\_\_ 1901

in that city, village, or township. 1902

If I have a confidential voter registration record, I am 1903

providing my program participant identification number instead 1904

of my residence address: \_\_\_\_\_ 1905

The primary election ballots, if any, within this envelope 1906

are primary election ballots of the \_\_\_\_\_ Party. 1907

Ballots contained within this envelope are to be voted at 1908

the \_\_\_\_\_ (general, special, or primary) election to be 1909

held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of 1910

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. 1911

My date of birth is \_\_\_\_\_ (Month and Day), 1912  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Year). 1913

(Voter must provide one of the following:) 1914

My Ohio driver's license or state identification card 1915  
number is \_\_\_\_\_ (Driver's license or state 1916  
identification card number). 1917

The last four digits of my Social Security Number are 1918  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Last four digits of Social Security Number). 1919

\_\_\_\_\_ In lieu of providing a driver's license or state 1920  
identification card number or the last four digits of my Social 1921  
Security Number, I am enclosing a copy of my photo 1922  
identification in the return envelope in which this 1923  
identification envelope will be mailed. 1924

I hereby declare, under penalty of election falsification, 1925  
that the statements above are true, as I verily believe. 1926

\_\_\_\_\_ 1927

(Signature of Voter) 1928

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF 1929  
THE FIFTH DEGREE." 1930

The board shall mail with the ballots and the unsealed 1931  
identification envelope an unsealed return envelope upon the 1932  
face of which shall be printed the post-office address of the 1933  
board. In the upper left corner on the face of the return 1934  
envelope, several blank lines shall be printed upon which the 1935  
voter may write the voter's name and return address. The return 1936  
envelope shall be of such size that the identification envelope 1937

can be conveniently placed within it for returning the 1938  
identification envelope to the board. 1939

No public office, and no public official or employee who 1940  
is acting in an official capacity, shall prepay the return 1941  
postage for any absent voter's ballots. 1942

Except as otherwise provided in this section and in 1943  
sections 3505.24 and 3509.08 of the Revised Code, an election 1944  
official shall not fill out any portion of an identification 1945  
envelope statement of voter or an absent voter's ballot on 1946  
behalf of an elector. A board of elections may preprint only an 1947  
elector's name and address on an identification envelope 1948  
statement of voter before mailing absent voter's ballots to the 1949  
elector, except that if the elector has a confidential voter 1950  
registration record, as described in section 111.44 of the 1951  
Revised Code, the board of elections shall not preprint the 1952  
elector's address on the identification envelope statement of 1953  
voter. 1954

**Sec. 3509.07.** If election officials find that any of the 1955  
following are true concerning an absent voter's ballot or absent 1956  
voter's presidential ballot cast under section 3503.16, 3509.05, 1957  
3509.08, or 3511.09 of the Revised Code and, if applicable, the 1958  
person did not provide any required additional information to 1959  
the board of elections not later than the fourth day after the 1960  
day of the election, as permitted under division (D) (3) (b) or 1961  
(E) (2) of section 3509.06 of the Revised Code, the ballot shall 1962  
not be accepted or counted: 1963

(A) The statement accompanying the ballot is incomplete as 1964  
described in division (D) (3) (a) of section 3509.06 of the 1965  
Revised Code or is insufficient; 1966

(B) The signatures do not correspond with the person's registration signature;	1967 1968
(C) The applicant is not a qualified elector in the precinct <u>or for the election in which the elector cast the ballot;</u>	1969 1970 1971
(D) The ballot envelope contains more than one ballot of any one kind, or any voted ballot that the elector is not entitled to vote;	1972 1973 1974
(E) Stub A is detached from the absent voter's ballot or absent voter's presidential ballot; <del>or</del>	1975 1976
(F) The elector has not included with the elector's ballot any identification required under section 3509.05 or 3511.09 of the Revised Code.	1977 1978 1979
The vote of any absent voter may be challenged for cause in the same manner as other votes are challenged, and the election officials shall determine the legality of that ballot. Every ballot not counted shall be endorsed on its back "Not Counted" with the reasons the ballot was not counted, and shall be enclosed and returned to or retained by the board of elections along with the contested ballots.	1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986
<b>Sec. 3509.08.</b> (A) Any qualified elector, who, on account of the elector's own personal illness, physical disability, or infirmity, or on account of the elector's confinement in a jail or workhouse under sentence for a misdemeanor or awaiting trial on a felony or misdemeanor, will be unable to travel from the elector's home or place of confinement to the voting booth in the elector's precinct on the day of any general, special, or primary election may make application in writing for an absent voter's ballot to the board of elections of the elector's county	1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995

in the manner described in section 3509.03 of the Revised Code. 1996  
The application shall state the nature of the elector's illness, 1997  
physical disability, or infirmity, or the fact that the elector 1998  
is confined in a jail or workhouse and the elector's resultant 1999  
inability to travel to the election booth in the elector's 2000  
precinct on election day. 2001

The absent voter's ballot may be mailed directly to the 2002  
applicant at the applicant's voting residence or place of 2003  
confinement as stated in the applicant's application, or the 2004  
board may designate two board employees belonging to the two 2005  
major political parties for the purpose of delivering the ballot 2006  
to the disabled or confined elector and returning it to the 2007  
board, unless the applicant is confined to a public or private 2008  
institution within the county, in which case the board shall 2009  
designate two board employees belonging to the two major 2010  
political parties for the purpose of delivering the ballot to 2011  
the disabled or confined elector and returning it to the board. 2012  
In all other instances, the ballot shall be returned to the 2013  
office of the board in the manner prescribed in section 3509.05 2014  
of the Revised Code. 2015

Any disabled or confined elector who declares to the two 2016  
board employees belonging to the two major political parties 2017  
that the elector is unable to mark the elector's ballot by 2018  
reason of physical infirmity that is apparent to the employees 2019  
to be sufficient to incapacitate the voter from marking the 2020  
elector's ballot properly, may receive, upon request, the 2021  
assistance of the employees in marking the elector's ballot, and 2022  
they shall thereafter give no information in regard to this 2023  
matter. Such assistance shall not be rendered for any other 2024  
cause. 2025

When two board employees belonging to the two major political parties deliver a ballot to a disabled or confined elector, each of the employees shall be present when the ballot is delivered, when assistance is given, and when the ballot is returned to the office of the board, and shall subscribe to the declaration on the identification envelope.

The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of application for absent voter's ballots under this division.

This chapter applies to disabled and confined absent voter's ballots except as otherwise provided in this section.

