



Jon Husted Ohio Secretary of State

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Representative Louis W. Blessing III, Chairman
House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

March 22, 2017

Chairman Blessing and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee,

I am writing to express support for House Bill 18, a bill which would eliminate unnecessary special elections to fill a congressional vacancy. Eliminating such elections would save considerable taxpayer money.

Currently, Ohio Revised Code Section 3513.312 requires that a special primary election be conducted to fill a vacancy in a party nomination if the person nominated as a candidate for United States Congress withdraws from the race or dies more than 90 days before the general election. The special primary election is required even if only one candidate files and the race is uncontested.

Ohio law provides that the state pay all of the costs associated with conducting such an election and those costs are considerable. For instance, the cost for the special primary election on September 13, 2016 with one candidate on the ballot in the Eighth Congressional District was more than \$340,000.

I am grateful to Representative Pelanda for ensuring this issue gets consideration. I support House Bill 18 and urge you and your colleagues on the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Husted".

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State