

**As Introduced**

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

**S. B. No. 147**

**Senator Reynolds**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 3501.01, 3503.09, 3503.10, 1  
3503.11, 3503.14, 3503.15, 3503.16, 3503.19, 2  
3503.20, 3503.23, 3503.28, 3505.181, 3509.02, 3  
3509.04, 3509.07, 3509.08, 3513.041, 3513.05, 4  
3513.07, 3513.18, 3513.19, 3513.191, 3513.257, 5  
3517.012, 3517.013, and 3599.12; to enact 6  
section 3503.071; and to repeal sections 7  
3513.192 and 3513.20 of the Revised Code to 8  
permit an elector to change party affiliation 9  
through the voter registration process, to 10  
require an elector to register as a member of a 11  
political party in order to participate in that 12  
party's primary election, and to name this act 13  
the Voter Registration Modernization Act. 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, 3503.16, 3503.19, 3503.20, 3503.23, 16  
3503.28, 3505.181, 3509.02, 3509.04, 3509.07, 3509.08, 3513.041, 17  
3513.05, 3513.07, 3513.18, 3513.19, 3513.191, 3513.257, 18  
3517.012, 3517.013, and 3599.12 be amended and section 3503.071 19  
of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 20

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

held. 50

(2) "Presidential primary election" means a primary 51  
election as defined by division (E)(1) of this section at which 52  
an election is held for the purpose of choosing delegates and 53  
alternates to the national conventions of the major political 54  
parties pursuant to section 3513.12 of the Revised Code. Unless 55  
otherwise specified, presidential primary elections are included 56  
in references to primary elections. In years in which a 57  
presidential primary election is held, all primary elections 58  
shall be held on the third Tuesday after the first Monday in 59  
March except as otherwise authorized by a municipal or county 60  
charter. 61

(F) "Political party" means any group of voters meeting 62  
the requirements set forth in section 3517.01 of the Revised 63  
Code for the formation and existence of a political party. 64

(1) "Major political party" means any political party 65  
organized under the laws of this state whose candidate for 66  
governor or nominees for presidential electors received not less 67  
than twenty per cent of the total vote cast for such office at 68  
the most recent regular state election. 69

(2) "Minor political party" means any political party 70  
organized under the laws of this state that meets either of the 71  
following requirements: 72

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this division, the 73  
political party's candidate for governor or nominees for 74  
presidential electors received less than twenty per cent but not 75  
less than three per cent of the total vote cast for such office 76  
at the most recent regular state election. A political party 77  
that meets the requirements of this division remains a political 78

party for a period of four years after meeting those requirements. 79  
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(b) The political party has filed with the secretary of state, subsequent to its failure to meet the requirements of division (F)(2)(a) of this section, a petition that meets the requirements of section 3517.01 of the Revised Code. 81  
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A newly formed political party shall be known as a minor political party until the time of the first election for governor or president which occurs not less than twelve months subsequent to the formation of such party, after which election the status of such party shall be determined by the vote for the office of governor or president. 85  
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(G) "Dominant party in a precinct" or "dominant political party in a precinct" means that political party whose candidate for election to the office of governor at the most recent regular state election at which a governor was elected received more votes than any other person received for election to that office in such precinct at such election. 91  
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(H) "Candidate" means any qualified person certified in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Code for placement on the official ballot of a primary, general, or special election to be held in this state, or any qualified person who claims to be a write-in candidate, or who knowingly assents to being represented as a write-in candidate by another at either a primary, general, or special election to be held in this state. 97  
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(I) "Independent candidate" means any candidate who ~~claims~~ is not to be affiliated with a political party, and whose name has been certified on the office-type ballot at a general or special election through the filing of a statement of candidacy 104  
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and nominating petition, as prescribed in section 3513.257 of 108  
the Revised Code. 109

(J) "Nonpartisan candidate" means any candidate whose name 110  
is required, pursuant to section 3505.04 of the Revised Code, to 111  
be listed on the nonpartisan ballot, including all candidates 112  
for judge of a municipal court, county court, or court of common 113  
pleas, for member of any board of education, for municipal or 114  
township offices in which primary elections are not held for 115  
nominating candidates by political parties, and for offices of 116  
municipal corporations having charters that provide for separate 117  
ballots for elections for these offices. 118

(K) "Party candidate" means any candidate who ~~claims to be~~ 119  
~~a member of~~ is affiliated with a political party and who has 120  
been certified to appear on the office-type ballot at a general 121  
or special election as the nominee of a political party because 122  
the candidate has won the primary election of the candidate's 123  
party for the public office the candidate seeks, has been 124  
nominated under section 3517.012, or is selected by party 125  
committee in accordance with section 3513.31 of the Revised 126  
Code. 127

(L) "Officer of a political party" includes, but is not 128  
limited to, any member, elected or appointed, of a controlling 129  
committee, whether representing the territory of the state, a 130  
district therein, a county, township, a city, a ward, a 131  
precinct, or other territory, of a major or minor political 132  
party. 133

(M) "Question or issue" means any question or issue 134  
certified in accordance with the Revised Code for placement on 135  
an official ballot at a general or special election to be held 136  
in this state. 137

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

(5) Member of a board of elections;	165
(6) Employees of a board of elections;	166
(7) Precinct election officials;	167
(8) Employees appointed by the boards of elections on a temporary or part-time basis.	168 169
(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.	170 171 172 173 174 175 176
(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.	177 178 179 180
(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 department of developmental disabilities, the opportunities for	181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193

Ohioans with disabilities agency, and any other agency the secretary of state designates. "Designated agency" does not include public high schools and vocational schools, public libraries, or the office of a county treasurer.

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

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

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

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

(b) A United States passport or passport card;

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

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

(BB) "Driver's license" means a license or permit issued



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

(CC) "State identification card" means a card issued by 230  
the registrar or a deputy registrar under sections 4507.50 to 231  
4507.52 of the Revised Code. 232

(DD) "Interim identification form" means the document 233  
issued by the registrar or a deputy registrar to an applicant 234  
for a driver's license or state identification card that 235  
contains all of the information otherwise found on the license 236  
or card and that an applicant may use as a form of 237  
identification until the physical license or card arrives in the 238  
mail. 239

Sec. 3503.071. (A) An elector's political party 240  
affiliation shall be determined based on the most recent of the 241  
following: 242

(1) The elector's affiliation, if any, with a currently 243  
recognized political party as indicated on the elector's most 244  
recent voter registration application or voter registration 245  
update form; 246

(2) In the case of an elector who is registered to vote in 247  
this state before the effective date of this section, the 248  
currently recognized political party, if any, whose ballot the 249  
elector most recently cast at a primary election held during the 250

calendar year of the effective date of this section or the 251  
previous two calendar years. 252

(B) (1) Each voter registration application and voter 253  
registration update form prescribed by the secretary of state 254  
shall include all of the following: 255

(a) A list of the political parties that are recognized in 256  
this state, accompanied by boxes for the applicant to check to 257  
select a party with which the applicant wishes to be affiliated; 258

(b) A space for the applicant to write the name of a 259  
recognized political party that is not listed on the form, if 260  
the applicant wishes to be affiliated with that party; 261

(c) A box for the applicant to check to indicate that the 262  
applicant does not wish to be affiliated with any political 263  
party; 264

(d) A notice that the applicant may select or write the 265  
name of only one recognized political party and that the 266  
applicant is not required to select a political party. 267

(2) An applicant who submits a voter registration 268  
application or update form shall be considered unaffiliated if 269  
either of the following apply: 270

(a) The applicant indicates on the application or form 271  
that the applicant does not wish to be affiliated with any 272  
political party. 273

(b) The applicant is not currently registered as 274  
affiliated with a political party, does not select or write the 275  
name of a recognized political party, and does not indicate that 276  
the applicant does not wish to be affiliated with any political 277  
party. 278

(3) An applicant who submits a voter registration update 279  
form shall remain registered as affiliated with the applicant's 280  
current political party if the applicant currently is affiliated 281  
with a political party, does not select or write the name of a 282  
recognized political party, and does not indicate that the 283  
applicant does not wish to be affiliated with any political 284  
party. 285

**Sec. 3503.09.** (A) (1) The secretary of state shall adopt 286  
rules for the electronic transmission by boards of elections, 287  
designated agencies, offices of deputy registrars of motor 288  
vehicles, public high schools and vocational schools, public 289  
libraries, and offices of county treasurers, where applicable, 290  
~~of name and residence changes for voter registration records in~~ 291  
~~the statewide voter registration database update forms.~~ 292

(2) The secretary of state shall adopt rules for the 293  
purpose of improving the speed of processing new voter 294  
registrations that permit information from a voter registration 295  
application received by a designated agency or an office of 296  
deputy registrar of motor vehicles to be made available 297  
electronically, in addition to requiring the original voter 298  
registration application to be transmitted to the applicable 299  
board of elections under division (E) (2) of section 3503.10 or 300  
section 3503.11 of the Revised Code. 301

(B) Rules adopted under division (A) of this section shall 302  
do all of the following: 303

(1) Prohibit any direct electronic connection between a 304  
designated agency, office of deputy registrar of motor vehicles, 305  
public high school or vocational school, public library, or 306  
office of a county treasurer and the statewide voter 307  
registration database; 308

(2) Require any updated voter registration information to 309  
be verified by the secretary of state or a board of elections 310  
before the information is added to the statewide voter 311  
registration database for the purpose of modifying an existing 312  
voter registration; 313

(3) Require each designated agency or office of deputy 314  
registrar of motor vehicles that transmits voter registration 315  
information electronically to transmit an identifier for data 316  
relating to each new voter registration that shall be used by 317  
the secretary of state or a board of elections to match the 318  
electronic data to the original voter registration application. 319

**Sec. 3503.10.** (A) Each designated agency shall designate 320  
one person within that agency to serve as coordinator for the 321  
voter registration program within the agency and its 322  
departments, divisions, and programs. The designated person 323  
shall be trained under a program designed by the secretary of 324  
state and shall be responsible for administering all aspects of 325  
the voter registration program for that agency as prescribed by 326  
the secretary of state. The designated person shall receive no 327  
additional compensation for performing such duties. 328

(B) Every designated agency, public high school and 329  
vocational school, public library, and office of a county 330  
treasurer shall provide in each of its offices or locations 331  
voter registration applications and assistance in the 332  
registration of persons qualified to register to vote, in 333  
accordance with this chapter. 334

(C) Every designated agency shall distribute to its 335  
applicants, prior to or in conjunction with distributing a voter 336  
registration application, a form prescribed by the secretary of 337  
state that includes all of the following: 338

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

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

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

(4) The statement, "If you believe that someone has  
interfered with your right to register or to decline to register  
to vote, your right to privacy in deciding whether to register  
or in applying to register to vote, or your right to choose your  
own political party or other political preference, you may file  
a complaint with the prosecuting attorney of your county or with  
the secretary of state," with the address and telephone number  
for each such official's office.

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

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

(1) Have employees trained to administer the voter 368  
registration program in order to provide to each applicant who 369  
wishes to register to vote and who accepts assistance, the same 370  
degree of assistance with regard to completion of the voter 371  
registration application as is provided by the agency with 372  
regard to the completion of its own form; 373

(2) Accept completed voter registration applications, and 374  
voter registration ~~change of residence forms, and voter~~ 375  
~~registration change of name update~~ forms, regardless of whether 376  
the application or form was distributed by the designated 377  
agency, for transmittal to the office of the board of elections 378  
in the county in which the agency is located. Each designated 379  
agency and the appropriate board of elections shall establish a 380  
method by which the voter registration applications and other 381  
voter registration forms are transmitted to that board of 382  
elections within five days after being accepted by the agency. 383

(3) If the designated agency is one that is primarily 384  
engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities under 385  
a state-funded program, and that agency provides services to a 386  
person with disabilities at a person's home, provide the 387  
services described in divisions (E) (1) and (2) of this section 388  
at the person's home; 389

(4) Keep as confidential, except as required by the 390  
secretary of state for record-keeping purposes, the identity of 391  
an agency through which a person registered to vote or updated 392  
the person's voter registration records, and information 393  
relating to a declination to register to vote made in connection 394  
with a voter registration application issued by a designated 395  
agency. 396

(F) The secretary of state shall prepare and transmit 397

written instructions on the implementation of the voter 398  
registration program within each designated agency, public high 399  
school and vocational school, public library, and office of a 400  
county treasurer. The instructions shall include directions as 401  
follows: 402

(1) That each person designated to assist with voter 403  
registration maintain strict neutrality with respect to a 404  
person's political philosophies, a person's right to register or 405  
decline to register, and any other matter that may influence a 406  
person's decision to register or not register to vote; 407

(2) That each person designated to assist with voter 408  
registration not seek to influence a person's decision to 409  
register or not register to vote, not display or demonstrate any 410  
political preference or party allegiance, and not make any 411  
statement to a person or take any action the purpose or effect 412  
of which is to lead a person to believe that a decision to 413  
register or not register has any bearing on the availability of 414  
services or benefits offered, on the grade in a particular class 415  
in school, or on credit for a particular class in school; 416

(3) Regarding when and how to assist a person in 417  
completing the voter registration application, what to do with 418  
the completed voter registration application or voter 419  
registration update form, and when the application must be 420  
transmitted to the appropriate board of elections; 421

(4) Regarding what records must be kept by the agency and 422  
where and when those records should be transmitted to satisfy 423  
reporting requirements imposed on the secretary of state under 424  
the National Voter Registration Act of 1993; 425

(5) Regarding whom to contact to obtain answers to 426

questions about voter registration forms and procedures. 427

(G) If the voter registration activity is part of an in- 428  
class voter registration program in a public high school or 429  
vocational school, whether prescribed by the secretary of state 430  
or independent of the secretary of state, the board of education 431  
shall do all of the following: 432

(1) Establish a schedule of school days and hours during 433  
these days when the person designated to assist with voter 434  
registration shall provide voter registration assistance; 435

(2) Designate a person to assist with voter registration 436  
from the public high school's or vocational school's staff; 437

(3) Make voter registration applications and materials 438  
available, as outlined in the voter registration program 439  
established by the secretary of state pursuant to section 440  
3501.05 of the Revised Code; 441

(4) Distribute the statement, "applying to register or 442  
declining to register to vote, or registering as affiliated with 443  
a particular political party or registering to vote and 444  
remaining unaffiliated, will not affect or be a condition of 445  
your receiving a particular grade in or credit for a school 446  
course or class, participating in a curricular or 447  
extracurricular activity, receiving a benefit or privilege, or 448  
participating in a program or activity otherwise available to 449  
pupils enrolled in this school district's schools."; 450

(5) Establish a method by which the voter registration 451  
application and other voter registration forms are transmitted 452  
to the board of elections within five days after being accepted 453  
by the public high school or vocational school. 454