(B) (1) Any qualified elector who is unable to travel to the voting booth in the elector's precinct on the day of any general, special, or primary election may apply to the board of elections of the county where the elector is a qualified elector to vote in the election by absent voter's ballot if either of the following apply:

(a) The elector is confined in a hospital as a result of an accident or unforeseeable medical emergency occurring before the election;

(b) The elector's minor child is confined in a hospital as a result of an accident or unforeseeable medical emergency occurring before the election.

(2) The application authorized under division (B) (1) of this section shall be made in writing in the manner described in section 3509.03 of the Revised Code, except that the application shall be delivered to the office of the board not later than three p.m. on the day of the election. The application shall indicate the hospital where the applicant or the applicant's child is confined, the date of the applicant's or the

applicant's child's admission to the hospital, and the offices 2055  
for which the applicant is qualified to vote. The applicant may 2056  
also request that a member of the applicant's family, as listed 2057  
in section 3509.05 of the Revised Code, deliver the absent 2058  
voter's ballot to the applicant. The board, after establishing 2059  
to the board's satisfaction the validity of the circumstances 2060  
claimed by the applicant, shall supply an absent voter's ballot 2061  
to be delivered to the applicant. When the applicant or the 2062  
applicant's child is in a hospital in the county where the 2063  
applicant is a qualified elector and no request is made for a 2064  
member of the family to deliver the ballot, the board shall 2065  
arrange for the delivery of an absent voter's ballot to the 2066  
applicant, and for its return to the office of the board, by two 2067  
board employees belonging to the two major political parties 2068  
according to the procedures prescribed in division (A) of this 2069  
section. When the applicant or the applicant's child is in a 2070  
hospital outside the county where the applicant is a qualified 2071  
elector and no request is made for a member of the family to 2072  
deliver the ballot, the board shall arrange for the delivery of 2073  
an absent voter's ballot to the applicant by mail, and the 2074  
ballot shall be returned to the office of the board in the 2075  
manner prescribed in section 3509.05 of the Revised Code. 2076

(3) Any qualified elector who is eligible to vote under 2077  
division (B) or (C) of section 3503.16 of the Revised Code but 2078  
is unable to do so because of the circumstances described in 2079  
division (B)(2) of this section may vote in accordance with 2080  
division (B)(1) of this section if that qualified elector states 2081  
in the application for absent voter's ballots that that 2082  
qualified elector moved or had a change of name under the 2083  
circumstances described in division (B) or (C) of section 2084  
3503.16 of the Revised Code and if that qualified elector 2085



complies with divisions ~~(G) (1)~~ (E) (1) to (4) of section 3503.16 2086  
of the Revised Code. 2087

(C) Any qualified elector described in division (A) or (B) 2088  
(1) of this section who needs no assistance to vote or to return 2089  
absent voter's ballots to the board of elections may apply for 2090  
absent voter's ballots under section 3509.03 of the Revised Code 2091  
instead of applying for them under this section or may cast 2092  
absent voter's ballots in person under section 3509.051 of the 2093  
Revised Code. 2094

(D) Any qualified elector described in division (A) or (B) 2095  
(1) of this section to whom ballots are delivered by two 2096  
employees of the board of elections or who votes with the 2097  
assistance of two employees of the board of elections shall be 2098  
considered to have cast absent voter's ballots by mail, rather 2099  
than in person, for the purpose of the laws governing voter 2100  
identification. 2101

**Sec. 3513.041.** A write-in space shall be provided on the 2102  
ballot for every office, except in an election for which the 2103  
board of elections has received no valid declarations of intent 2104  
to be a write-in candidate under this section. Write-in votes 2105  
shall not be counted for any candidate who has not filed a 2106  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate pursuant to 2107  
this section. A qualified person who has filed a declaration of 2108  
intent may receive write-in votes at either a primary or general 2109  
election. Any candidate shall file a declaration of intent to be 2110  
a write-in candidate before four p.m. of the seventy-second day 2111  
preceding the election at which such candidacy is to be 2112  
considered. If the election is to be determined by electors of a 2113  
county or a district or subdivision within the county, such 2114  
declaration shall be filed with the board of elections of that 2115

county. If the election is to be determined by electors of a 2116  
subdivision located in more than one county, such declaration 2117  
shall be filed with the board of elections of the county in 2118  
which the major portion of the population of such subdivision is 2119  
located. If the election is to be determined by electors of a 2120  
district comprised of more than one county but less than all of 2121  
the counties of the state, such declaration shall be filed with 2122  
the board of elections of the most populous county in such 2123  
district. Any candidate for an office to be voted upon by 2124  
electors throughout the entire state shall file a declaration of 2125  
intent to be a write-in candidate with the secretary of state 2126  
before four p.m. of the seventy-second day preceding the 2127  
election at which such candidacy is to be considered. In 2128  
addition, candidates for president and vice-president of the 2129  
United States shall also file with the secretary of state by 2130  
that seventy-second day a slate of presidential electors 2131  
sufficient in number to satisfy the requirements of the United 2132  
States constitution. 2133

A board of elections shall not accept for filing the 2134  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person 2135  
seeking to become a candidate if that person, for the same 2136  
election, has already filed a declaration of candidacy, a 2137  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or a 2138  
nominating petition, or has become a candidate through party 2139  
nomination at a primary election or by the filling of a vacancy 2140  
under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code, for any 2141  
federal, state, or county office, if the declaration of intent 2142  
to be a write-in candidate is for a state or county office, or 2143  
for any municipal or township office, for member of a city, 2144  
local, or exempted village board of education, or for member of 2145  
a governing board of an educational service center, if the 2146

declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate is for a 2147  
municipal or township office, or for member of a city, local, or 2148  
exempted village board of education, or for member of a 2149  
governing board of an educational service center. 2150

No person shall file a declaration of intent to be a 2151  
write-in candidate for the office of governor unless the 2152  
declaration also shows the intent of another person to be a 2153  
write-in candidate for the office of lieutenant governor. No 2154  
person shall file a declaration of intent to be a write-in 2155  
candidate for the office of lieutenant governor unless the 2156  
declaration also shows the intent of another person to be a 2157  
write-in candidate for the office of governor. No person shall 2158  
file a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate for the 2159  
office of governor or lieutenant governor if the person has 2160  
previously filed a declaration of intent to be a write-in 2161  
candidate to the office of governor or lieutenant governor at 2162  
the same primary or general election. A write-in vote for the 2163  
two candidates who file such a declaration shall be counted as a 2164  
vote for them as joint candidates for the offices of governor 2165  
and lieutenant governor. 2166

The secretary of state shall not accept for filing the 2167  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person for 2168  
the office of governor unless the declaration also shows the 2169  
intent of another person to be a write-in candidate for the 2170  
office of lieutenant governor, shall not accept for filing the 2171  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person for 2172  
the office of lieutenant governor unless the declaration also 2173  
shows the intent of another person to be a write-in candidate 2174  
for the office of governor, and shall not accept for filing the 2175  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person to 2176  
the office of governor or lieutenant governor if that person, 2177

for the same election, has already filed a declaration of 2178  
candidacy, a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, 2179  
or a nominating petition, or has become a candidate through 2180  
party nomination at a primary election or by the filling of a 2181  
vacancy under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code, 2182  
for any other state office or any federal or county office. 2183

Protests against the candidacy of any person filing a 2184  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate may be filed by 2185  
any qualified elector who is eligible to vote in the election at 2186  
which the candidacy is to be considered. The protest shall be in 2187  
writing and shall be filed not later than four p.m. of the 2188  
sixty-seventh day before the day of the election. The protest 2189  
shall be filed with the board of elections with which the 2190  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate was filed. Upon 2191  
the filing of the protest, the board with which it is filed 2192  
shall promptly fix the time for hearing it and shall proceed in 2193  
regard to the hearing in the same manner as for hearings set for 2194  
protests filed under section 3513.05 of the Revised Code. At the 2195  
time fixed, the board shall hear the protest and determine the 2196  
validity or invalidity of the declaration of intent to be a 2197  
write-in candidate. If the board finds that the candidate is not 2198  
an elector of the state, district, county, or political 2199  
subdivision in which the candidate seeks election to office; is 2200  
disqualified under section 3513.191 of the Revised Code; or has 2201  
not fully complied with the requirements of Title XXXV of the 2202  
Revised Code in regard to the candidate's candidacy, the 2203  
candidate's declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate 2204  
shall be determined to be invalid and shall be rejected; 2205  
otherwise, it shall be determined to be valid. The determination 2206  
of the board is final. 2207

The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of the 2208

declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate. 2209

**Sec. 3513.05.** Each person desiring to become a candidate 2210  
for a party nomination at a primary election or for election to 2211  
an office or position to be voted for at a primary election, 2212  
except persons desiring to become joint candidates for the 2213  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor and except as 2214  
otherwise provided in section 3513.051 of the Revised Code, 2215  
shall, not later than four p.m. of the ninetieth day before the 2216  
day of the primary election, file a declaration of candidacy and 2217  
petition and pay the fees required under divisions (A) and (B) 2218  
of section 3513.10 of the Revised Code. The declaration of 2219  
candidacy and all separate petition papers shall be filed at the 2220  
same time as one instrument. When the offices are to be voted 2221  
for at a primary election, persons desiring to become joint 2222  
candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor 2223  
shall, not later than four p.m. of the ninetieth day before the 2224  
day of the primary election, comply with section 3513.04 of the 2225  
Revised Code. The prospective joint candidates' declaration of 2226  
candidacy and all separate petition papers of candidacies shall 2227  
be filed at the same time as one instrument. The secretary of 2228  
state or a board of elections shall not accept for filing a 2229  
declaration of candidacy and petition of a person seeking to 2230  
become a candidate if that person, for the same election, has 2231  
already filed a declaration of candidacy or a declaration of 2232  
intent to be a write-in candidate, or has become a candidate by 2233  
the filling of a vacancy under section 3513.30 of the Revised 2234  
Code for any federal, state, or county office, if the 2235  
declaration of candidacy is for a state or county office, or for 2236  
any municipal or township office, if the declaration of 2237  
candidacy is for a municipal or township office. 2238

If the declaration of candidacy declares a candidacy which 2239

is to be submitted to electors throughout the entire state, the 2240  
petition, including a petition for joint candidates for the 2241  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor, shall be signed by 2242  
at least one thousand qualified electors who are ~~members of~~ 2243  
affiliated with the same political party as the candidate or 2244  
joint candidates, and the declaration of candidacy and petition 2245  
shall be filed with the secretary of state; provided that the 2246  
secretary of state shall not accept or file any such petition 2247  
appearing on its face to contain signatures of more than three 2248  
thousand electors. 2249

Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, if the 2250  
declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be submitted only 2251  
to electors within a district, political subdivision, or portion 2252  
thereof, the petition shall be signed by not less than fifty 2253  
qualified electors who are ~~members of~~ affiliated with the same 2254  
political party as ~~the political party of which the candidate is~~ 2255  
~~a member~~. If the declaration of candidacy is for party 2256  
nomination as a candidate for member of the legislative 2257  
authority of a municipal corporation elected by ward, the 2258  
petition shall be signed by not less than twenty-five qualified 2259  
electors who are ~~members of~~ affiliated with the same political 2260  
party ~~of which as~~ the candidate ~~is a member~~. 2261

No such petition, except the petition for a candidacy that 2262  
is to be submitted to electors throughout the entire state, 2263  
shall be accepted for filing if it appears to contain on its 2264  
face signatures of more than three times the minimum number of 2265  
signatures. When a petition of a candidate has been accepted for 2266  
filing by a board of elections, the petition shall not be deemed 2267  
invalid if, upon verification of signatures contained in the 2268  
petition, the board of elections finds the number of signatures 2269  
accepted exceeds three times the minimum number of signatures 2270

required. A board of elections may discontinue verifying 2271  
signatures on petitions when the number of verified signatures 2272  
equals the minimum required number of qualified signatures. 2273

If the declaration of candidacy declares a candidacy for 2274  
party nomination or for election as a candidate of a minor 2275  
party, the minimum number of signatures on such petition is one- 2276  
half the minimum number provided in this section, except that, 2277  
when the candidacy is one for election as a member of the state 2278  
central committee or the county central committee of a political 2279  
party, the minimum number shall be the same for a minor party as 2280  
for a major party. 2281

If a declaration of candidacy is one for election as a 2282  
member of the state central committee or the county central 2283  
committee of a political party, the petition shall be signed by 2284  
five qualified electors of the district, county, ward, township, 2285  
or precinct within which electors may vote for such candidate. 2286  
The electors signing such petition shall be ~~members of~~ 2287  
~~affiliated with~~ the same political party as the ~~political party~~ 2288  
~~of which the candidate is a member.~~ 2289

~~For purposes of signing or circulating a petition of~~ 2290  
~~candidacy for party nomination or election, an elector is~~ 2291  
~~considered to be a member of a political party if the elector~~ 2292  
~~voted in that party's primary election within the preceding two~~ 2293  
~~calendar years, or if the elector did not vote in any other~~ 2294  
~~party's primary election within the preceding two calendar~~ 2295  
~~years.~~ 2296