(H) Any person employed by the designated agency, public 455



high school or vocational school, public library, or office of a 456  
county treasurer may be designated to assist with voter 457  
registration pursuant to this section. The designated agency, 458  
public high school or vocational school, public library, or 459  
office of a county treasurer shall provide the designated 460  
person, and make available such space as may be necessary, 461  
without charge to the county or state. 462

(I) The secretary of state shall prepare and cause to be 463  
displayed in a prominent location in each designated agency a 464  
notice that identifies the person designated to assist with 465  
voter registration, the nature of that person's duties, and 466  
where and when that person is available for assisting in the 467  
registration of voters. 468

A designated agency may furnish additional supplies and 469  
services to disseminate information to increase public awareness 470  
of the existence of a person designated to assist with voter 471  
registration in every designated agency. 472

(J) This section does not limit any authority a board of 473  
education, superintendent, or principal has to allow, sponsor, 474  
or promote voluntary election registration programs within a 475  
high school or vocational school, including programs in which 476  
pupils serve as persons designated to assist with voter 477  
registration, provided that no pupil is required to participate. 478

(K) Each public library and office of the county treasurer 479  
shall establish a method by which voter registration forms are 480  
transmitted to the board of elections within five days after 481  
being accepted by the public library or office of the county 482  
treasurer. 483

(L) The department of job and family services and its 484

departments, divisions, and programs shall limit administration 485  
of the aspects of the voter registration program for the 486  
department to the requirements prescribed by the secretary of 487  
state and the requirements of this section and the National 488  
Voter Registration Act of 1993. 489

**Sec. 3503.11.** When any person applies for a driver's 490  
license, commercial driver's license, a state of Ohio 491  
identification card issued under section 4507.50 of the Revised 492  
Code, or motorcycle operator's license or endorsement, or the 493  
renewal or duplicate of any license or endorsement under Chapter 494  
4506. or 4507. of the Revised Code, the registrar of motor 495  
vehicles or deputy registrar shall offer the applicant the 496  
opportunity to register to vote or to update the applicant's 497  
voter registration. The registrar of motor vehicles or deputy 498  
registrar also shall make available to all other customers voter 499  
registration applications and ~~change of residence and change of~~ 500  
~~name, voter registration update~~ forms, but is not required to 501  
offer assistance to these customers in completing a voter 502  
registration application or other form. 503

The deputy registrar shall send any registration 504  
application or any ~~change of residence or change of name voter~~ 505  
registration update form that was completed and submitted in 506  
paper form to the deputy registrar to the board of elections of 507  
the county in which the office of the deputy registrar is 508  
located, within five days after accepting the application or 509  
other form. The registrar shall send any completed registration 510  
application received at the bureau of motor vehicles 511  
headquarters location and any completed ~~change of residence or~~ 512  
~~change of name voter registration update~~ form processed 513  
electronically in systems or programs operated and maintained by 514  
the bureau of motor vehicles to the secretary of state within 515

five days after accepting the application or other form. 516

The registrar shall collect from each deputy registrar 517  
through the reports filed under division (J) of section 4503.03 518  
of the Revised Code and transmit to the secretary of state 519  
information on the number of voter registration applications and 520  
~~change of residence or change of name~~ voter registration update 521  
forms completed or declined, and any additional information 522  
required by the secretary of state to comply with the National 523  
Voter Registration Act of 1993. No information relating to an 524  
applicant's decision to decline to register or update the 525  
applicant's voter registration at the office of the registrar or 526  
deputy registrar may be used for any purpose other than voter 527  
registration record-keeping required by the secretary of state, 528  
and all such information shall be kept confidential. 529

The secretary of state shall prescribe voter registration 530  
applications and ~~change of residence and change of name~~ voter 531  
registration update forms for use by the bureau of motor 532  
vehicles. The bureau of motor vehicles shall supply all of its 533  
deputy registrars with a sufficient number of voter registration 534  
applications and ~~change of residence and change of name~~ voter 535  
registration update forms. 536

**Sec. 3503.14.** ~~(A)~~ (A) (1) The secretary of state shall 537  
prescribe the form and content of the voter registration, ~~change~~ 538  
~~of residence~~, and ~~change of name~~ voter registration update forms 539  
used in this state. The forms shall meet the requirements of the 540  
National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and shall include spaces 541  
for all of the following: 542

~~(1)~~ (a) The voter's name; 543

~~(2)~~ (b) The voter's address; 544

<del>(3)</del> <u>(c)</u> The current date;	545
<del>(4)</del> <u>(d)</u> The voter's date of birth;	546
<del>(5)</del> <u>(e)</u> The voter to provide at least one of the following forms of identification:	547 548
<del>(a)</del> <u>(i)</u> The voter's Ohio driver's license or state identification card number;	549 550
<del>(b)</del> <u>(ii)</u> The last four digits of the voter's social security number.	551 552
<del>(6)</del> <u>(f)</u> The voter's signature.	553
<u>(2) The form shall include the political party affiliation fields and notice described in division (B) (1) of section 3503.071 of the Revised Code.</u>	554 555 556
<u>(3)</u> The registration form shall include a space on which the person registering an applicant shall sign the person's name and provide the person's address and a space on which the person registering an applicant shall name the employer who is employing that person to register the applicant.	557 558 559 560 561
<u>(4)</u> Except for forms prescribed by the secretary of state under section 3503.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of state shall permit boards of elections to produce forms that have subdivided spaces for each individual alphanumeric character of the information provided by the voter so as to accommodate the electronic reading and conversion of the voter's information to data and the subsequent electronic transfer of that data to the statewide voter registration database established under section 3503.15 of the Revised Code.	562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570
(B) None of the following persons who are registering an applicant in the course of that official's or employee's normal	571 572

duties shall sign the person's name, provide the person's	573
address, or name the employer who is employing the person to	574
register an applicant on a form prepared under this section:	575
(1) An election official;	576
(2) A county treasurer;	577
(3) A deputy registrar of motor vehicles;	578
(4) An employee of a designated agency;	579
(5) An employee of a public high school;	580
(6) An employee of a public vocational school;	581
(7) An employee of a public library;	582
(8) An employee of the office of a county treasurer;	583
(9) An employee of the bureau of motor vehicles;	584
(10) An employee of a deputy registrar of motor vehicles;	585
(11) An employee of an election official.	586
(C) Except as provided in section 3501.382 of the Revised	587
Code, any applicant who is unable to sign the applicant's own	588
name shall make an "X," if possible, which shall be certified by	589
the signing of the name of the applicant by the person filling	590
out the form, who shall add the person's own signature. If an	591
applicant is unable to make an "X," the applicant shall indicate	592
in some manner that the applicant desires to register to vote or	593
to <del>change</del> <u>update</u> the applicant's <del>name or residence</del> <u>voter</u>	594
<u>registration</u> . The person registering the applicant shall sign	595
the form and attest that the applicant indicated that the	596
applicant desired to register to vote or to <del>change the</del>	597
<del>applicant's name or residence</del> <u>update the applicant's voter</u>	598
<u>registration</u> .	599

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

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

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

**Sec. 3503.15.** (A) The secretary of state shall establish and maintain a statewide voter registration database that shall be administered by the office of data analytics and archives in the office of the secretary of state and made continuously available to each board of elections and to other agencies as authorized by law.

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

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

(1) An electronic network that connects all board of elections offices with the office of the secretary of state and

with the offices of all other boards of elections;	629
(2) A computer program that harmonizes the records	630
contained in the database with records maintained by each board	631
of elections;	632
(3) An interactive computer program that allows access to	633
the records contained in the database by each board of elections	634
and by any persons authorized by the secretary of state to add,	635
delete, modify, or print database records, and to conduct	636
updates of the database;	637
(4) A search program capable of verifying registered	638
electors and their registration information by name, driver's	639
license or state identification card number, birth date, social	640
security number, or current address;	641
(5) Safeguards and components to ensure that the	642
integrity, security, and confidentiality of the voter	643
registration information is maintained;	644
(6) Methods to retain canceled voter registration records	645
for not less than five years after they are canceled and to	646
record the reason for their cancellation.	647
(C) For each registered elector, the statewide voter	648
registration database shall include all of the following	649
information:	650
(1) The elector's name;	651
(2) The elector's birth date;	652
(3) The elector's current residence address;	653
(4) The elector's precinct number;	654
(5) The elector's Ohio driver's license or state	655

identification card number, if available;	656
(6) The last four digits of the elector's social security number, if available;	657 658
(7) The elector's telephone number, if available;	659
(8) The elector's electronic mail address, if available;	660
(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:	661 662 663 664
(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;	665 666 667 668 669 670 671
(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 secretary of state, as applicable;	672 673 674 675
(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;	676 677 678
(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;	679 680 681
(v) In the case of an application submitted to a board of elections by facsimile transmission or electronic mail under	682 683



Chapter 3511. of the Revised Code, the date of the receipt of 684  
the transmission or electronic mail by the board of elections; 685

(vi) In the case of a provisional ballot affirmation that 686  
serves as an application to register to vote in future elections 687  
because the individual who cast the ballot is not registered to 688  
vote, the date the board of elections determines that the 689  
provisional ballot is invalid under section 3505.183 of the 690  
Revised Code. 691

(b) For purposes of determining an elector's voter 692  
registration date under division (C) (9) (a) of this section, all 693  
of the following apply: 694

(i) An elector's voter registration date shall not be 695  
during the period beginning on the day after the close of voter 696  
registration before an election and ending on the day of the 697  
election. If the date determined under division (C) (9) (a) of 698  
this section would be during that period, the voter registration 699  
date instead shall be the date on which the board of elections 700  
processes the application to register to vote after the day of 701  
the election. 702

(ii) A ~~change of address or change of name voter~~ 703  
registration update form, including a provisional ballot 704  
affirmation that serves as a ~~change of address or change of name~~ 705  
voter registration update form, is not considered an application 706  
to register to vote. 707

(iii) An application to register to vote that is submitted 708  
by an individual who is already registered to vote in this state 709  
is not considered an application to register to vote. 710

(10) The elector's political party affiliation, if any, as 711  
determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code, and the 712

elector's voting history, including all of the following for 713  
each election in which the elector cast a ballot that was 714  
counted: 715

(a) The date of the election; 716

(b) If the election was a primary election, the political 717  
party whose ballot the elector cast at the primary election or 718  
an indication that the elector voted only on the questions and 719  
issues appearing on the ballot at a special election held on the 720  
day of the primary election; 721

(c) The type of ballot the elector cast. 722

(11) The elector's last activity date, which shall be 723  
determined in accordance with rules adopted by the secretary of 724  
state pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. 725

(12) Any other information the secretary of state requires 726  
to be included by rule adopted pursuant to Chapter 119. of the 727  
Revised Code. 728

(D) Every day during the period beginning on the forty- 729  
sixth day before an election and ending on the eighty-first day 730  
after the day of the election, a board of elections shall create 731  
a daily record of its voter registration database as of four 732  
p.m. and shall transmit the daily record to the secretary of 733  
state in a secure manner prescribed by the secretary of state. 734  
The secretary of state shall archive the daily record and retain 735  
it for at least twenty-two months after the day of the election. 736

(E) The secretary of state shall adopt rules pursuant to 737  
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to implement this section and 738  
sections 3503.151 to 3503.153 of the Revised Code, including 739  
rules doing all of the following: 740

- (1) Specifying the manner in which any voter registration records maintained by boards of elections in other data formats shall be converted for inclusion in the statewide voter registration database;
- (2) Establishing a uniform method for entering voter registration records into the statewide voter registration database on an expedited basis, but not less than once per day, if new registration information is received, and for transmitting information securely to the secretary of state;
- (3) Establishing a uniform method for purging canceled voter registration records from the statewide voter registration database in accordance with section 3503.21 of the Revised Code;
- (4) Specifying the persons authorized to add, delete, modify, or print records contained in the statewide voter registration database and to make updates of that database;
- (5) Establishing a process for annually auditing the information contained in the statewide voter registration database.
- (F) A board of elections promptly shall purge a voter's 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 770  
contracts to provide voter registration software or related 771  
services shall ensure that the board's voter registration system 772  
and practices comply with the requirements of this section and 773  
any rules adopted under this section. 774

**Sec. 3503.16.** ~~(A) Except as otherwise provided in division~~ 775  
~~(E) of section 111.44 of the Revised Code, whenever~~ (A) Whenever 776  
a registered elector changes the place of residence of that 777  
registered elector ~~from one precinct to another within a county~~ 778  
~~or from one county to another~~ this state, or has a change of 779  
name or a change of political party affiliation, that registered 780  
elector shall report the change by ~~delivering a change of~~ 781  
~~residence or change of name form, whichever is appropriate, as~~ 782  
~~prescribed by the secretary of state under section 3503.14 of~~ 783  
~~the Revised Code to the state or local office of a designated~~ 784  
~~agency, a public high school or vocational school, a public~~ 785  
~~library, the office of the county treasurer, the office of the~~ 786  
~~secretary of state, any office of the registrar or deputy~~ 787  
~~registrar of motor vehicles, or any office of a board of~~ 788  
~~elections in person or by a third person. Any voter~~ 789  
~~registration, change of address, or change of name application,~~ 790  
~~returned by mail, may be sent only to the secretary of state or~~ 791  
~~the board of elections.~~ 792

A registered elector also may update the registration of 793  
that registered elector by filing a change of residence or 794  
change of name form on the day of a special, primary, or general 795  
election at the polling place in the precinct in which that 796  
registered elector resides or at the board of elections or at 797  
another site designated by the board one of the methods 798  
described in section 3503.19 of the Revised Code not later than 799  
the thirtieth day before the day of an election, except as 800

otherwise permitted under this section. 801

(B) (1) (a) Any registered elector who moves within a 802  
precinct on or prior to the day of a general, primary, or 803  
special election and has not ~~filed a notice of reported the~~ 804  
change of residence ~~with the board of elections under section~~ 805  
3503.19 of the Revised Code may vote in that election by going 806  
to that registered elector's assigned polling place, completing 807  
and signing a ~~notice of change of residence voter registration~~ 808  
update form, showing photo identification, and casting a ballot. 809

(b) Any registered elector who changes the name of that 810  
registered elector and remains within a precinct on or prior to 811  
the day of a general, primary, or special election and has not 812  
~~filed a notice of reported the~~ change of name ~~with the board of~~ 813  
~~elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code~~ may vote in 814  
that election by going to that registered elector's assigned 815  
polling place, completing and signing a ~~notice of a change of~~ 816  
~~name voter registration update form~~, and casting a provisional 817  
ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised Code. If the 818  
registered elector provides to the precinct election officials 819  
proof of a legal name change, such as a marriage license or 820  
court order that includes the elector's current and prior names, 821  
the elector may complete and sign a ~~notice of change of name~~ 822  
voter registration update form and cast a regular ballot. 823