If the declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be 2297  
submitted only to electors within a county, or within a district 2298  
or subdivision or part thereof smaller than a county, the 2299  
petition shall be filed with the board of elections of the 2300

county. If the declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be 2301  
submitted only to electors of a district or subdivision or part 2302  
thereof that is situated in more than one county, the petition 2303  
shall be filed with the board of elections of the county within 2304  
which the major portion of the population thereof, as 2305  
ascertained by the next preceding federal census, is located. 2306

A petition shall consist of separate petition papers, each 2307  
of which shall contain signatures of electors of only one 2308  
county. Petitions or separate petition papers containing 2309  
signatures of electors of more than one county shall not thereby 2310  
be declared invalid. In case petitions or separate petition 2311  
papers containing signatures of electors of more than one county 2312  
are filed, the board shall determine the county from which the 2313  
majority of signatures came, and only signatures from such 2314  
county shall be counted. Signatures from any other county shall 2315  
be invalid. 2316

Each separate petition paper shall be circulated by one 2317  
person only, who shall be the candidate or a joint candidate or 2318  
a ~~member of person who is affiliated with~~ the same political 2319  
party as the candidate or joint candidates, and each separate 2320  
petition paper shall be governed by the rules set forth in 2321  
section 3501.38 of the Revised Code. 2322

The secretary of state shall promptly transmit to each 2323  
board such separate petition papers of each petition 2324  
accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with the secretary 2325  
of state as purport to contain signatures of electors of the 2326  
county of such board. The board of the most populous county of a 2327  
district shall promptly transmit to each board within such 2328  
district such separate petition papers of each petition 2329  
accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with it as purport 2330



to contain signatures of electors of the county of each such 2331  
board. The board of a county within which the major portion of 2332  
the population of a subdivision, situated in more than one 2333  
county, is located, shall promptly transmit to the board of each 2334  
other county within which a portion of such subdivision is 2335  
located such separate petition papers of each petition 2336  
accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with it as purport 2337  
to contain signatures of electors of the portion of such 2338  
subdivision in the county of each such board. 2339

All petition papers so transmitted to a board and all 2340  
petitions accompanying declarations of candidacy filed with a 2341  
board shall, under proper regulations, be open to public 2342  
inspection until four p.m. of the eightieth day before the day 2343  
of the next primary election. Each board shall, not later than 2344  
the seventy-eighth day before the day of that primary election, 2345  
examine and determine the validity or invalidity of the 2346  
signatures on the petition papers so transmitted to or filed 2347  
with it and shall return to the secretary of state all petition 2348  
papers transmitted to it by the secretary of state, together 2349  
with its certification of its determination as to the validity 2350  
or invalidity of signatures thereon, and shall return to each 2351  
other board all petition papers transmitted to it by such board, 2352  
together with its certification of its determination as to the 2353  
validity or invalidity of the signatures thereon. All other 2354  
matters affecting the validity or invalidity of such petition 2355  
papers shall be determined by the secretary of state or the 2356  
board with whom such petition papers were filed. 2357

For purposes of being eligible to sign or circulate a 2358  
petition of candidacy for party nomination or election, an 2359  
elector is considered to be affiliated with a political party 2360  
if, at the time the petition is verified, the elector is 2361

affiliated with that party as determined under section 3503.071 2362  
of the Revised Code, and the elector is not ineligible to sign 2363  
or circulate the petition under division (D)(1) of that section. 2364

Protests against the candidacy of any person filing a 2365  
declaration of candidacy for party nomination or for election to 2366  
an office or position, as provided in this section, may be filed 2367  
by any qualified elector who is ~~a member of~~ affiliated with the 2368  
same political party as the candidate and who is eligible to 2369  
vote at the primary election for the candidate whose declaration 2370  
of candidacy the elector objects to, or by the controlling 2371  
committee of that political party. The protest shall be in 2372  
writing, and shall be filed not later than four p.m. of the 2373  
seventy-fourth day before the day of the primary election. The 2374  
protest shall be filed with the election officials with whom the 2375  
declaration of candidacy and petition was filed. Upon the filing 2376  
of the protest, the election officials with whom it is filed 2377  
shall promptly fix the time for hearing it, and shall forthwith 2378  
mail notice of the filing of the protest and the time fixed for 2379  
hearing to the person whose candidacy is so protested. They 2380  
shall also forthwith mail notice of the time fixed for such 2381  
hearing to the person who filed the protest. At the time fixed, 2382  
such election officials shall hear the protest and determine the 2383  
validity or invalidity of the declaration of candidacy and 2384  
petition. If they find that such candidate is not an elector of 2385  
the state, district, county, or political subdivision in which 2386  
the candidate seeks a party nomination or election to an office 2387  
or position, is disqualified under section 3513.191 of the 2388  
Revised Code, or has not fully complied with this chapter, the 2389  
candidate's declaration of candidacy and petition shall be 2390  
determined to be invalid and shall be rejected; otherwise, it 2391  
shall be determined to be valid. That determination shall be 2392

final. 2393

A protest against the candidacy of any persons filing a 2394  
declaration of candidacy for joint party nomination to the 2395  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor shall be filed, 2396  
heard, and determined in the same manner as a protest against 2397  
the candidacy of any person filing a declaration of candidacy 2398  
singly. 2399

The secretary of state shall, on the seventieth day before 2400  
the day of a primary election, certify to each board in the 2401  
state the forms of the official ballots to be used at the 2402  
primary election, together with the names of the candidates to 2403  
be printed on the ballots whose nomination or election is to be 2404  
determined by electors throughout the entire state and who filed 2405  
valid declarations of candidacy and petitions. 2406

The board of the most populous county in a district 2407  
comprised of more than one county but less than all of the 2408  
counties of the state shall, on the seventieth day before the 2409  
day of a primary election, certify to the board of each county 2410  
in the district the names of the candidates to be printed on the 2411  
official ballots to be used at the primary election, whose 2412  
nomination or election is to be determined only by electors 2413  
within the district and who filed valid declarations of 2414  
candidacy and petitions. 2415

The board of a county within which the major portion of 2416  
the population of a subdivision smaller than the county and 2417  
situated in more than one county is located shall, on the 2418  
seventieth day before the day of a primary election, certify to 2419  
the board of each county in which a portion of that subdivision 2420  
is located the names of the candidates to be printed on the 2421  
official ballots to be used at the primary election, whose 2422

nomination or election is to be determined only by electors 2423  
within that subdivision and who filed valid declarations of 2424  
candidacy and petitions. 2425

**Sec. 3513.07.** The form of declaration of candidacy and 2426  
petition of a person desiring to be a candidate for a party 2427  
nomination or a candidate for election to an office or position 2428  
to be voted for at a primary election shall be substantially as 2429  
follows: 2430

"DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION 2431

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Candidate), the 2432  
undersigned, hereby declare under penalty of election 2433  
falsification that my voting residence is in \_\_\_\_\_ 2434  
precinct of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Township) or 2435  
(Ward and City or Village) in the county of \_\_\_\_\_, 2436  
Ohio; that my voting residence is \_\_\_\_\_ (Street and 2437  
Number, if any, or Rural Route and Number) of the 2438  
\_\_\_\_\_ (City or Village) of 2439  
\_\_\_\_\_, Ohio; and that I am a qualified elector in 2440  
the precinct in which my voting residence is located. I am a ~~member~~ 2441  
~~member of~~ affiliated with the \_\_\_\_\_ Party. I hereby declare 2442  
that I desire to be \_\_\_\_\_ (a candidate for 2443  
nomination as a candidate of the Party for election to the 2444  
office of \_\_\_\_\_) (a candidate for election to the office 2445  
or position of \_\_\_\_\_) for the \_\_\_\_\_ in the 2446  
state, district, (Full term or unexpired term ending 2447  
\_\_\_\_\_) county, city, or village of 2448  
\_\_\_\_\_, at the primary election to be held on the 2449  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and I hereby request that 2450  
my name be printed upon the official primary election ballot of 2451  
the said \_\_\_\_\_ Party as a candidate for \_\_\_\_\_ (such 2452

nomination) or (such election) as provided by law. 2453

I further declare that, if elected to said office or 2454  
position, I will qualify therefor, and that I will support and 2455  
abide by the principles enunciated by the \_\_\_\_\_ Party. 2456

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ 2457

\_\_\_\_\_ 2458

(Signature of candidate) 2459

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A 2460  
FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE. 2461

PETITION OF CANDIDATE 2462

We, the undersigned, qualified electors of the state of 2463  
Ohio, whose voting residence is in the county, city, village, 2464  
ward, township, or school district, and precinct set opposite 2465  
our names, and ~~members of~~ affiliated with the 2466  
\_\_\_\_\_ Party, hereby certify 2467  
that \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of candidate) whose 2468  
declaration of candidacy is filed herewith, is ~~a member of~~ 2469  
affiliated with the \_\_\_\_\_ Party, and is, in our opinion, 2470  
well qualified to perform the duties of the office or position 2471  
to which that candidate desires to be elected. 2472

Street City, 2473

and Village or 2474

Signature Number Township Ward Precinct County Date 2475

(Must use address on file with the board of elections) 2476

\_\_\_\_\_ 2477

\_\_\_\_\_ 2478

\_\_\_\_\_ 2479

\_\_\_\_\_ (Name of circulator 2480  
of petition), declares under penalty of election falsification 2481  
that the circulator of the petition is a qualified elector of 2482  
the state of Ohio and resides at the address appearing below the 2483  
signature of that circulator; that the circulator is ~~a member of~~ 2484  
affiliated with the \_\_\_\_\_ Party; that the circulator is 2485  
the circulator of the foregoing petition paper containing 2486  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Number) signatures; that the circulator witnessed 2487  
the affixing of every signature; that all signers were to the 2488  
best of the circulator's knowledge and belief qualified to sign; 2489  
and that every signature is to the best of the circulator's 2490  
knowledge and belief the signature of the person whose signature 2491  
it purports to be or of an attorney in fact acting pursuant to 2492  
section 3501.382 of the Revised Code. 2493

\_\_\_\_\_ 2494  
(Signature of circulator) 2495

\_\_\_\_\_ 2496  
(Address of circulator's 2497  
permanent residence in this 2498  
state) 2499

\_\_\_\_\_ 2500  
(If petition is for a 2501  
statewide candidate, the 2502  
name and address of person 2503  
employing to circulate 2504  
petition, if any) 2505

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A 2506  
FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE." 2507

The secretary of state shall prescribe a form of 2508  
declaration of candidacy and petition, and the form shall be 2509  
substantially similar to the declaration of candidacy and 2510  
petition set forth in this section, that will be suitable for 2511  
joint candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant 2512  
governor. 2513

The petition provided for in this section shall be 2514  
circulated only by ~~a member of an~~ an elector who is affiliated with 2515  
the same political party as the candidate. 2516

**Sec. 3513.18.** (A) Party primaries shall be held at the 2517  
same place and time, but there shall be separate pollbooks and 2518  
tally sheets provided at each polling place for each party 2519  
participating in the election. The pollbooks shall include each 2520  
elector's political party affiliation, if any, and date of 2521  
affiliation change, if any, as determined under section 3503.071 2522  
of the Revised Code. An elector may vote a political party's 2523  
ballot at a primary election only if both of the following are 2524  
true: 2525

(1) The elector is affiliated with that political party. 2526

(2) The elector's date of affiliation change, if any, is 2527  
not later than the ninetieth day before the day of the primary 2528  
election. 2529

(B) If a special election on a question or issue is held 2530  
on the day of a primary election, there shall be provided in the 2531  
pollbooks pages on which shall be recorded the names of all 2532  
electors voting on said question or issue and not voting in such 2533  
primary. ~~It shall not be necessary for electors desiring~~ Any 2534

~~elector may choose to vote only on the question or issue to~~ 2535  
~~declare their political affiliation questions or issues~~ 2536  
~~appearing on the ballot. An elector who is not affiliated with~~ 2537  
~~any political party, or whose date of affiliation change is~~ 2538  
~~after the ninetieth day before the day of the primary election,~~ 2539  
~~shall vote only on the questions or issues appearing on the~~ 2540  
~~ballot.~~ 2541

**Sec. 3513.19.** (A) It is the duty of any precinct election 2542  
official, whenever any such official doubts that a person 2543  
attempting to vote at a primary election is legally entitled to 2544  
vote at that election, to challenge the right of that person to 2545  
vote. The right of a person to vote at a primary election may be 2546  
challenged as described in section 3505.20 of the Revised Code 2547  
or upon either of the following grounds: 2548

~~(1) That the person whose right to vote is challenged is~~ 2549  
~~not a legally qualified elector;~~ 2550

~~(2) That the person has received or has been promised some~~ 2551  
~~valuable reward or consideration for the person's vote;~~ 2552

~~(3) That the person is not affiliated with or is not a~~ 2553  
~~member of the political party whose ballot the person desires to~~ 2554  
~~vote. Such party affiliation shall be, as determined by~~ 2555  
~~examining the elector's voting record for the current year and~~ 2556  
~~the immediately preceding two calendar years as shown on the~~ 2557  
~~voter's registration card, using the standards of affiliation~~ 2558  
~~specified in the seventh paragraph of under section 3513.05~~ 2559  
~~3503.071 of the Revised Code. Division (A) (3) of this section~~ 2560  
~~and the seventh paragraph of section 3513.05 of the Revised Code~~ 2561  
~~do not prohibit a person who holds an elective office for which~~ 2562  
~~candidates are nominated at a party primary election from doing~~ 2563  
~~any of the following:~~ 2564