(2) Any registered elector who moves from one precinct to 824  
another within a county or moves from one precinct to another 825  
and changes the name of that registered elector on or prior to 826  
the day of a general, primary, or special election and has not 827  
~~filed a notice of reported the~~ change of residence or change of 828  
name, whichever is appropriate, ~~with the board of elections~~ 829  
under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code may vote in that 830

election if that registered elector complies with division (G) 831  
of this section or does all of the following: 832

(a) Appears at anytime during regular business hours on or 833  
after the twenty-eighth day prior to the election in which that 834  
registered elector wishes to vote or, if the election is held on 835  
the day of a presidential primary election, the twenty-fifth day 836  
prior to the election, through noon of the Saturday prior to the 837  
election at the office of the board of elections, appears at any 838  
time during regular business hours on the Monday prior to the 839  
election at the office of the board of elections, or appears on 840  
the day of the election at either of the following locations: 841

(i) The polling place for the precinct in which that 842  
registered elector resides; 843

(ii) The office of the board of elections or, if pursuant 844  
to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board 845  
has designated another location in the county at which 846  
registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of 847  
the office of the board of elections. 848

(b) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 849  
falsification, the written affirmation on the provisional ballot 850  
envelope, which shall serve as a ~~notice of change of residence~~ 851  
~~or change of name, whichever is appropriate~~ voter registration 852  
update form; 853

(c) Votes a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of 854  
the Revised Code at the polling place, at the office of the 855  
board of elections, or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 856  
3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated another 857  
location in the county at which registered electors may vote, at 858  
that other location instead of the office of the board of 859

elections, whichever is appropriate, using the address to which 860  
that registered elector has moved or the name of that registered 861  
elector as changed, whichever is appropriate; 862

(d) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 863  
falsification, a statement attesting that that registered 864  
elector moved or had a change of name, whichever is appropriate, 865  
on or prior to the day of the election, has voted a provisional 866  
ballot at the polling place for the precinct in which that 867  
registered elector resides, at the office of the board of 868  
elections, or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of 869  
the Revised Code the board has designated another location in 870  
the county at which registered electors may vote, at that other 871  
location instead of the office of the board of elections, 872  
whichever is appropriate, and will not vote or attempt to vote 873  
at any other location for that particular election. 874

(C) Any registered elector who moves from one county to 875  
another county within the state on or prior to the day of a 876  
general, primary, or special election and has not ~~registered to~~ 877  
~~vote in the county to which that registered elector moved~~ 878  
reported the change of residence under section 3503.19 of the 879  
Revised Code may vote in that election if that registered 880  
elector complies with division (G) of this section or does all 881  
of the following: 882

(1) Appears at any time during regular business hours on 883  
or after the twenty-eighth day prior to the election in which 884  
that registered elector wishes to vote or, if the election is 885  
held on the day of a presidential primary election, the twenty- 886  
fifth day prior to the election, through noon of the Saturday 887  
prior to the election at the office of the board of elections 888  
or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the 889

Revised Code the board has designated another location in the 890  
county at which registered electors may vote, at that other 891  
location instead of the office of the board of elections, 892  
appears during regular business hours on the Monday prior to the 893  
election at the office of the board of elections or, if pursuant 894  
to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board 895  
has designated another location in the county at which 896  
registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of 897  
the office of the board of elections, or appears on the day of 898  
the election at the office of the board of elections or, if 899  
pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code 900  
the board has designated another location in the county at which 901  
registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of 902  
the office of the board of elections; 903

(2) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 904  
falsification, the written affirmation on the provisional ballot 905  
envelope, which shall serve as a ~~notice of change of residence~~ 906  
voter registration update form; 907

(3) Votes a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of 908  
the Revised Code at the office of the board of elections or, if 909  
pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code 910  
the board has designated another location in the county at which 911  
registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of 912  
the office of the board of elections, using the address to which 913  
that registered elector has moved; 914

(4) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 915  
falsification, a statement attesting that that registered 916  
elector has moved from one county to another county within the 917  
state on or prior to the day of the election, has voted at the 918  
office of the board of elections or, if pursuant to division (C) 919



of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated 920  
another location in the county at which registered electors may 921  
vote, at that other location instead of the office of the board 922  
of elections, and will not vote or attempt to vote at any other 923  
location for that particular election. 924

(D) A person who votes by absent voter's ballots pursuant 925  
to division ~~(G)~~(E) of this section shall not make written 926  
application for the ballots pursuant to Chapter 3509. of the 927  
Revised Code. Ballots cast pursuant to division ~~(G)~~(E) of this 928  
section shall be set aside in a special envelope and counted 929  
during the official canvass of votes in the manner provided for 930  
in sections 3505.32 and 3509.06 of the Revised Code insofar as 931  
that manner is applicable. The board shall examine the pollbooks 932  
to verify that no ballot was cast at the polls or by absent 933  
voter's ballots under Chapter 3509. or 3511. of the Revised Code 934  
by an elector who has voted by absent voter's ballots pursuant 935  
to division ~~(G)~~(E) of this section. Any ballot determined to be 936  
insufficient for any of the reasons stated above or stated in 937  
section 3509.07 of the Revised Code shall not be counted. 938

Subject to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised 939  
Code, a board of elections may lease or otherwise acquire a site 940  
different from the office of the board at which registered 941  
electors may vote pursuant to division (B) or (C) of this 942  
section. 943

~~(E) Upon receiving a notice of change of residence or 944  
change of name, the board of elections shall immediately send 945  
the registrant an acknowledgment notice. If the change of 946  
residence or change of name notice is valid, the board shall 947  
update the voter's registration as appropriate. If that form is 948  
incomplete, the board shall inform the registrant in the 949~~

~~acknowledgment notice specified in this division of the~~ 950  
~~information necessary to complete or update that registrant's~~ 951  
~~registration.~~ 952

~~(F) Change of residence and change of name forms shall be~~ 953  
~~available at each polling place, and when these forms are~~ 954  
~~completed, noting changes of residence or name, as appropriate,~~ 955  
~~they shall be filed with election officials at the polling~~ 956  
~~place. Election officials shall return completed forms, together~~ 957  
~~with the pollbooks and tally sheets, to the board of elections.~~ 958

~~The board of elections shall provide change of residence~~ 959  
~~and change of name forms to the probate court and court of~~ 960  
~~common pleas. The court shall provide the forms to any person~~ 961  
~~eighteen years of age or older who has a change of name by order~~ 962  
~~of the court or who applies for a marriage license. The court~~ 963  
~~shall forward all completed forms to the board of elections~~ 964  
~~within five days after receiving them.~~ 965

~~(G) A registered elector who otherwise would qualify to~~ 966  
~~vote under division (B) or (C) of this section but is unable to~~ 967  
~~appear at the office of the board of elections or, if pursuant~~ 968  
~~to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board~~ 969  
~~has designated another location in the county at which~~ 970  
~~registered electors may vote, at that other location, on account~~ 971  
~~of personal illness, physical disability, or infirmity, may vote~~ 972  
~~on the day of the election if that registered elector does all~~ 973  
~~of the following:~~ 974

(1) Makes a written application on a form prescribed by 975  
the secretary of state that includes all of the information 976  
required under section 3509.03 of the Revised Code to the 977  
appropriate board for an absent voter's ballot on or after the 978  
twenty-seventh day prior to the election in which the registered 979

elector wishes to vote through the close of business on the 980  
seventh day prior to that election and requests that the absent 981  
voter's ballot be sent to the address to which the registered 982  
elector has moved if the registered elector has moved, or to the 983  
address of that registered elector who has not moved but has had 984  
a change of name; 985

(2) Declares that the registered elector has moved or had 986  
a change of name, whichever is appropriate, and otherwise is 987  
qualified to vote under the circumstances described in division 988  
(B) or (C) of this section, whichever is appropriate, but that 989  
the registered elector is unable to appear at the board of 990  
elections because of personal illness, physical disability, or 991  
infirmity; 992

(3) Completes and returns a voter registration update form 993  
along with the completed absent voter's ballot ~~a notice of~~ 994  
~~change of residence indicating the address to which the~~ 995  
~~registered elector has moved, or a notice of change of name,~~ 996  
~~whichever is appropriate;~~ 997

(4) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 998  
falsification, a statement attesting that the registered elector 999  
has moved or had a change of name on or prior to the day before 1000  
the election, has voted by absent voter's ballot because of 1001  
personal illness, physical disability, or infirmity that 1002  
prevented the registered elector from appearing at the board of 1003  
elections, and will not vote or attempt to vote at any other 1004  
location or by absent voter's ballot mailed to any other 1005  
location or address for that particular election. 1006

**Sec. 3503.19.** ~~(A) Persons~~ (A) (1) Except as otherwise 1007  
provided in division (E) of section 111.44 of the Revised Code, 1008  
persons qualified to register or to ~~change~~ update their 1009

registration because of a change of address ~~or~~, change of name, 1010  
or change of political party affiliation may register or ~~change~~ 1011  
update their registration ~~in~~ by doing any of the following: 1012

(a) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1013  
registration update form in person or through another person at 1014  
any state or local office of a designated agency, at the office 1015  
of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor vehicles, at a 1016  
public high school or vocational school, at a public library, at 1017  
the office of a county treasurer, or at a branch office 1018  
established by the board of elections, ~~or in~~; 1019

(b) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1020  
registration update form in person or through another person at 1021  
a probate court or a court of common pleas. The board of 1022  
elections shall provide the forms to the courts, and the courts 1023  
shall provide the forms to any person eighteen years of age or 1024  
older who has a change of name by order of the court or who 1025  
applies for a marriage license. 1026

(c) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1027  
registration update form in person, through another person, or 1028  
by mail at the office of the secretary of state or at the office 1029  
of ~~a any~~ board of elections. ~~A registered elector may also~~ 1030  
~~change the elector's registration on~~; 1031

(d) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1032  
registration update form through the online voter registration 1033  
system under section 3503.20 of the Revised Code; 1034

(e) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1035  
registration update form in person to the election officials on 1036  
election day at any polling place ~~where the elector is eligible~~ 1037  
~~to vote, in the manner provided under section 3503.16 of the~~ 1038

~~Revised Code. Voter registration applications and voter registration update forms shall be available at each polling place, and the election officials shall return all completed forms, together with the pollbooks and tally sheets, to the board of elections.~~ 1039  
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(f) In the case of a person who is eligible to vote as a uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in accordance with 52 U.S.C. 20310, returning the person's completed voter registration application or voter registration update form electronically to the office of the secretary of state or to the board of elections of the county in which the person's voting residence is located pursuant to Chapter 3511. of the Revised Code. 1044  
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(2) (a) Any 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, a probate court or court of common pleas, or the office of a county treasurer shall date stamp a voter registration application or voter registration update form it receives using a date stamp that does not disclose the identity of the state or local office that receives it and shall transmit ~~any voter registration the application or change of registration form that it receives~~ to the board of elections of the county in which the state or local office is located, within five days after receiving the ~~voter registration application or change of registration form.~~ 1052  
1053  
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(b) If a board of elections or the office of the secretary of state receives a voter registration application or voter registration update form before the thirtieth day before an election, the board or the office of the secretary of state, as 1065  
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applicable, shall forward the application or form to the board 1069  
of elections of the county in which the applicant resides within 1070  
ten days after receiving it. If a board of elections or the 1071  
office of the secretary of state receives a voter registration 1072  
application or voter registration update form on or after the 1073  
thirtieth day before an election, the board or the office of the 1074  
secretary of state, as applicable, shall forward the application 1075  
or form to the board of elections of the county in which the 1076  
applicant resides within thirty days after that election. 1077

(3) Except as otherwise provided in section 3503.16 of the 1078  
Revised Code: 1079

(a) An otherwise valid voter registration application that 1080  
is returned to the appropriate office other than by mail must be 1081  
received by a state or local office of a designated agency, the 1082  
office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor 1083  
vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public 1084  
library, a probate court or court of common pleas, the office of 1085  
a county treasurer, the office of the secretary of state, or the 1086  
office of a board of elections no later than the thirtieth day 1087  
preceding a primary, special, or general election for the person 1088  
to qualify as an elector eligible to vote at that election. An 1089  
otherwise valid registration application received after that day 1090  
entitles the elector to vote at all subsequent elections. 1091

~~Any state or local office of a designated agency, the~~ 1092  
~~office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor~~ 1093  
~~vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public~~ 1094  
~~library, or the office of a county treasurer shall date stamp a~~ 1095  
~~registration application or change of name or change of address~~ 1096  
~~form it receives using a date stamp that does not disclose the~~ 1097  
~~identity of the state or local office that receives the~~ 1098

~~registration.~~ 1099

(b) Voter registration applications, if otherwise valid, 1100  
that are returned by mail to the office of the secretary of 1101  
state or to the office of a board of elections must be 1102  
postmarked no later than the thirtieth day preceding a primary, 1103  
special, or general election in order for the person to qualify 1104  
as an elector eligible to vote at that election. If an otherwise 1105  
valid voter registration application that is returned by mail 1106  
does not bear a postmark or a legible postmark, the registration 1107  
shall be valid for that election if received by the office of 1108  
the secretary of state or the office of a board of elections no 1109  
later than twenty-five days preceding any special, primary, or 1110  
general election. 1111

~~(B) (1)~~ (B) Any person may apply in person, by telephone, 1112  
by mail, or through another person for voter registration forms 1113  
to the office of the secretary of state or the office of a board 1114  
of elections. An individual who is eligible to vote as a 1115  
uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in accordance with 1116  
42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6 also may apply for voter registration forms 1117  
by electronic means to the office of the secretary of state or 1118  
to the board of elections of the county in which the person's 1119  
voting residence is located pursuant to section 3503.191 of the 1120  
Revised Code. 1121

~~(2) (a) An applicant may return the applicant's completed~~ 1122  
~~registration form in person or by mail to any state or local~~ 1123  
~~office of a designated agency, to a public high school or~~ 1124  
~~vocational school, to a public library, to the office of a~~ 1125  
~~county treasurer, to the office of the secretary of state, or to~~ 1126  
~~the office of a board of elections. An applicant who is eligible~~ 1127  
~~to vote as a uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in~~ 1128

~~accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6 also may return the~~ 1129  
~~applicant's completed voter registration form electronically to~~ 1130  
~~the office of the secretary of state or to the board of~~ 1131  
~~elections of the county in which the person's voting residence~~ 1132  
~~is located pursuant to section 3503.191 of the Revised Code.~~ 1133