~~(a) If the person voted as a member of a different political party at any primary election within the current year and the immediately preceding two calendar years, being a candidate for nomination at a party primary held during the times specified in division (C) (2) of section 3513.191 of the Revised Code provided that the person complies with the requirements of that section;~~ 2565  
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~~(b) Circulating the person's own petition of candidacy for party nomination in the primary election.~~ 2572  
2573

~~(B) When the right of a person to vote is challenged upon the ground set forth in division (A) (3) of this section, membership in or political affiliation with a political party shall be determined by the person's statement, made under penalty of election falsification, that the person desires to be affiliated with and supports the principles of the political party whose primary ballot the person desires to vote.~~ 2574  
2575  
2576  
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(2) That the person's date of affiliation change, as determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code, is after the ninetieth day before the day of the primary election. 2581  
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(B) If a majority of the precinct officials finds that the person is not entitled to vote at the primary election, the person shall be permitted to vote a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised Code. 2584  
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**Sec. 3513.191.** ~~(A) No~~ (A) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (A) (2) of this section, no person shall be a candidate for nomination or election at a party primary if the person voted as a member of a different political party at any primary election within the current year and the immediately preceding two calendar years. 2588  
2589  
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~~(B) Notwithstanding division (A) of this section, either~~ 2594  
~~of the following persons may be candidates for nomination of any~~ 2595  
~~political party at a party primary:~~ 2596

~~(1) A person who does not hold an elective office;~~ 2597

~~(2) A person who holds an elective office other than one~~ 2598  
~~for which candidates are nominated at a party primary.~~ 2599

~~(C) (1) Notwithstanding division (A) of this section, a~~ 2600  
~~unless all of the following apply:~~ 2601

(a) The person voted that political party's ballot at the 2602  
most recent primary election held in an even-numbered year. 2603

(b) The person has not been affiliated with a different 2604  
political party, as determined under section 3503.071 of the 2605  
Revised Code, since that primary election. 2606

(c) If applicable, the person has filed a declaration of 2607  
intent under division (B) of this section and is not in 2608  
violation of division (C) of this section. 2609

(2) Division (A) (1) of this section does not apply to a 2610  
newly formed political party for purposes of its first primary 2611  
election held after it forms under section 3517.012 of the 2612  
Revised Code. No person shall be a candidate for nomination or 2613  
election at that primary unless the person is affiliated with 2614  
that party, as determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised 2615  
Code. 2616

(B) Except as otherwise provided in division (D) of this 2617  
section, a person who holds an elective office for which 2618  
candidates are nominated at a party primary may be a candidate 2619  
at a primary election held during the times specified in 2620  
division (C) (2) of this section for nomination as a candidate of 2621

a political party ~~of which the person is prohibited from being a~~ 2622  
~~candidate for nomination under division (A) of this section,~~ 2623  
other than the party that most recently nominated the person as 2624  
a candidate for the office the person currently holds, only if 2625  
the person files a declaration of intent to seek the nomination 2626  
of ~~that~~ the person's new party and if, by filing the 2627  
declaration, the person has not violated division ~~(C) (3)~~ (C) of 2628  
this section. The declaration of intent shall: 2629

~~(a)~~ (1) Be filed not later than four p.m. of the thirtieth 2630  
day before a declaration of candidacy and petition is required 2631  
to be filed under section 3513.05 of the Revised Code; 2632

~~(b)~~ (2) Be filed with the same official with whom the 2633  
person filing the declaration of intent is required to file a 2634  
declaration of candidacy and petition; 2635

~~(c)~~ (3) Indicate the political party whose nomination in 2636  
the primary election the person seeks; 2637

~~(d)~~ (4) Be on a form prescribed by the secretary of state. 2638

~~(2)~~ (C) (1) No person filing a declaration of intent under 2639  
division ~~(C) (1)~~ (B) of this section shall be a candidate at any 2640  
primary election for nomination for an elective office for which 2641  
candidates are nominated at a party primary during the calendar 2642  
year in which the person files the declaration or during the 2643  
next calendar year except as a candidate of the party indicated 2644  
under division ~~(C) (1)~~ (e) (B) (3) of this section. 2645

~~(3)~~ (2) No person who files a declaration of intent under 2646  
division ~~(C) (1)~~ (B) of this section shall file another such 2647  
declaration for a period of ten years after the declaration is 2648  
filed. 2649

~~(4)~~ Notwithstanding the seventh paragraph of section 2650

~~3513.05 of the Revised Code, a person who complies with this section may circulate that person's own petition of candidacy for party nomination at the party primary at which the person seeks nomination under this section.~~

(D) Division (B) of this section does not apply to persons desiring to become candidates for party nomination of a newly formed political party meeting the requirements of sections 3517.011 and 3517.012 of the Revised Code for a period of four calendar years from the date of the party formation.

**Sec. 3513.257.** Each A person desiring who is not affiliated with a political party, as determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code, to as of the date the person files a nominating petition under this section may become an independent candidate for an office for which candidates may be nominated at a primary election, except. If the person becomes affiliated with a political party, as determined under that section, after filing a nominating petition under this section and before the general election, the person is disqualified.

Except for persons desiring to become independent joint candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor and for the offices of president and vice-president of the United States, each person desiring to become an independent candidate shall file no later than four p.m. of the day before the day of the primary election immediately preceding the general election at which such candidacy is to be voted for by the voters, a statement of candidacy and nominating petition as provided in section 3513.261 of the Revised Code. Persons desiring to become independent joint candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor shall file, not later than four p.m. of the day before the day of the primary election, one

statement of candidacy and one nominating petition for the two 2681  
of them. Persons desiring to become independent joint candidates 2682  
for the offices of president and vice-president of the United 2683  
States shall file, not later than four p.m. of the ninetieth day 2684  
before the day of the general election at which the president 2685  
and vice-president are to be elected, one statement of candidacy 2686  
and one nominating petition for the two of them. The prospective 2687  
independent joint candidates' statement of candidacy shall be 2688  
filed with the nominating petition as one instrument. 2689

The statement of candidacy and separate petition papers of 2690  
each candidate or pair of joint candidates shall be filed at the 2691  
same time as one instrument. 2692

The nominating petition shall contain signatures of 2693  
qualified electors of the district, political subdivision, or 2694  
portion of a political subdivision in which the candidacy is to 2695  
be voted on in an amount to be determined as follows: 2696