~~(b) Subject to division (B) (2) (c) of this section, an~~ 1134  
~~applicant may return the applicant's completed registration form~~ 1135  
~~through another person to any board of elections or the office~~ 1136  
~~of the secretary of state.~~ 1137

~~(c) A person who receives compensation for registering a~~ 1138  
~~voter shall return any registration form entrusted to that~~ 1139  
~~person by an applicant to any board of elections or to the~~ 1140  
~~office of the secretary of state.~~ 1141

~~(d) If a board of elections or the office of the secretary~~ 1142  
~~of state receives a registration form under division (B) (2) (b)~~ 1143  
~~or (c) of this section before the thirtieth day before an~~ 1144  
~~election, the board or the office of the secretary of state, as~~ 1145  
~~applicable, shall forward the registration to the board of~~ 1146  
~~elections of the county in which the applicant is seeking to~~ 1147  
~~register to vote within ten days after receiving the~~ 1148  
~~application. If a board of elections or the office of the~~ 1149  
~~secretary of state receives a registration form under division~~ 1150  
~~(B) (2) (b) or (c) of this section on or after the thirtieth day~~ 1151  
~~before an election, the board or the office of the secretary of~~ 1152  
~~state, as applicable, shall forward the registration to the~~ 1153  
~~board of elections of the county in which the applicant is~~ 1154  
~~seeking to register to vote within thirty days after that~~ 1155  
~~election.~~ 1156

(C) (1) A board of elections that receives a voter 1157  
registration application or voter registration update form and 1158



is satisfied as to the truth of the statements made in the 1159  
~~registration application or form~~ shall register the applicant or 1160  
update the elector's registration not later than twenty business 1161  
days after receiving the application, unless that application is 1162  
received during the thirty days immediately preceding the day of 1163  
an election. The board shall promptly notify the ~~applicant-~~ 1164  
person in writing of each of the following: 1165

(a) The applicant's fact that the person is registered to 1166  
vote or has had the person's registration updated; 1167

(b) The person's political party affiliation, if any, as 1168  
determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code; 1169

(c) The precinct in which the applicant-person is to vote; 1170

~~(e)-(d)~~ In bold type as follows: 1171

"Voters must bring photo identification to the polls in 1172  
order to verify identity. Voters who do not provide photo 1173  
identification will still be able to vote by casting a 1174  
provisional ballot." 1175

The notification shall be by nonforwardable mail. If the 1176  
mail is returned to the board, it shall investigate and cause 1177  
the notification to be delivered to the correct address. 1178

(2) If, after investigating as required under division (C) 1179  
(1) of this section, the board is unable to verify the voter's 1180  
correct address, it shall cause the voter's name in the official 1181  
registration list and in the poll list or signature pollbook to 1182  
be marked to indicate that the voter's notification was returned 1183  
to the board. 1184

At the first election at which a voter whose name has been 1185  
so marked appears to vote, the voter shall be required to vote 1186

by provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised 1187  
Code. If the provisional ballot is counted pursuant to division 1188  
(B) (3) of section 3505.183 of the Revised Code, the board shall 1189  
correct that voter's registration, if needed, and shall remove 1190  
the indication that the voter's notification was returned from 1191  
that voter's name on the official registration list and on the 1192  
poll list or signature pollbook. If the provisional ballot is 1193  
not counted pursuant to division (B) (4) (a) (i), (v), or (vi) of 1194  
section 3505.183 of the Revised Code, the voter's registration 1195  
shall be canceled. The board shall notify the voter by United 1196  
States mail of the cancellation. 1197

(3) If a notice of the disposition of an otherwise valid 1198  
registration application is sent by nonforwardable mail and is 1199  
returned undelivered, the person shall be registered as provided 1200  
in division (C) (2) of this section and sent a confirmation 1201  
notice by forwardable mail. If the person fails to respond to 1202  
the confirmation notice, update the person's registration, or 1203  
vote by provisional ballot as provided in division (C) (2) of 1204  
this section in any election during the period of two federal 1205  
elections subsequent to the mailing of the confirmation notice, 1206  
the person's registration shall be canceled. 1207

**Sec. 3503.20.** (A) The secretary of state shall establish a 1208  
secure online voter registration system. The system shall 1209  
provide for all of the following: 1210

(1) An applicant to submit a voter registration 1211  
application to the secretary of state online through the 1212  
internet; 1213

(2) The online applicant to be registered to vote, if all 1214  
of the following apply: 1215

(a) The application contains all of the following	1216
information:	1217
(i) The applicant's name;	1218
(ii) The applicant's address;	1219
(iii) The applicant's date of birth;	1220
(iv) The last four digits of the applicant's social	1221
security number;	1222
(v) The applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the	1223
number of the applicant's state identification card issued under	1224
section 4507.50 of the Revised Code.	1225
(b) The applicant's name, address, and date of birth, the	1226
last four digits of the applicant's social security number, and	1227
the applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the number of	1228
the applicant's state identification card as they are provided	1229
in the application are not inconsistent with the information on	1230
file with the bureau of motor vehicles;	1231
(c) The applicant is a United States citizen, will have	1232
lived in this state for thirty days immediately preceding the	1233
next election, will be at least eighteen years of age on or	1234
before the day of the next general election, and is otherwise	1235
eligible to register to vote;	1236
(d) The applicant attests to the truth and accuracy of the	1237
information submitted in the online application under penalty of	1238
election falsification.	1239
<u>(3) The application includes the political party</u>	1240
<u>affiliation fields and notice described in division (B)(1) of</u>	1241
<u>section 3503.071 of the Revised Code.</u>	1242

(B) If an individual registers to vote or a registered 1243  
elector updates the elector's ~~name, address, or both~~ 1244  
registration under this section, the secretary of state shall 1245  
obtain an electronic copy of the applicant's or elector's 1246  
signature that is on file with the bureau of motor vehicles. 1247  
That electronic signature shall be used as the applicant's or 1248  
elector's signature on voter registration records, for all 1249  
election and signature-matching purposes. 1250

(C) The secretary of state shall employ whatever security 1251  
measures the secretary of state considers necessary to ensure 1252  
the integrity and accuracy of voter registration information 1253  
submitted electronically pursuant to this section. Errors in 1254  
processing voter registration applications in the online system 1255  
shall not prevent an applicant from becoming registered or from 1256  
voting. 1257

(D) The online voter registration application established 1258  
under division (A) of this section shall include the following 1259  
language: 1260

"By clicking the box below, I affirm all of the following 1261  
under penalty of election falsification, which is a felony of 1262  
the fifth degree: 1263

(1) I am the person whose name and identifying information 1264  
is provided on this form, and I desire to register to vote, or 1265  
update my voter registration, in the State of Ohio. 1266

(2) All of the information I have provided on this form is 1267  
true and correct as of the date I am submitting this form. 1268

(3) I am a United States citizen. 1269

(4) I will have lived in Ohio for thirty days immediately 1270  
preceding the next election. 1271

(5) I will be at least eighteen years of age on or before 1272  
the day of the next general election. 1273

(6) I authorize the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to transmit 1274  
to the Ohio Secretary of State my signature that is on file with 1275  
the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and I understand and agree that 1276  
the signature transmitted by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will 1277  
be used by the Secretary of State to validate this electronic 1278  
voter registration application as if I had signed this form 1279  
personally." 1280

In order to register to vote or update a voter 1281  
registration under division (A) of this section, an applicant or 1282  
elector shall be required to mark the box in the online voter 1283  
registration application that appears in conjunction with the 1284  
previous statement. 1285

~~(E) The online voter registration process established 1286  
under division (A) of this section shall be in operation and 1287  
available for use by individuals who wish to register to vote or 1288  
update their voter registration information online not earlier 1289  
than January 1, 2017. During the period beginning on the first 1290  
day after the close of voter registration before an election and 1291  
ending on the day of the election, the online voter registration 1292  
system shall display a notice indicating that the applicant will 1293  
not be registered to vote for the purposes of that election. 1294~~

(F) Notwithstanding section 1.50 of the Revised Code, if 1295  
any provision of this section or of division (E) of section 1296  
3503.14 of the Revised Code is held invalid, or if the 1297  
application of any provision of this section or of that division 1298  
to any person or circumstance is held invalid, then this section 1299  
and that division cease to operate. 1300

**Sec. 3503.23.** (A) Fourteen days before an election, the board of elections shall cause to be prepared from the statewide voter registration database established under section 3503.15 of the Revised Code a complete and official registration list for each precinct, containing the names, addresses, and political party ~~whose ballot the elector voted in the most recent primary election within the current year and the immediately preceding two calendar years,~~ affiliations of all qualified registered voters in the precinct, except as otherwise provided in section 111.44 of the Revised Code. All the names, insofar as practicable, shall be arranged in alphabetical order. The lists may be prepared either in sheet form on one side of the paper or in electronic form, at the discretion of the board. Each precinct list shall be headed "Register of Voters," and under the heading shall be indicated the district or ward and precinct.

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

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

(1) By the time the polls open, conspicuously post and display at the polling place one copy of the registration list

of voters in that precinct in an area of the polling place that 1331  
is easily accessible; 1332

(2) At 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. place a mark, on the official 1333  
registration list posted at the polling place, before the name 1334  
of those registered voters who have voted. 1335

(C) Notwithstanding division (B) of section 3501.35 of the 1336  
Revised Code, any person may enter the polling place for the 1337  
sole purpose of reviewing the official registration list posted 1338  
in accordance with division (B) of this section, provided that 1339  
the person does not engage in conduct that would constitute 1340  
harassment in violation of the election law, as defined in 1341  
section 3501.90 of the Revised Code. 1342

**Sec. 3503.28.** (A) The secretary of state shall develop an 1343  
information brochure regarding voter registration. The brochure 1344  
shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following 1345  
information: 1346

(1) The applicable deadlines for registering to vote or 1347  
for returning an applicant's completed registration form; 1348

(2) The applicable deadline for returning an applicant's 1349  
completed registration form if the person returning the form is 1350  
being compensated for registering voters; 1351

(3) The manner in which a person may establish or change 1352  
the person's political party affiliation; 1353

(4) The locations to which a person may return an 1354  
applicant's completed registration form; 1355

~~(4)~~ (5) The location to which a person who is compensated 1356  
for registering voters may return an applicant's completed 1357  
registration form; 1358

~~(5)~~ (6) The registration and affirmation requirements 1359  
applicable to persons who are compensated for registering voters 1360  
under section 3503.29 of the Revised Code; 1361

~~(6)~~ (7) A notice, which shall be written in bold type, 1362  
stating as follows: 1363

"Voters must bring photo identification to the polls in 1364  
order to verify identity. Voters who do not provide photo 1365  
identification will still be able to vote by casting a 1366  
provisional ballot." 1367

(B) Except as otherwise provided in division (D) of this 1368  
section, a board of elections, designated agency, public high 1369  
school, public vocational school, public library, office of a 1370  
county treasurer, or deputy registrar of motor vehicles shall 1371  
distribute a copy of the brochure developed under division (A) 1372  
of this section to any person who requests more than two voter 1373  
registration forms at one time. 1374

(C) (1) The secretary of state shall provide the 1375  
information required to be included in the brochure developed 1376  
under division (A) of this section to any person who prints a 1377  
voter registration form that is made available on a web site of 1378  
the office of the secretary of state. 1379

(2) If a board of elections operates and maintains a web 1380  
site, the board shall provide the information required to be 1381  
included in the brochure developed under division (A) of this 1382  
section to any person who prints a voter registration form that 1383  
is made available on that web site. 1384

(D) A board of elections shall not be required to 1385  
distribute a copy of a brochure under division (B) of this 1386  
section to any of the following officials or employees who are 1387



requesting more than two voter registration forms at one time in	1388
the course of the official's or employee's normal duties:	1389
(1) An election official;	1390
(2) A county treasurer;	1391
(3) A deputy registrar of motor vehicles;	1392
(4) An employee of a designated agency;	1393
(5) An employee of a public high school;	1394
(6) An employee of a public vocational school;	1395
(7) An employee of a public library;	1396
(8) An employee of the office of a county treasurer;	1397
(9) An employee of the bureau of motor vehicles;	1398
(10) An employee of a deputy registrar of motor vehicles;	1399
(11) An employee of an election official.	1400
(E) As used in this section, "registering voters" includes	1401
any effort, for compensation, to provide voter registration	1402
forms or to assist persons in completing or returning those	1403
forms.	1404
<b>Sec. 3505.181.</b> (A) All of the following individuals shall	1405
be permitted to cast a provisional ballot at an election:	1406
(1) An individual who declares that the individual is a	1407
registered voter in the precinct in which the individual desires	1408
to vote and that the individual is eligible to vote in an	1409
election, but the name of the individual does not appear on the	1410
official list of eligible voters for the precinct or an election	1411
official asserts that the individual is not eligible to vote;	1412

- (2) An individual who does not have or is unable to provide photo identification to the election officials; 1413  
1414
- (3) An individual whose name in the poll list or signature pollbook has been marked under section 3509.09 or 3511.13 of the Revised Code as having requested an absent voter's ballot or a uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot for that election and who appears to vote at the polling place; 1415  
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- (4) An individual whose notification of registration has been returned undelivered to the board of elections and whose name in the official registration list and in the poll list or signature pollbook has been marked under division (C) (2) of section 3503.19 of the Revised Code; 1420  
1421  
1422  
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- (5) An individual who has been successfully challenged under section 3505.20 or ~~3513.20~~ 3513.19 of the Revised Code; 1425  
1426
- (6) An individual who changes the individual's name and remains within the precinct without providing proof of that name change under division (B) (1) (b) of section 3503.16 of the Revised Code, moves from one precinct to another within a county, moves from one precinct to another and changes the individual's name, or moves from one county to another within the state, and completes and signs the required forms and statements under division (B) or (C) of section 3503.16 of the Revised Code; 1427  
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- (7) An individual whose signature, in the opinion of the precinct officers under section 3505.22 of the Revised Code, is not that of the person who signed that name in the registration forms. 1436  
1437  
1438  
1439
- (B) An individual who is eligible to cast a provisional ballot under division (A) of this section shall be permitted to 1440  
1441

cast a provisional ballot as follows: 1442

(1) An election official at the polling place shall notify 1443  
the individual that the individual may cast a provisional ballot 1444  
in that election. 1445

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (F) of this 1446  
section, the individual shall complete and execute a written 1447  
affirmation before an election official at the polling place 1448  
stating that the individual is both of the following: 1449

(a) A registered voter in the precinct in which the 1450  
individual desires to vote; 1451

(b) Eligible to vote in that election. 1452

(3) An election official at the polling place shall 1453  
transmit the ballot cast by the individual and the voter 1454  
information contained in the written affirmation executed by the 1455  
individual under division (B) (2) of this section to an 1456  
appropriate local election official for verification under 1457  
division (B) (4) of this section. 1458

(4) If the appropriate local election official to whom the 1459  
ballot or voter or address information is transmitted under 1460  
division (B) (3) of this section determines that the individual 1461  
is eligible to vote, the individual's provisional ballot shall 1462  
be counted as a vote in that election. 1463

(5) (a) At the time that an individual casts a provisional 1464  
ballot, the appropriate local election official shall give the 1465  
individual written information that states that any individual 1466  
who casts a provisional ballot will be able to ascertain under 1467  
the system established under division (B) (5) (b) of this section 1468  
whether the vote was counted, and, if the vote was not counted, 1469  
the reason that the vote was not counted. 1470

(b) The appropriate state or local election official shall 1471  
establish a free access system, in the form of a toll-free 1472  
telephone number, that any individual who casts a provisional 1473  
ballot may access to discover whether the vote of that 1474  
individual was counted, and, if the vote was not counted, the 1475  
reason that the vote was not counted. The free access system 1476  
established under this division also shall provide to an 1477  
individual whose provisional ballot was not counted information 1478  
explaining how that individual may contact the board of 1479  
elections to register to vote or to resolve problems with the 1480  
individual's voter registration. 1481

The appropriate state or local election official shall 1482  
establish and maintain reasonable procedures necessary to 1483  
protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of personal 1484  
information collected, stored, or otherwise used by the free 1485  
access system established under this division. The system shall 1486  
permit an individual only to gain access to information about 1487  
the individual's own provisional ballot. 1488

(6) If, at the time that an individual casts a provisional 1489  
ballot, the individual provides photo identification, the 1490  
individual shall record the type of identification provided on 1491  
the provisional ballot affirmation and, if the individual 1492  
provides an Ohio driver's license, state identification card, or 1493  
interim identification document, the individual also shall write 1494  
the individual's driver's license or state identification card 1495  
number on the provisional ballot affirmation. 1496

(7) (a) For a provisional ballot to be eligible to be 1497  
counted when it is cast by an individual who does not have photo 1498  
identification because the individual has a religious objection 1499  
to being photographed, the individual shall complete an 1500

affidavit of religious objection under section 3505.19 of the 1501  
Revised Code. The election officials shall attach the affidavit 1502  
to the individual's provisional ballot envelope. If the 1503  
individual does not complete the affidavit at the time of 1504  
casting the provisional ballot, the individual may appear at the 1505  
office of the board of elections within four days after the day 1506  
of the election and complete the affidavit. 1507

(b) For a provisional ballot to be eligible to be counted 1508  
when it is cast by any other individual who does not have or is 1509  
unable to provide photo identification to the election 1510  
officials, the individual who cast that ballot, within four days 1511  
after the day of the election, shall appear at the office of the 1512  
board of elections and provide photo identification. 1513

(8) For a provisional ballot cast by an individual who has 1514  
been successfully challenged under section 3505.20 of the 1515  
Revised Code to be eligible to be counted, the individual who 1516  
cast that ballot, within four days after the day of that 1517  
election, shall provide to the board of elections any 1518  
identification or other documentation required to be provided by 1519  
the applicable challenge questions asked of that individual 1520  
under section 3505.20 of the Revised Code. 1521

(C) (1) If an individual declares that the individual is 1522  
eligible to vote in a precinct other than the precinct in which 1523  
the individual desires to vote, or if, upon review of the 1524  
precinct voting location guide using the residential street 1525  
address provided by the individual, an election official at the 1526  
precinct at which the individual desires to vote determines that 1527  
the individual is not eligible to vote in that precinct, the 1528  
election official shall direct the individual to the precinct 1529  
and polling place in which the individual appears to be eligible 1530

to vote, explain that the individual may cast a provisional ballot at the current location but the ballot or a portion of the ballot will not be counted if it is cast in the wrong precinct, and provide the telephone number of the board of elections in case the individual has additional questions.

(2) If the individual refuses to travel to the correct precinct or to the office of the board of elections to cast a ballot, the individual shall be permitted to vote a provisional ballot at that precinct in accordance with division (B) of this section. If the individual is in the correct polling location for the precinct in which the individual is registered and eligible to vote, the election official shall complete and sign, under penalty of election falsification, a form that includes all of the following, and attach the form to the individual's provisional ballot affirmation:

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

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

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

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

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

(D) The appropriate local election official shall cause voting information to be publicly posted at each polling place

on the day of each election.	1560
(E) As used in this section and sections 3505.182 and 3505.183 of the Revised Code:	1561
(1) "Precinct voting location guide" means either of the following:	1562
(a) An electronic or paper record that lists the correct precinct and polling place for either each specific residential street address in the county or the range of residential street addresses located in each neighborhood block in the county;	1563
(b) Any other method that a board of elections creates that allows a precinct election official or any elector who is at a polling place in that county to determine the correct precinct and polling place of any qualified elector who resides in the county.	1564
(2) "Voting information" means all of the following:	1565
(a) A sample version of the ballot that will be used for that election;	1566
(b) Information regarding the date of the election and the hours during which polling places will be open;	1567
(c) Instructions on how to vote, including how to cast a vote and how to cast a provisional ballot;	1568
(d) Instructions for mail-in registrants and first-time voters under applicable federal and state laws;	1569
(e) General information on voting rights under applicable federal and state laws, including information on the right of an individual to cast a provisional ballot and instructions on how to contact the appropriate officials if these rights are alleged	1570
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to have been violated; 1587

(f) General information on federal and state laws 1588  
regarding prohibitions against acts of fraud and 1589  
misrepresentation. 1590

(F) Nothing in this section or section 3505.183 of the 1591  
Revised Code is in derogation of section 3505.24 of the Revised 1592  
Code, which permits a blind, disabled, or illiterate elector to 1593  
receive assistance in the marking of the elector's ballot by two 1594  
precinct election officials of different political parties. A 1595  
blind, disabled, or illiterate elector may receive assistance in 1596  
marking that elector's provisional ballot and in completing the 1597  
required affirmation in the same manner as an elector may 1598  
receive assistance on the day of an election under that section. 1599

**Sec. 3509.02.** (A) Any qualified elector may vote by absent 1600  
voter's ballots at an election. 1601

(B) Any qualified elector who is unable to appear at the 1602  
office of the board of elections or, if pursuant to division (C) 1603  
of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated 1604  
another location in the county at which registered electors may 1605  
vote, at that other location on account of personal illness, 1606  
physical disability, or infirmity, and who moves from one 1607  
precinct to another within a county, changes the elector's name 1608  
and moves from one precinct to another within a county, or moves 1609  
from one county to another county within the state, on or prior 1610  
to the day of a general, primary, or special election and has 1611  
not filed a notice of change of residence or change of name may 1612  
vote by absent voter's ballots in that election as specified in 1613  
division ~~(C)~~(E) of section 3503.16 of the Revised Code. 1614

**Sec. 3509.04.** (A) If a board of elections receives an 1615



application for absent voter's ballots that does not contain all 1616  
of the required information or is not submitted on an 1617  
appropriate form, the board promptly shall notify the applicant 1618  
of the additional information required to be provided by the 1619  
applicant to complete that application, direct the applicant to 1620  
use an appropriate form, or both, as applicable. 1621

(B) Upon receipt by the board of elections of an 1622  
application for absent voter's ballots that contains all of the 1623  
required information and is submitted on an appropriate form, as 1624  
provided by section 3509.03 and division ~~(G)~~ (E) of section 1625  
3503.16 of the Revised Code, the board, if the board finds that 1626  
the applicant is a qualified elector, shall deliver to the 1627  
applicant in person or mail directly to the applicant by special 1628  
delivery mail, air mail, or regular mail, postage prepaid, 1629  
proper absent voter's ballots. The board shall deliver or mail 1630  
with the ballots an unsealed identification envelope upon the 1631  
face of which shall be printed a form substantially as follows: 1632

"Identification Envelope Statement of Voter 1633

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of voter), declare under 1634  
penalty of election falsification that the within ballot or 1635  
ballots contained no voting marks of any kind when I received 1636  
them, and I caused the ballot or ballots to be marked, enclosed 1637  
in the identification envelope, and sealed in that envelope. 1638

My voting residence in Ohio is 1639

\_\_\_\_\_ 1640

(Street and Number, if any, or Rural Route and Number) 1641

of \_\_\_\_\_ (City, Village, or Township) 1642

Ohio, which is in Ward \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct \_\_\_\_\_ 1643

in that city, village, or township. 1644

If I have a confidential voter registration record, I am 1645  
providing my program participant identification number instead 1646  
of my residence address: \_\_\_\_\_ 1647

The primary election ballots, if any, within this envelope 1648  
are primary election ballots of the \_\_\_\_\_ Party. 1649

Ballots contained within this envelope are to be voted at 1650  
the \_\_\_\_\_ (general, special, or primary) election to be 1651  
held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of 1652  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. 1653

My date of birth is \_\_\_\_\_ (Month and Day), 1654  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Year). 1655

(Voter must provide one of the following:) 1656

My Ohio driver's license or state identification card 1657  
number is \_\_\_\_\_ (Driver's license or state 1658  
identification card number). 1659

The last four digits of my Social Security Number are 1660  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Last four digits of Social Security Number). 1661

\_\_\_\_\_ In lieu of providing a driver's license or state 1662  
identification card number or the last four digits of my Social 1663  
Security Number, I am enclosing a copy of my photo 1664  
identification in the return envelope in which this 1665  
identification envelope will be mailed. 1666

I hereby declare, under penalty of election falsification, 1667  
that the statements above are true, as I verily believe. 1668

\_\_\_\_\_ 1669  
(Signature of Voter) 1670

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF 1671

THE FIFTH DEGREE." 1672

The board shall mail with the ballots and the unsealed 1673  
identification envelope an unsealed return envelope upon the 1674  
face of which shall be printed the post-office address of the 1675  
board. In the upper left corner on the face of the return 1676  
envelope, several blank lines shall be printed upon which the 1677  
voter may write the voter's name and return address. The return 1678  
envelope shall be of such size that the identification envelope 1679  
can be conveniently placed within it for returning the 1680  
identification envelope to the board. 1681

No public office, and no public official or employee who 1682  
is acting in an official capacity, shall prepay the return 1683  
postage for any absent voter's ballots. 1684

Except as otherwise provided in this section and in 1685  
sections 3505.24 and 3509.08 of the Revised Code, an election 1686  
official shall not fill out any portion of an identification 1687  
envelope statement of voter or an absent voter's ballot on 1688  
behalf of an elector. A board of elections may preprint only an 1689  
elector's name and address on an identification envelope 1690  
statement of voter before mailing absent voter's ballots to the 1691  
elector, except that if the elector has a confidential voter 1692  
registration record, as described in section 111.44 of the 1693  
Revised Code, the board of elections shall not preprint the 1694  
elector's address on the identification envelope statement of 1695  
voter. 1696

**Sec. 3509.07.** If election officials find that any of the 1697  
following are true concerning an absent voter's ballot or absent 1698  
voter's presidential ballot cast under section 3503.16, 3509.05, 1699  
3509.08, or 3511.09 of the Revised Code and, if applicable, the 1700  
person did not provide any required additional information to 1701

the board of elections not later than the fourth day after the 1702  
day of the election, as permitted under division (D) (3) (b) or 1703  
(E) (2) of section 3509.06 of the Revised Code, the ballot shall 1704  
not be accepted or counted: 1705

(A) The statement accompanying the ballot is incomplete as 1706  
described in division (D) (3) (a) of section 3509.06 of the 1707  
Revised Code or is insufficient; 1708

(B) The signatures do not correspond with the person's 1709  
registration signature; 1710

(C) The applicant is not a qualified elector in the 1711  
precinct or for the election in which the elector cast the 1712  
ballot; 1713

(D) The ballot envelope contains more than one ballot of 1714  
any one kind, or any voted ballot that the elector is not 1715  
entitled to vote; 1716

(E) Stub A is detached from the absent voter's ballot or 1717  
absent voter's presidential ballot; ~~or~~ 1718

(F) The elector has not included with the elector's ballot 1719  
any identification required under section 3509.05 or 3511.09 of 1720  
the Revised Code. 1721

The vote of any absent voter may be challenged for cause 1722  
in the same manner as other votes are challenged, and the 1723  
election officials shall determine the legality of that ballot. 1724  
Every ballot not counted shall be endorsed on its back "Not 1725  
Counted" with the reasons the ballot was not counted, and shall 1726  
be enclosed and returned to or retained by the board of 1727  
elections along with the contested ballots. 1728

**Sec. 3509.08.** (A) Any qualified elector, who, on account 1729

of the elector's own personal illness, physical disability, or 1730  
infirmity, or on account of the elector's confinement in a jail 1731  
or workhouse under sentence for a misdemeanor or awaiting trial 1732  
on a felony or misdemeanor, will be unable to travel from the 1733  
elector's home or place of confinement to the voting booth in 1734  
the elector's precinct on the day of any general, special, or 1735  
primary election may make application in writing for an absent 1736  
voter's ballot to the board of elections of the elector's county 1737  
in the manner described in section 3509.03 of the Revised Code. 1738  
The application shall state the nature of the elector's illness, 1739  
physical disability, or infirmity, or the fact that the elector 1740  
is confined in a jail or workhouse and the elector's resultant 1741  
inability to travel to the election booth in the elector's 1742  
precinct on election day. 1743

The absent voter's ballot may be mailed directly to the 1744  
applicant at the applicant's voting residence or place of 1745  
confinement as stated in the applicant's application, or the 1746  
board may designate two board employees belonging to the two 1747  
major political parties for the purpose of delivering the ballot 1748  
to the disabled or confined elector and returning it to the 1749  
board, unless the applicant is confined to a public or private 1750  
institution within the county, in which case the board shall 1751  
designate two board employees belonging to the two major 1752  
political parties for the purpose of delivering the ballot to 1753  
the disabled or confined elector and returning it to the board. 1754  
In all other instances, the ballot shall be returned to the 1755  
office of the board in the manner prescribed in section 3509.05 1756  
of the Revised Code. 1757

Any disabled or confined elector who declares to the two 1758  
board employees belonging to the two major political parties 1759  
that the elector is unable to mark the elector's ballot by 1760

reason of physical infirmity that is apparent to the employees 1761  
to be sufficient to incapacitate the voter from marking the 1762  
elector's ballot properly, may receive, upon request, the 1763  
assistance of the employees in marking the elector's ballot, and 1764  
they shall thereafter give no information in regard to this 1765  
matter. Such assistance shall not be rendered for any other 1766  
cause. 1767