(A) If the candidacy is to be voted on by electors 2697  
throughout the entire state, the nominating petition, including 2698  
the nominating petition of independent joint candidates for the 2699  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor, shall be signed by 2700  
no less than five thousand qualified electors, provided that no 2701  
petition shall be accepted for filing if it purports to contain 2702  
more than fifteen thousand signatures. 2703

(B) If the candidacy is to be voted on by electors in any 2704  
district, political subdivision, or part thereof in which less 2705  
than five thousand electors voted for the office of governor at 2706  
the most recent election for that office, the nominating 2707  
petition shall contain signatures of not less than twenty-five 2708  
qualified electors of the district, political subdivision, or 2709  
part thereof, or a number of qualified signatures equal to at 2710

least five per cent of that vote, if this number is less than 2711  
twenty-five. 2712

(C) If the candidacy is to be voted on by electors in any 2713  
district, political subdivision, or part thereof in which five 2714  
thousand or more electors voted for the office of governor at 2715  
the most recent election for that office, the nominating 2716  
petition shall contain a number of signatures equal to at least 2717  
one per cent of those electors. 2718

All nominating petitions of candidates for offices to be 2719  
voted on by electors throughout the entire state shall be filed 2720  
in the office of the secretary of state. No nominating petition 2721  
for the offices of president and vice-president of the United 2722  
States shall be accepted for filing unless there is submitted to 2723  
the secretary of state, at the time of filing the petition, a 2724  
slate of presidential electors sufficient in number to satisfy 2725  
the requirement of the United States Constitution. The secretary 2726  
of state shall not accept for filing the statement of candidacy 2727  
of a person who desires to be an independent candidate for the 2728  
office of governor unless it also shows the joint candidacy of a 2729  
person who desires to be an independent candidate for the office 2730  
of lieutenant governor, shall not accept for filing the 2731  
statement of candidacy of a person who desires to be an 2732  
independent candidate for the office of lieutenant governor 2733  
unless it also shows the joint candidacy of a person who desires 2734  
to be an independent candidate for the office of governor, and 2735  
shall not accept for filing the statement of candidacy of a 2736  
person who desires to be an independent candidate to the office 2737  
of governor or lieutenant governor who, for the same election, 2738  
has already filed a declaration of candidacy, a declaration of 2739  
intent to be a write-in candidate, or a statement of candidacy, 2740  
or has become a candidate by the filling of a vacancy under 2741

section 3513.30 of the Revised Code for any other state office 2742  
or any federal or county office. 2743

Nominating petitions of candidates for offices to be voted 2744  
on by electors within a district or political subdivision 2745  
comprised of more than one county but less than all counties of 2746  
the state shall be filed with the boards of elections of that 2747  
county or part of a county within the district or political 2748  
subdivision which had a population greater than that of any 2749  
other county or part of a county within the district or 2750  
political subdivision according to the last federal decennial 2751  
census. 2752

Nominating petitions for offices to be voted on by 2753  
electors within a county or district smaller than a county shall 2754  
be filed with the board of elections for such county. 2755

No petition other than the petition of a candidate whose 2756  
candidacy is to be considered by electors throughout the entire 2757  
state shall be accepted for filing if it appears on its face to 2758  
contain more than three times the minimum required number of 2759  
signatures. A board of elections shall not accept for filing a 2760  
nominating petition of a person seeking to become a candidate if 2761  
that person, for the same election, has already filed a 2762  
declaration of candidacy, a declaration of intent to be a write- 2763  
in candidate, or a nominating petition, or has become a 2764  
candidate by the filling of a vacancy under section 3513.30 of 2765  
the Revised Code for any federal, state, or county office, if 2766  
the nominating petition is for a state or county office, or for 2767  
any municipal or township office, for member of a city, local, 2768  
or exempted village board of education, or for member of a 2769  
governing board of an educational service center, if the 2770  
nominating petition is for a municipal or township office, or 2771

for member of a city, local, or exempted village board of 2772  
education, or for member of a governing board of an educational 2773  
service center. When a petition of a candidate has been accepted 2774  
for filing by a board of elections, the petition shall not be 2775  
deemed invalid if, upon verification of signatures contained in 2776  
the petition, the board of elections finds the number of 2777  
signatures accepted exceeds three times the minimum number of 2778  
signatures required. A board of elections may discontinue 2779  
verifying signatures when the number of verified signatures on a 2780  
petition equals the minimum required number of qualified 2781  
signatures. 2782

Any candidate, other than a candidate for judge of a 2783  
municipal court, county court, or court of common pleas, who 2784  
files a nominating petition may request, at the time of filing, 2785  
that the candidate be designated on the ballot as a nonparty 2786  
candidate or as an other-party candidate, or may request that 2787  
the candidate's name be placed on the ballot without any 2788  
designation. Any such candidate who fails to request a 2789  
designation either as a nonparty candidate or as an other-party 2790  
candidate shall have the candidate's name placed on the ballot 2791  
without any designation. 2792

The purpose of establishing a filing deadline for 2793  
independent candidates prior to the primary election immediately 2794  
preceding the general election at which the candidacy is to be 2795  
voted on by the voters is to recognize that the state has a 2796  
substantial and compelling interest in protecting its electoral 2797  
process by encouraging political stability, ensuring that the 2798  
winner of the election will represent a majority of the 2799  
community, providing the electorate with an understandable 2800  
ballot, and enhancing voter education, thus fostering informed 2801  
and educated expressions of the popular will in a general 2802



election. The filing deadline for independent candidates 2803  
required in this section prevents splintered parties and 2804  
unrestrained factionalism, avoids political fragmentation, and 2805  
maintains the integrity of the ballot. The deadline, one day 2806  
prior to the primary election, is the least drastic or 2807  
restrictive means of protecting these state interests. The 2808  
general assembly finds that the filing deadline for independent 2809  
candidates in primary elections required in this section is 2810  
reasonably related to the state's purpose of ensuring fair and 2811  
honest elections while leaving unimpaired the political, voting, 2812  
and associational rights secured by the first and fourteenth 2813  
amendments to the United States Constitution. 2814

**Sec. 3517.012.** (A) (1) When a party formation petition 2815  
meeting the requirements of section 3517.01 of the Revised Code 2816  
declaring the intention to organize a political party is filed 2817  
with the secretary of state, the new party comes into legal 2818  
existence on the date of filing and is entitled to nominate 2819  
candidates to appear on the ballot at the general election held 2820  
in even-numbered years that occurs more than one hundred twenty- 2821  
five days after the date of filing. 2822