When two board employees belonging to the two major 1768  
political parties deliver a ballot to a disabled or confined 1769  
elector, each of the employees shall be present when the ballot 1770  
is delivered, when assistance is given, and when the ballot is 1771  
returned to the office of the board, and shall subscribe to the 1772  
declaration on the identification envelope. 1773

The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of 1774  
application for absent voter's ballots under this division. 1775

This chapter applies to disabled and confined absent 1776  
voter's ballots except as otherwise provided in this section. 1777

(B) (1) Any qualified elector who is unable to travel to 1778  
the voting booth in the elector's precinct on the day of any 1779  
general, special, or primary election may apply to the board of 1780  
elections of the county where the elector is a qualified elector 1781  
to vote in the election by absent voter's ballot if either of 1782  
the following apply: 1783

(a) The elector is confined in a hospital as a result of 1784  
an accident or unforeseeable medical emergency occurring before 1785  
the election; 1786

(b) The elector's minor child is confined in a hospital as 1787  
a result of an accident or unforeseeable medical emergency 1788  
occurring before the election. 1789

(2) The application authorized under division (B) (1) of 1790  
this section shall be made in writing in the manner described in 1791  
section 3509.03 of the Revised Code, except that the application 1792  
shall be delivered to the office of the board not later than 1793  
three p.m. on the day of the election. The application shall 1794  
indicate the hospital where the applicant or the applicant's 1795  
child is confined, the date of the applicant's or the 1796  
applicant's child's admission to the hospital, and the offices 1797  
for which the applicant is qualified to vote. The applicant may 1798  
also request that a member of the applicant's family, as listed 1799  
in section 3509.05 of the Revised Code, deliver the absent 1800  
voter's ballot to the applicant. The board, after establishing 1801  
to the board's satisfaction the validity of the circumstances 1802  
claimed by the applicant, shall supply an absent voter's ballot 1803  
to be delivered to the applicant. When the applicant or the 1804  
applicant's child is in a hospital in the county where the 1805  
applicant is a qualified elector and no request is made for a 1806  
member of the family to deliver the ballot, the board shall 1807  
arrange for the delivery of an absent voter's ballot to the 1808  
applicant, and for its return to the office of the board, by two 1809  
board employees belonging to the two major political parties 1810  
according to the procedures prescribed in division (A) of this 1811  
section. When the applicant or the applicant's child is in a 1812  
hospital outside the county where the applicant is a qualified 1813  
elector and no request is made for a member of the family to 1814  
deliver the ballot, the board shall arrange for the delivery of 1815  
an absent voter's ballot to the applicant by mail, and the 1816  
ballot shall be returned to the office of the board in the 1817  
manner prescribed in section 3509.05 of the Revised Code. 1818

(3) Any qualified elector who is eligible to vote under 1819  
division (B) or (C) of section 3503.16 of the Revised Code but 1820

is unable to do so because of the circumstances described in 1821  
division (B) (2) of this section may vote in accordance with 1822  
division (B) (1) of this section if that qualified elector states 1823  
in the application for absent voter's ballots that that 1824  
qualified elector moved or had a change of name under the 1825  
circumstances described in division (B) or (C) of section 1826  
3503.16 of the Revised Code and if that qualified elector 1827  
complies with divisions ~~(G) (1)~~ (E) (1) to (4) of section 3503.16 1828  
of the Revised Code. 1829

(C) Any qualified elector described in division (A) or (B) 1830  
(1) of this section who needs no assistance to vote or to return 1831  
absent voter's ballots to the board of elections may apply for 1832  
absent voter's ballots under section 3509.03 of the Revised Code 1833  
instead of applying for them under this section or may cast 1834  
absent voter's ballots in person under section 3509.051 of the 1835  
Revised Code. 1836

(D) Any qualified elector described in division (A) or (B) 1837  
(1) of this section to whom ballots are delivered by two 1838  
employees of the board of elections or who votes with the 1839  
assistance of two employees of the board of elections shall be 1840  
considered to have cast absent voter's ballots by mail, rather 1841  
than in person, for the purpose of the laws governing voter 1842  
identification. 1843

**Sec. 3513.041.** A write-in space shall be provided on the 1844  
ballot for every office, except in an election for which the 1845  
board of elections has received no valid declarations of intent 1846  
to be a write-in candidate under this section. Write-in votes 1847  
shall not be counted for any candidate who has not filed a 1848  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate pursuant to 1849  
this section. A qualified person who has filed a declaration of 1850



intent may receive write-in votes at either a primary or general 1851  
election. Any candidate shall file a declaration of intent to be 1852  
a write-in candidate before four p.m. of the seventy-second day 1853  
preceding the election at which such candidacy is to be 1854  
considered. If the election is to be determined by electors of a 1855  
county or a district or subdivision within the county, such 1856  
declaration shall be filed with the board of elections of that 1857  
county. If the election is to be determined by electors of a 1858  
subdivision located in more than one county, such declaration 1859  
shall be filed with the board of elections of the county in 1860  
which the major portion of the population of such subdivision is 1861  
located. If the election is to be determined by electors of a 1862  
district comprised of more than one county but less than all of 1863  
the counties of the state, such declaration shall be filed with 1864  
the board of elections of the most populous county in such 1865  
district. Any candidate for an office to be voted upon by 1866  
electors throughout the entire state shall file a declaration of 1867  
intent to be a write-in candidate with the secretary of state 1868  
before four p.m. of the seventy-second day preceding the 1869  
election at which such candidacy is to be considered. In 1870  
addition, candidates for president and vice-president of the 1871  
United States shall also file with the secretary of state by 1872  
that seventy-second day a slate of presidential electors 1873  
sufficient in number to satisfy the requirements of the United 1874  
States constitution. 1875

A board of elections shall not accept for filing the 1876  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person 1877  
seeking to become a candidate if that person, for the same 1878  
election, has already filed a declaration of candidacy, a 1879  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or a 1880  
nominating petition, or has become a candidate through party 1881

nomination at a primary election or by the filling of a vacancy 1882  
under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code, for any 1883  
federal, state, or county office, if the declaration of intent 1884  
to be a write-in candidate is for a state or county office, or 1885  
for any municipal or township office, for member of a city, 1886  
local, or exempted village board of education, or for member of 1887  
a governing board of an educational service center, if the 1888  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate is for a 1889  
municipal or township office, or for member of a city, local, or 1890  
exempted village board of education, or for member of a 1891  
governing board of an educational service center. 1892

No person shall file a declaration of intent to be a 1893  
write-in candidate for the office of governor unless the 1894  
declaration also shows the intent of another person to be a 1895  
write-in candidate for the office of lieutenant governor. No 1896  
person shall file a declaration of intent to be a write-in 1897  
candidate for the office of lieutenant governor unless the 1898  
declaration also shows the intent of another person to be a 1899  
write-in candidate for the office of governor. No person shall 1900  
file a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate for the 1901  
office of governor or lieutenant governor if the person has 1902  
previously filed a declaration of intent to be a write-in 1903  
candidate to the office of governor or lieutenant governor at 1904  
the same primary or general election. A write-in vote for the 1905  
two candidates who file such a declaration shall be counted as a 1906  
vote for them as joint candidates for the offices of governor 1907  
and lieutenant governor. 1908

The secretary of state shall not accept for filing the 1909  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person for 1910  
the office of governor unless the declaration also shows the 1911  
intent of another person to be a write-in candidate for the 1912

office of lieutenant governor, shall not accept for filing the 1913  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person for 1914  
the office of lieutenant governor unless the declaration also 1915  
shows the intent of another person to be a write-in candidate 1916  
for the office of governor, and shall not accept for filing the 1917  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person to 1918  
the office of governor or lieutenant governor if that person, 1919  
for the same election, has already filed a declaration of 1920  
candidacy, a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, 1921  
or a nominating petition, or has become a candidate through 1922  
party nomination at a primary election or by the filling of a 1923  
vacancy under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code, 1924  
for any other state office or any federal or county office. 1925

Protests against the candidacy of any person filing a 1926  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate may be filed by 1927  
any qualified elector who is eligible to vote in the election at 1928  
which the candidacy is to be considered. The protest shall be in 1929  
writing and shall be filed not later than four p.m. of the 1930  
sixty-seventh day before the day of the election. The protest 1931  
shall be filed with the board of elections with which the 1932  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate was filed. Upon 1933  
the filing of the protest, the board with which it is filed 1934  
shall promptly fix the time for hearing it and shall proceed in 1935  
regard to the hearing in the same manner as for hearings set for 1936  
protests filed under section 3513.05 of the Revised Code. At the 1937  
time fixed, the board shall hear the protest and determine the 1938  
validity or invalidity of the declaration of intent to be a 1939  
write-in candidate. If the board finds that the candidate is not 1940  
an elector of the state, district, county, or political 1941  
subdivision in which the candidate seeks election to office; is 1942  
not affiliated with the political party whose nomination or 1943

office the candidate seeks at a primary election, if applicable; 1944  
or has not fully complied with the requirements of Title XXXV of 1945  
the Revised Code in regard to the candidate's candidacy, the 1946  
candidate's declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate 1947  
shall be determined to be invalid and shall be rejected; 1948  
otherwise, it shall be determined to be valid. The determination 1949  
of the board is final. 1950

The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of the 1951  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate. 1952

**Sec. 3513.05.** Each person desiring to become a candidate 1953  
for a party nomination at a primary election or for election to 1954  
an office or position to be voted for at a primary election, 1955  
except persons desiring to become joint candidates for the 1956  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor and except as 1957  
otherwise provided in section 3513.051 of the Revised Code, 1958  
shall, not later than four p.m. of the ninetieth day before the 1959  
day of the primary election, file a declaration of candidacy and 1960  
petition and pay the fees required under divisions (A) and (B) 1961  
of section 3513.10 of the Revised Code. The declaration of 1962  
candidacy and all separate petition papers shall be filed at the 1963  
same time as one instrument. When the offices are to be voted 1964  
for at a primary election, persons desiring to become joint 1965  
candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor 1966  
shall, not later than four p.m. of the ninetieth day before the 1967  
day of the primary election, comply with section 3513.04 of the 1968  
Revised Code. The prospective joint candidates' declaration of 1969  
candidacy and all separate petition papers of candidacies shall 1970  
be filed at the same time as one instrument. The secretary of 1971  
state or a board of elections shall not accept for filing a 1972  
declaration of candidacy and petition of a person seeking to 1973  
become a candidate if that person, for the same election, has 1974

already filed a declaration of candidacy or a declaration of 1975  
intent to be a write-in candidate, or has become a candidate by 1976  
the filling of a vacancy under section 3513.30 of the Revised 1977  
Code for any federal, state, or county office, if the 1978  
declaration of candidacy is for a state or county office, or for 1979  
any municipal or township office, if the declaration of 1980  
candidacy is for a municipal or township office. 1981

If the declaration of candidacy declares a candidacy which 1982  
is to be submitted to electors throughout the entire state, the 1983  
petition, including a petition for joint candidates for the 1984  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor, shall be signed by 1985  
at least one thousand qualified electors who are ~~members of~~ 1986  
affiliated with the same political party as the candidate or 1987  
joint candidates, and the declaration of candidacy and petition 1988  
shall be filed with the secretary of state; provided that the 1989  
secretary of state shall not accept or file any such petition 1990  
appearing on its face to contain signatures of more than three 1991  
thousand electors. 1992

Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, if the 1993  
declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be submitted only 1994  
to electors within a district, political subdivision, or portion 1995  
thereof, the petition shall be signed by not less than fifty 1996  
qualified electors who are ~~members of~~ affiliated with the same 1997  
political party as ~~the political party of which the candidate is~~ 1998  
~~a member~~. If the declaration of candidacy is for party 1999  
nomination as a candidate for member of the legislative 2000  
authority of a municipal corporation elected by ward, the 2001  
petition shall be signed by not less than twenty-five qualified 2002  
electors who are ~~members of~~ affiliated with the same political 2003  
party ~~of which as~~ as the candidate ~~is a member~~. 2004

No such petition, except the petition for a candidacy that 2005  
is to be submitted to electors throughout the entire state, 2006  
shall be accepted for filing if it appears to contain on its 2007  
face signatures of more than three times the minimum number of 2008  
signatures. When a petition of a candidate has been accepted for 2009  
filing by a board of elections, the petition shall not be deemed 2010  
invalid if, upon verification of signatures contained in the 2011  
petition, the board of elections finds the number of signatures 2012  
accepted exceeds three times the minimum number of signatures 2013  
required. A board of elections may discontinue verifying 2014  
signatures on petitions when the number of verified signatures 2015  
equals the minimum required number of qualified signatures. 2016

If the declaration of candidacy declares a candidacy for 2017  
party nomination or for election as a candidate of a minor 2018  
party, the minimum number of signatures on such petition is one- 2019  
half the minimum number provided in this section, except that, 2020  
when the candidacy is one for election as a member of the state 2021  
central committee or the county central committee of a political 2022  
party, the minimum number shall be the same for a minor party as 2023  
for a major party. 2024

If a declaration of candidacy is one for election as a 2025  
member of the state central committee or the county central 2026  
committee of a political party, the petition shall be signed by 2027  
five qualified electors of the district, county, ward, township, 2028  
or precinct within which electors may vote for such candidate. 2029  
The electors signing such petition shall be ~~members of~~ 2030  
affiliated with the same political party as the ~~political party~~ 2031  
~~of which the candidate is a member.~~ 2032

~~For purposes of signing or circulating a petition of~~ 2033  
~~candidacy for party nomination or election, an elector is~~ 2034

~~considered to be a member of a political party if the elector-~~ 2035  
~~voted in that party's primary election within the preceding two-~~ 2036  
~~calendar years, or if the elector did not vote in any other-~~ 2037  
~~party's primary election within the preceding two calendar-~~ 2038  
~~years.~~ 2039

If the declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be 2040  
submitted only to electors within a county, or within a district 2041  
or subdivision or part thereof smaller than a county, the 2042  
petition shall be filed with the board of elections of the 2043  
county. If the declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be 2044  
submitted only to electors of a district or subdivision or part 2045  
thereof that is situated in more than one county, the petition 2046  
shall be filed with the board of elections of the county within 2047  
which the major portion of the population thereof, as 2048  
ascertained by the next preceding federal census, is located. 2049

A petition shall consist of separate petition papers, each 2050  
of which shall contain signatures of electors of only one 2051  
county. Petitions or separate petition papers containing 2052  
signatures of electors of more than one county shall not thereby 2053  
be declared invalid. In case petitions or separate petition 2054  
papers containing signatures of electors of more than one county 2055  
are filed, the board shall determine the county from which the 2056  
majority of signatures came, and only signatures from such 2057  
county shall be counted. Signatures from any other county shall 2058  
be invalid. 2059

Each separate petition paper shall be circulated by one 2060  
person only, who shall be the candidate or a joint candidate or 2061  
a ~~member of person who is affiliated with~~ the same political 2062  
party as the candidate or joint candidates, and each separate 2063  
petition paper shall be governed by the rules set forth in 2064

section 3501.38 of the Revised Code. 2065

The secretary of state shall promptly transmit to each 2066  
board such separate petition papers of each petition 2067  
accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with the secretary 2068  
of state as purport to contain signatures of electors of the 2069  
county of such board. The board of the most populous county of a 2070  
district shall promptly transmit to each board within such 2071  
district such separate petition papers of each petition 2072  
accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with it as purport 2073  
to contain signatures of electors of the county of each such 2074  
board. The board of a county within which the major portion of 2075  
the population of a subdivision, situated in more than one 2076  
county, is located, shall promptly transmit to the board of each 2077  
other county within which a portion of such subdivision is 2078  
located such separate petition papers of each petition 2079  
accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with it as purport 2080  
to contain signatures of electors of the portion of such 2081  
subdivision in the county of each such board. 2082

All petition papers so transmitted to a board and all 2083  
petitions accompanying declarations of candidacy filed with a 2084  
board shall, under proper regulations, be open to public 2085  
inspection until four p.m. of the eightieth day before the day 2086  
of the next primary election. Each board shall, not later than 2087  
the seventy-eighth day before the day of that primary election, 2088  
examine and determine the validity or invalidity of the 2089  
signatures on the petition papers so transmitted to or filed 2090  
with it and shall return to the secretary of state all petition 2091  
papers transmitted to it by the secretary of state, together 2092  
with its certification of its determination as to the validity 2093  
or invalidity of signatures thereon, and shall return to each 2094  
other board all petition papers transmitted to it by such board, 2095



together with its certification of its determination as to the 2096  
validity or invalidity of the signatures thereon. All other 2097  
matters affecting the validity or invalidity of such petition 2098  
papers shall be determined by the secretary of state or the 2099  
board with whom such petition papers were filed. 2100

For purposes of being eligible to sign or circulate a 2101  
petition of candidacy for party nomination or election, an 2102  
elector is considered to be affiliated with a political party 2103  
if, at the time the petition is verified, the elector is 2104  
affiliated with that party as determined under section 3503.071 2105  
of the Revised Code. 2106

Protests against the candidacy of any person filing a 2107  
declaration of candidacy for party nomination or for election to 2108  
an office or position, as provided in this section, may be filed 2109  
by any qualified elector who is ~~a member of~~ affiliated with the 2110  
same political party as the candidate and who is eligible to 2111  
vote at the primary election for the candidate whose declaration 2112  
of candidacy the elector objects to, or by the controlling 2113  
committee of that political party. The protest shall be in 2114  
writing, and shall be filed not later than four p.m. of the 2115  
seventy-fourth day before the day of the primary election. The 2116  
protest shall be filed with the election officials with whom the 2117  
declaration of candidacy and petition was filed. Upon the filing 2118  
of the protest, the election officials with whom it is filed 2119  
shall promptly fix the time for hearing it, and shall forthwith 2120  
mail notice of the filing of the protest and the time fixed for 2121  
hearing to the person whose candidacy is so protested. They 2122  
shall also forthwith mail notice of the time fixed for such 2123  
hearing to the person who filed the protest. At the time fixed, 2124  
such election officials shall hear the protest and determine the 2125  
validity or invalidity of the declaration of candidacy and 2126

petition. If they find that such candidate is not an elector of 2127  
the state, district, county, or political subdivision in which 2128  
the candidate seeks a party nomination or election to an office 2129  
or position, is not affiliated with the political party, or has 2130  
not fully complied with this chapter, the candidate's 2131  
declaration of candidacy and petition shall be determined to be 2132  
invalid and shall be rejected; otherwise, it shall be determined 2133  
to be valid. That determination shall be final. 2134

A protest against the candidacy of any persons filing a 2135  
declaration of candidacy for joint party nomination to the 2136  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor shall be filed, 2137  
heard, and determined in the same manner as a protest against 2138  
the candidacy of any person filing a declaration of candidacy 2139  
singly. 2140

The secretary of state shall, on the seventieth day before 2141  
the day of a primary election, certify to each board in the 2142  
state the forms of the official ballots to be used at the 2143  
primary election, together with the names of the candidates to 2144  
be printed on the ballots whose nomination or election is to be 2145  
determined by electors throughout the entire state and who filed 2146  
valid declarations of candidacy and petitions. 2147

The board of the most populous county in a district 2148  
comprised of more than one county but less than all of the 2149  
counties of the state shall, on the seventieth day before the 2150  
day of a primary election, certify to the board of each county 2151  
in the district the names of the candidates to be printed on the 2152  
official ballots to be used at the primary election, whose 2153  
nomination or election is to be determined only by electors 2154  
within the district and who filed valid declarations of 2155  
candidacy and petitions. 2156

The board of a county within which the major portion of  
the population of a subdivision smaller than the county and  
situated in more than one county is located shall, on the  
seventieth day before the day of a primary election, certify to  
the board of each county in which a portion of that subdivision  
is located the names of the candidates to be printed on the  
official ballots to be used at the primary election, whose  
nomination or election is to be determined only by electors  
within that subdivision and who filed valid declarations of  
candidacy and petitions.

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

"DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Candidate), the  
undersigned, hereby declare under penalty of election  
falsification that my voting residence is in \_\_\_\_\_  
precinct of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Township) or  
(Ward and City or Village) in the county of \_\_\_\_\_,  
Ohio; that my voting residence is \_\_\_\_\_ (Street and  
Number, if any, or Rural Route and Number) of the  
\_\_\_\_\_ (City or Village) of  
\_\_\_\_\_, Ohio; and that I am a qualified elector in  
the precinct in which my voting residence is located. I am a  
~~member of~~ affiliated with the \_\_\_\_\_ Party. I hereby declare  
that I desire to be \_\_\_\_\_ (a candidate for  
nomination as a candidate of the Party for election to the  
office of \_\_\_\_\_) (a candidate for election to the office

or position of \_\_\_\_\_) for the \_\_\_\_\_ in the 2187  
state, district, (Full term or unexpired term ending 2188  
\_\_\_\_\_ ) county, city, or village of 2189  
\_\_\_\_\_, at the primary election to be held on the 2190  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and I hereby request that 2191  
my name be printed upon the official primary election ballot of 2192  
the said \_\_\_\_\_ Party as a candidate for \_\_\_\_\_ (such 2193  
nomination) or (such election) as provided by law. 2194

I further declare that, if elected to said office or 2195  
position, I will qualify therefor, and that I will support and 2196  
abide by the principles enunciated by the \_\_\_\_\_ Party. 2197

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ 2198

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of candidate) 2200

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A 2201  
FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE. 2202

PETITION OF CANDIDATE 2203

We, the undersigned, qualified electors of the state of 2204  
Ohio, whose voting residence is in the county, city, village, 2205  
ward, township, or school district, and precinct set opposite 2206  
our names, and ~~members of~~ affiliated with the 2207  
\_\_\_\_\_ Party, hereby certify 2208  
that \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of candidate) whose 2209  
declaration of candidacy is filed herewith, is ~~a member of~~ 2210  
affiliated with the \_\_\_\_\_ Party, and is, in our opinion, 2211  
well qualified to perform the duties of the office or position 2212  
to which that candidate desires to be elected. 2213

Street City, 2214

and	Village or				2215
Signature Number	Township	Ward Precinct	County	Date	2216
(Must use address on file with the board of elections)					2217
_____					2218
_____					2219
_____					2220
_____ (Name of circulator					2221
of petition), declares under penalty of election falsification					2222
that the circulator of the petition is a qualified elector of					2223
the state of Ohio and resides at the address appearing below the					2224
signature of that circulator; that the circulator is <del>a member of</del>					2225
<u>affiliated with the</u> _____ Party; that the circulator is					2226
the circulator of the foregoing petition paper containing					2227
_____ (Number) signatures; that the circulator witnessed					2228
the affixing of every signature; that all signers were to the					2229
best of the circulator's knowledge and belief qualified to sign;					2230
and that every signature is to the best of the circulator's					2231
knowledge and belief the signature of the person whose signature					2232
it purports to be or of an attorney in fact acting pursuant to					2233
section 3501.382 of the Revised Code.					2234
_____					2235
(Signature of circulator)					2236
_____					2237
(Address of circulator's					2238
permanent residence in this					2239
state)					2240
_____					2241

(If petition is for a 2242  
statewide candidate, the 2243  
name and address of person 2244  
employing to circulate 2245  
petition, if any) 2246

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A 2247  
FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE." 2248

The secretary of state shall prescribe a form of 2249  
declaration of candidacy and petition, and the form shall be 2250  
substantially similar to the declaration of candidacy and 2251  
petition set forth in this section, that will be suitable for 2252  
joint candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant 2253  
governor. 2254

The petition provided for in this section shall be 2255  
circulated only by ~~a member of an elector who is affiliated with~~ 2256  
the same political party as the candidate. 2257

**Sec. 3513.18.** (A) Party primaries shall be held at the 2258  
same place and time, but there shall be separate pollbooks and 2259  
tally sheets provided at each polling place for each party 2260  
participating in the election. The pollbooks shall include each 2261  
elector's political party affiliation, if any. An elector may 2262  
vote a political party's ballot at a primary election only if 2263  
the elector is affiliated with that political party as of the 2264  
thirtieth day before the day of the primary election. 2265

(B) If a special election on a question or issue is held 2266  
on the day of a primary election, there shall be provided in the 2267  
pollbooks pages on which shall be recorded the names of all 2268  
electors voting on said question or issue and not voting in such 2269

~~primary. It shall not be necessary for electors desiring Any 2270  
elector may choose to vote only on the question or issue to 2271  
declare their political affiliation questions or issues 2272  
appearing on the ballot. An elector who is not affiliated with 2273  
any political party shall vote only on the questions or issues 2274  
appearing on the ballot. 2275~~

**Sec. 3513.19.** (A) It is the duty of any precinct election 2276  
official, whenever any such official doubts that a person 2277  
attempting to vote at a primary election is legally entitled to 2278  
vote at that election, to challenge the right of that person to 2279  
vote. The right of a person to vote at a primary election may be 2280  
challenged as described in section 3505.20 of the Revised Code 2281  
or upon the following grounds: 2282

~~(1) That the person whose right to vote is challenged is 2283  
not a legally qualified elector;~~ 2284

~~(2) That the person has received or has been promised some 2285  
valuable reward or consideration for the person's vote;~~ 2286

~~(3) That ground that the person is not affiliated with ~~or~~ 2287  
~~is not a member of~~ the political party whose ballot the person 2288  
desires to vote. ~~Such party affiliation shall be~~, as determined 2289  
~~by examining the elector's voting record for the current year~~ 2290  
~~and the immediately preceding two calendar years as shown on the~~ 2291  
~~voter's registration card, using the standards of affiliation~~ 2292  
~~specified in the seventh paragraph of under section 3513.05~~ 2293  
3503.071 of the Revised Code, as of the thirtieth day before the 2294  
day of the primary election. ~~Division (A) (3) of this section and~~ 2295  
~~the seventh paragraph of section 3513.05 of the Revised Code do~~ 2296  
~~not prohibit a person who holds an elective office for which~~ 2297  
~~candidates are nominated at a party primary election from doing~~ 2298  
~~any of the following:~~ 2299~~

~~(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;~~ 2300  
2301  
2302  
2303  
2304  
2305  
2306

~~(b) Circulating the person's own petition of candidacy for party nomination in the primary election.~~ 2307  
2308

~~(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.~~ 2309  
2310  
2311  
2312  
2313  
2314  
2315

(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. 2316  
2317  
2318  
2319

**Sec. 3513.191.** (A) No person shall be a candidate for nomination or election at a party primary if the person ~~voted as a member of a different~~ is not affiliated with that political party at any primary election within the current year and the immediately preceding two calendar years, as determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code. 2320  
2321  
2322  
2323  
2324  
2325

~~(B) Notwithstanding division (A) of this section, either of the following persons may be candidates for nomination of any political party at a party primary:~~ 2326  
2327  
2328



<del>(1) A person who does not hold an elective office;</del>	2329
<del>(2) A person who holds an elective office other than one for which candidates are nominated at a party primary.</del>	2330 2331
<del>(C) (1) Notwithstanding division (A) of this section, a <u>A</u></del>	2332
person who holds an elective office for which candidates are	2333
nominated at a party primary may be a candidate at a primary	2334
election held during the times specified in division (C) (2) of	2335
this section for nomination as a candidate of a political party	2336
of which the person is prohibited from being a candidate for	2337
nomination under division (A) of this section, <u>other than the</u>	2338
<u>party that most recently nominated the person as a candidate for</u>	2339
<u>the office the person currently holds, only if all of the</u>	2340
<u>following are true:</u>	2341
<u>(1) The person submits a voter registration update form</u>	2342
<u>reflecting the change of political party affiliation not later</u>	2343
<u>than four p.m. of the thirtieth day before a declaration of</u>	2344
<u>candidacy and petition is required to be filed under section</u>	2345
<u>3513.05 of the Revised Code.</u>	2346
<u>(2) The person files a declaration of intent to seek the</u>	2347
nomination of <del>that the person's new party and if, by filing the</del>	2348
<del>declaration, the person has not violated division (C) (3) of this</del>	2349
<del>section. The declaration of intent shall:</del>	2350
(a) Be filed not later than four p.m. of the thirtieth day	2351
before a declaration of candidacy and petition is required to be	2352
filed under section 3513.05 of the Revised Code;	2353
(b) Be filed with the same official with whom the person	2354
filing the declaration of intent is required to file a	2355
declaration of candidacy and petition;	2356
(c) Indicate the political party whose nomination in the	2357

primary election the person seeks; 2358

(d) Be on a form prescribed by the secretary of state. 2359

(3) The person has not violated division (C) of this 2360  
section. 2361

~~(2)~~ (C) (1) No person filing a declaration of intent under 2362  
division ~~(C) (1)~~ (B) of this section shall be a candidate at any 2363  
primary election for nomination for an elective office for which 2364  
candidates are nominated at a party primary during the calendar 2365  
year in which the person files the declaration or during the 2366  
next calendar year except as a candidate of the party indicated 2367  
under division ~~(C) (1) (e)~~ (B) (2) (c) of this section. 2368

~~(3)~~ (2) No person who files a declaration of intent under 2369  
division ~~(C) (1)~~ (B) (2) of this section shall file another such 2370  
declaration for a period of ten years after the declaration is 2371  
filed. 2372