(2) (a) Upon receiving a party formation petition filed 2823  
under division (A) (1) of this section, the secretary of state 2824  
shall promptly transmit to each board of elections the separate 2825  
petition papers that purport to contain signatures of electors 2826  
of that board's county. 2827

(b) Not later than the one hundred eighteenth day before 2828  
the day of the general election, each board shall examine and 2829  
determine the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition 2830  
papers and shall return them to the secretary of state, together 2831  
with the board's certification of its determination as to the 2832

validity or invalidity of the signatures on the petition. 2833

(c) Any qualified elector may file a written protest 2834  
against the petition with the secretary of state not later than 2835  
the one hundred fourteenth day before the day of the general 2836  
election. Any such protest shall be resolved in the manner 2837  
specified under section 3501.39 of the Revised Code. 2838

(d) Not later than the ninety-fifth day before the day of 2839  
the general election, the secretary of state shall determine 2840  
whether the party formation petition is sufficient and shall 2841  
notify the committee designated in the petition of that 2842  
determination. 2843

(B) (1) Not later than one hundred ten days before the day 2844  
of that general election and not earlier than the day the 2845  
applicable party formation petition is filed, each candidate or 2846  
pair of joint candidates wishing to appear on the ballot at the 2847  
general election as the nominee or nominees of the party that 2848  
filed the party formation petition shall file a nominating 2849  
petition, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, that 2850  
includes the name of the political party that submitted the 2851  
party formation petition. Except as otherwise provided in this 2852  
section and sections 3505.03, 3505.08, 3506.11, 3513.31, 2853  
3513.311, and 3513.312 of the Revised Code, the provisions of 2854  
the Revised Code concerning independent candidates who file 2855  
nominating petitions apply to candidates who file nominating 2856  
petitions under this section. 2857

(2) (a) If the candidacy is to be submitted to electors 2858  
throughout the entire state, the nominating petition, including 2859  
a petition for joint candidates for the offices of governor and 2860  
lieutenant governor, shall be signed by at least fifty qualified 2861  
electors who ~~have not voted as a member of~~ are not affiliated 2862

~~with a different political party at any primary election within~~ 2863  
~~the current year or the immediately preceding two calendar~~ 2864  
~~years, as determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code.~~ 2865

(b) ~~Except as otherwise provided in this division, if~~ 2866  
~~If~~ the candidacy is to be submitted only to electors within a 2867  
district, political subdivision, or portion thereof, the 2868  
nominating petition shall be signed by not less than five 2869  
qualified electors who ~~have not voted as a member of~~ are not 2870  
affiliated with a different political party ~~at any primary~~ 2871  
~~election within the current year or the immediately preceding~~ 2872  
~~two calendar years, as determined under section 3503.231 of the~~ 2873  
Revised Code. 2874

(3) (a) Each board of elections that is responsible to 2875  
verify signatures on the nominating petition shall examine and 2876  
determine the sufficiency of those signatures not later than the 2877  
one hundred fifth day before the day of the general election ~~and~~ 2878  
~~shall be resolved as specified in that section.~~ 2879

(b) Written protests against the petition may be filed in 2880  
the manner specified under section 3513.263 of the Revised Code 2881  
not later than the one hundredth day before the general election 2882  
and shall be resolved as specified in that section. 2883

(c) Not later than the ninety-fifth day before the day of 2884  
the general election, the secretary of state or the board of 2885  
elections, as applicable, shall determine whether the nominating 2886  
petition is sufficient and shall notify the candidate and the 2887  
committee designated in the party formation petition of that 2888  
determination. 2889

(C) (1) After being notified that the political party has 2890  
submitted a sufficient party formation petition under division 2891

(A) of this section, the committee designated in a party 2892  
formation petition shall, not later than the seventy-fifth day 2893  
before the day of the general election, certify to the secretary 2894  
of state a slate of candidates consisting of candidates or joint 2895  
candidates who submitted sufficient nominating petitions under 2896  
division (B) of this section. The slate certifying the 2897  
candidates shall be on a form prescribed by the secretary of 2898  
state and signed by all of the individuals of the committee 2899  
designated in the party formation petition. In no event shall 2900  
the slate of candidates include more than one candidate for any 2901  
public office or more than one set of joint candidates for the 2902  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor. The names of the 2903  
candidates or joint candidates so certified shall appear on the 2904  
ballot at the general election as that party's nominees for 2905  
those offices. For purposes of this division, "joint candidates" 2906  
means the joint candidates for the offices of governor and 2907  
lieutenant governor. 2908

(2) If a candidate's nominating petition is insufficient 2909  
or if the committee does not certify the candidate's name under 2910  
division (C)(1) of this section, the candidate shall not appear 2911  
on the ballot in the general election. 2912

(3) If a party formation petition is insufficient, no 2913  
candidate shall appear on the ballot in the general election as 2914  
that political party's nominee, regardless of whether any 2915  
candidate's nominating petition is sufficient. 2916

**Sec. 3599.12.** (A) No person shall do any of the following: 2917

(1) Vote or attempt to vote in any primary, special, or 2918  
general election in a precinct in which that person is not a 2919  
legally qualified elector; 2920

(2) Vote or attempt to vote more than once at the same 2921  
election by any means, including voting or attempting to vote 2922  
both by absent voter's ballots under division ~~(G)~~(E) of section 2923  
3503.16 of the Revised Code and by regular ballot at the polls 2924  
at the same election, or voting or attempting to vote both by 2925  
absent voter's ballots under division ~~(G)~~(E) of section 3503.16 2926  
of the Revised Code and by absent voter's ballots under Chapter 2927  
3509. or armed service absent voter's ballots under Chapter 2928  
3511. of the Revised Code at the same election; 2929

(3) Impersonate or sign the name of another person, real 2930  
or fictitious, living or dead, and vote or attempt to vote as 2931  
that other person in any such election; 2932

(4) Cast a ballot at any such election after objection has 2933  
been made and sustained to that person's vote; 2934

(5) Knowingly vote or attempt to vote a ballot other than 2935  
the official ballot. 2936

(B) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is 2937  
guilty of a felony of the fourth degree. 2938

**Section 2.** That existing sections 3501.01, 3503.09, 2939  
3503.10, 3503.11, 3503.14, 3503.15, 3503.151, 3503.152, 2940  
3503.153, 3503.16, 3503.19, 3503.20, 3503.23, 3503.28, 3505.181, 2941  
3509.02, 3509.04, 3509.07, 3509.08, 3513.041, 3513.05, 3513.07, 2942  
3513.18, 3513.19, 3513.191, 3513.257, 3517.012, and 3599.12 of 2943  
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 2944

**Section 3.** That sections 3513.192, 3513.20, and 3517.013 2945  
of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 2946