~~(4) Notwithstanding the seventh paragraph of section~~ 2373  
~~3513.05 of the Revised Code, a person who complies with this~~ 2374  
~~section may circulate that person's own petition of candidacy~~ 2375  
~~for party nomination at the party primary at which the person~~ 2376  
~~seeks nomination under this section.~~ 2377

**Sec. 3513.257.** Each person desiring who is not affiliated 2378  
with a political party, as determined under section 3503.071 of 2379  
the Revised Code, and who desires to become an independent 2380  
candidate for an office for which candidates may be nominated at 2381  
a primary election, except persons desiring to become 2382  
independent joint candidates for the offices of governor and 2383  
lieutenant governor and for the offices of president and vice- 2384  
president of the United States, shall file no later than four 2385  
p.m. of the day before the day of the primary election 2386

immediately preceding the general election at which such 2387  
candidacy is to be voted for by the voters, a statement of 2388  
candidacy and nominating petition as provided in section 2389  
3513.261 of the Revised Code. Persons desiring to become 2390  
independent joint candidates for the offices of governor and 2391  
lieutenant governor shall file, not later than four p.m. of the 2392  
day before the day of the primary election, one statement of 2393  
candidacy and one nominating petition for the two of them. 2394  
Persons desiring to become independent joint candidates for the 2395  
offices of president and vice-president of the United States 2396  
shall file, not later than four p.m. of the ninetieth day before 2397  
the day of the general election at which the president and vice- 2398  
president are to be elected, one statement of candidacy and one 2399  
nominating petition for the two of them. The prospective 2400  
independent joint candidates' statement of candidacy shall be 2401  
filed with the nominating petition as one instrument. 2402

The statement of candidacy and separate petition papers of 2403  
each candidate or pair of joint candidates shall be filed at the 2404  
same time as one instrument. 2405

The nominating petition shall contain signatures of 2406  
qualified electors of the district, political subdivision, or 2407  
portion of a political subdivision in which the candidacy is to 2408  
be voted on in an amount to be determined as follows: 2409

(A) If the candidacy is to be voted on by electors 2410  
throughout the entire state, the nominating petition, including 2411  
the nominating petition of independent joint candidates for the 2412  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor, shall be signed by 2413  
no less than five thousand qualified electors, provided that no 2414  
petition shall be accepted for filing if it purports to contain 2415  
more than fifteen thousand signatures. 2416

(B) If the candidacy is to be voted on by electors in any district, political subdivision, or part thereof in which less than five thousand electors voted for the office of governor at the most recent election for that office, the nominating petition shall contain signatures of not less than twenty-five qualified electors of the district, political subdivision, or part thereof, or a number of qualified signatures equal to at least five per cent of that vote, if this number is less than twenty-five.

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

All nominating petitions of candidates for offices to be voted on by electors throughout the entire state shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state. No nominating petition for the offices of president and vice-president of the United States shall be accepted for filing unless there is submitted to the secretary of state, at the time of filing the petition, a slate of presidential electors sufficient in number to satisfy the requirement of the United States Constitution. The secretary of state shall not accept for filing the statement of candidacy of a person who desires to be an independent candidate for the office of governor unless it also shows the joint candidacy of a person who desires to be an independent candidate for the office of lieutenant governor, shall not accept for filing the statement of candidacy of a person who desires to be an independent candidate for the office of lieutenant governor unless it also shows the joint candidacy of a person who desires

to be an independent candidate for the office of governor, and 2448  
shall not accept for filing the statement of candidacy of a 2449  
person who desires to be an independent candidate to the office 2450  
of governor or lieutenant governor who, for the same election, 2451  
has already filed a declaration of candidacy, a declaration of 2452  
intent to be a write-in candidate, or a statement of candidacy, 2453  
or has become a candidate by the filling of a vacancy under 2454  
section 3513.30 of the Revised Code for any other state office 2455  
or any federal or county office. 2456

Nominating petitions of candidates for offices to be voted 2457  
on by electors within a district or political subdivision 2458  
comprised of more than one county but less than all counties of 2459  
the state shall be filed with the boards of elections of that 2460  
county or part of a county within the district or political 2461  
subdivision which had a population greater than that of any 2462  
other county or part of a county within the district or 2463  
political subdivision according to the last federal decennial 2464  
census. 2465

Nominating petitions for offices to be voted on by 2466  
electors within a county or district smaller than a county shall 2467  
be filed with the board of elections for such county. 2468

No petition other than the petition of a candidate whose 2469  
candidacy is to be considered by electors throughout the entire 2470  
state shall be accepted for filing if it appears on its face to 2471  
contain more than three times the minimum required number of 2472  
signatures. A board of elections shall not accept for filing a 2473  
nominating petition of a person seeking to become a candidate if 2474  
that person, for the same election, has already filed a 2475  
declaration of candidacy, a declaration of intent to be a write- 2476  
in candidate, or a nominating petition, or has become a 2477

candidate by the filling of a vacancy under section 3513.30 of 2478  
the Revised Code for any federal, state, or county office, if 2479  
the nominating petition is for a state or county office, or for 2480  
any municipal or township office, for member of a city, local, 2481  
or exempted village board of education, or for member of a 2482  
governing board of an educational service center, if the 2483  
nominating petition is for a municipal or township office, or 2484  
for member of a city, local, or exempted village board of 2485  
education, or for member of a governing board of an educational 2486  
service center. When a petition of a candidate has been accepted 2487  
for filing by a board of elections, the petition shall not be 2488  
deemed invalid if, upon verification of signatures contained in 2489  
the petition, the board of elections finds the number of 2490  
signatures accepted exceeds three times the minimum number of 2491  
signatures required. A board of elections may discontinue 2492  
verifying signatures when the number of verified signatures on a 2493  
petition equals the minimum required number of qualified 2494  
signatures. 2495

Any candidate, other than a candidate for judge of a 2496  
municipal court, county court, or court of common pleas, who 2497  
files a nominating petition may request, at the time of filing, 2498  
that the candidate be designated on the ballot as a nonparty 2499  
candidate or as an other-party candidate, or may request that 2500  
the candidate's name be placed on the ballot without any 2501  
designation. Any such candidate who fails to request a 2502  
designation either as a nonparty candidate or as an other-party 2503  
candidate shall have the candidate's name placed on the ballot 2504  
without any designation. 2505

The purpose of establishing a filing deadline for 2506  
independent candidates prior to the primary election immediately 2507  
preceding the general election at which the candidacy is to be 2508

voted on by the voters is to recognize that the state has a 2509  
substantial and compelling interest in protecting its electoral 2510  
process by encouraging political stability, ensuring that the 2511  
winner of the election will represent a majority of the 2512  
community, providing the electorate with an understandable 2513  
ballot, and enhancing voter education, thus fostering informed 2514  
and educated expressions of the popular will in a general 2515  
election. The filing deadline for independent candidates 2516  
required in this section prevents splintered parties and 2517  
unrestrained factionalism, avoids political fragmentation, and 2518  
maintains the integrity of the ballot. The deadline, one day 2519  
prior to the primary election, is the least drastic or 2520  
restrictive means of protecting these state interests. The 2521  
general assembly finds that the filing deadline for independent 2522  
candidates in primary elections required in this section is 2523  
reasonably related to the state's purpose of ensuring fair and 2524  
honest elections while leaving unimpaired the political, voting, 2525  
and associational rights secured by the first and fourteenth 2526  
amendments to the United States Constitution. 2527

**Sec. 3517.012.** (A) (1) When a party formation petition 2528  
meeting the requirements of section 3517.01 of the Revised Code 2529  
declaring the intention to organize a political party is filed 2530  
with the secretary of state, the new party comes into legal 2531  
existence on the date of filing and is entitled to nominate 2532  
candidates to appear on the ballot at the general election held 2533  
in even-numbered years that occurs more than one hundred twenty- 2534  
five days after the date of filing. 2535

(2) (a) Upon receiving a party formation petition filed 2536  
under division (A) (1) of this section, the secretary of state 2537  
shall promptly transmit to each board of elections the separate 2538  
petition papers that purport to contain signatures of electors 2539

of that board's county. 2540

(b) Not later than the one hundred eighteenth day before 2541  
the day of the general election, each board shall examine and 2542  
determine the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition 2543  
papers and shall return them to the secretary of state, together 2544  
with the board's certification of its determination as to the 2545  
validity or invalidity of the signatures on the petition. 2546

(c) Any qualified elector may file a written protest 2547  
against the petition with the secretary of state not later than 2548  
the one hundred fourteenth day before the day of the general 2549  
election. Any such protest shall be resolved in the manner 2550  
specified under section 3501.39 of the Revised Code. 2551

(d) Not later than the ninety-fifth day before the day of 2552  
the general election, the secretary of state shall determine 2553  
whether the party formation petition is sufficient and shall 2554  
notify the committee designated in the petition of that 2555  
determination. 2556

(B) (1) Not later than one hundred ten days before the day 2557  
of that general election and not earlier than the day the 2558  
applicable party formation petition is filed, each candidate or 2559  
pair of joint candidates wishing to appear on the ballot at the 2560  
general election as the nominee or nominees of the party that 2561  
filed the party formation petition shall file a nominating 2562  
petition, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, that 2563  
includes the name of the political party that submitted the 2564  
party formation petition. Except as otherwise provided in this 2565  
section and sections 3505.03, 3505.08, 3506.11, 3513.31, 2566  
3513.311, and 3513.312 of the Revised Code, the provisions of 2567  
the Revised Code concerning independent candidates who file 2568  
nominating petitions apply to candidates who file nominating 2569



petitions under this section. 2570

(2) (a) If the candidacy is to be submitted to electors 2571  
throughout the entire state, the nominating petition, including 2572  
a petition for joint candidates for the offices of governor and 2573  
lieutenant governor, shall be signed by at least fifty qualified 2574  
electors who ~~have not voted as a member of~~ are not affiliated 2575  
with a different political party at any primary election within 2576  
the current year or the immediately preceding two calendar 2577  
years, as determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code. 2578

(b) ~~Except as otherwise provided in this division, if~~ If 2579  
the candidacy is to be submitted only to electors within a 2580  
district, political subdivision, or portion thereof, the 2581  
nominating petition shall be signed by not less than five 2582  
qualified electors who ~~have not voted as a member of~~ are not 2583  
affiliated with a different political party at any primary 2584  
election within the current year or the immediately preceding 2585  
two calendar years, as determined under section 3503.071 of the 2586  
Revised Code. 2587

(3) (a) Each board of elections that is responsible to 2588  
verify signatures on the nominating petition shall examine and 2589  
determine the sufficiency of those signatures not later than the 2590  
one hundred fifth day before the day of the general election ~~and~~ 2591  
~~shall be resolved as specified in that section.~~ 2592

(b) Written protests against the petition may be filed in 2593  
the manner specified under section 3513.263 of the Revised Code 2594  
not later than the one hundredth day before the general election 2595  
and shall be resolved as specified in that section. 2596

(c) Not later than the ninety-fifth day before the day of 2597  
the general election, the secretary of state or the board of 2598

elections, as applicable, shall determine whether the nominating 2599  
petition is sufficient and shall notify the candidate and the 2600  
committee designated in the party formation petition of that 2601  
determination. 2602

(C) (1) After being notified that the political party has 2603  
submitted a sufficient party formation petition under division 2604  
(A) of this section, the committee designated in a party 2605  
formation petition shall, not later than the seventy-fifth day 2606  
before the day of the general election, certify to the secretary 2607  
of state a slate of candidates consisting of candidates or joint 2608  
candidates who submitted sufficient nominating petitions under 2609  
division (B) of this section. The slate certifying the 2610  
candidates shall be on a form prescribed by the secretary of 2611  
state and signed by all of the individuals of the committee 2612  
designated in the party formation petition. In no event shall 2613  
the slate of candidates include more than one candidate for any 2614  
public office or more than one set of joint candidates for the 2615  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor. The names of the 2616  
candidates or joint candidates so certified shall appear on the 2617  
ballot at the general election as that party's nominees for 2618  
those offices. For purposes of this division, "joint candidates" 2619  
means the joint candidates for the offices of governor and 2620  
lieutenant governor. 2621

(2) If a candidate's nominating petition is insufficient 2622  
or if the committee does not certify the candidate's name under 2623  
division (C) (1) of this section, the candidate shall not appear 2624  
on the ballot in the general election. 2625

(3) If a party formation petition is insufficient, no 2626  
candidate shall appear on the ballot in the general election as 2627  
that political party's nominee, regardless of whether any 2628

candidate's nominating petition is sufficient. 2629

**Sec. 3517.013.** ~~Section~~ Division (B) of section 3513.191 of 2630  
the Revised Code does not apply to persons desiring to become 2631  
candidates for party nomination of a newly formed political 2632  
party meeting the requirements of sections 3517.011 and 3517.012 2633  
of the Revised Code for a period of four calendar years from the 2634  
date of the party formation. 2635

**Sec. 3599.12.** (A) No person shall do any of the following: 2636

(1) Vote or attempt to vote in any primary, special, or 2637  
general election in a precinct in which that person is not a 2638  
legally qualified elector; 2639

(2) Vote or attempt to vote more than once at the same 2640  
election by any means, including voting or attempting to vote 2641  
both by absent voter's ballots under division ~~(G)~~ (E) of section 2642  
3503.16 of the Revised Code and by regular ballot at the polls 2643  
at the same election, or voting or attempting to vote both by 2644  
absent voter's ballots under division ~~(G)~~ (E) of section 3503.16 2645  
of the Revised Code and by absent voter's ballots under Chapter 2646  
3509. or armed service absent voter's ballots under Chapter 2647  
3511. of the Revised Code at the same election; 2648

(3) Impersonate or sign the name of another person, real 2649  
or fictitious, living or dead, and vote or attempt to vote as 2650  
that other person in any such election; 2651

(4) Cast a ballot at any such election after objection has 2652  
been made and sustained to that person's vote; 2653

(5) Knowingly vote or attempt to vote a ballot other than 2654  
the official ballot. 2655

(B) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is 2656

guilty of a felony of the fourth degree. 2657

**Section 2.** That existing sections 3501.01, 3503.09, 2658  
3503.10, 3503.11, 3503.14, 3503.15, 3503.16, 3503.19, 3503.20, 2659  
3503.23, 3503.28, 3505.181, 3509.02, 3509.04, 3509.07, 3509.08, 2660  
3513.041, 3513.05, 3513.07, 3513.18, 3513.19, 3513.191, 2661  
3513.257, 3517.012, 3517.013, and 3599.12 of the Revised Code 2662  
are hereby repealed. 2663

**Section 3.** That sections 3513.192 and 3513.20 of the 2664  
Revised Code are hereby repealed. 2665

**Section 4.** This act shall be known as the Voter 2666  
Registration Modernization Act. 2667