As Introduced

133rd General Assembly
Regular Session
2019-2020
H. B. No. 687
Representatives Hicks-Hudson, Sweeney
Cosponsors: Representatives Blair, Boggs, Boyd, Brent, Brown, Cera, Clites, Crawley, Denson, Galonski, Howse, Ingram, Kelly, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, Lightbody, Liston, Miller, J., Miranda, O'Brien, Patterson, Robinson, Rogers, Russo, Sheehy, Smith, K., Sobecki, Sykes, Upchurch, Weinstein, West, Skindell

A BILL

To amend sections 3501.05, 3501.10, 3501.11, 3501.22, 3501.29, 3503.09, 3503.10, 3503.14, 3503.16, 3503.19, 3503.20, 3503.21, 3503.28, 3505.18, 3505.181, 3505.182, 3505.183, 3509.02, 3509.05, 3509.051, 3509.06, 3509.07, 3509.09, 3511.09, 3511.11, and 3599.11; to enact sections 3509.052 and 3509.053; and to repeal section 3503.29 of the Revised Code to make changes to the Election Law.

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

Section 1. That sections 3501.05, 3501.10, 3501.11, 3501.22, 3501.29, 3503.09, 3503.10, 3503.14, 3503.16, 3503.19, 3503.20, 3503.21, 3503.28, 3505.18, 3505.181, 3505.182, 3505.183, 3509.02, 3509.05, 3509.051, 3509.06, 3509.07, 3509.09, 3511.09, 3511.11, and 3599.11 be amended and sections 3509.052 and 3509.053 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 3501.05. The secretary of state shall do all of the
following:

(A) Appoint all members of boards of elections;

(B) Issue instructions by directives and advisories in accordance with section 3501.053 of the Revised Code to members of the boards as to the proper methods of conducting elections.

(C) Prepare rules and instructions for the conduct of elections;

(D) Publish and furnish to the boards from time to time a sufficient number of indexed copies of all election laws then in force;

(E) Edit and issue all pamphlets concerning proposed laws or amendments required by law to be submitted to the voters;

(F) Prescribe the form of registration cards, blanks, and records;

(G) Determine and prescribe the forms of ballots and the forms of all blanks, cards of instructions, pollbooks, tally sheets, certificates of election, and forms and blanks required by law for use by candidates, committees, and boards;

(H) Prepare the ballot title or statement to be placed on the ballot for any proposed law or amendment to the constitution to be submitted to the voters of the state;

(I) Except as otherwise provided in section 3519.08 of the Revised Code, certify to the several boards the forms of ballots and names of candidates for state offices, and the form and wording of state referendum questions and issues, as they shall appear on the ballot;

(J) Except as otherwise provided in division (I)(2)(b) of
section 3501.38 of the Revised Code, give final approval to ballot language for any local question or issue approved and transmitted by boards of elections under section 3501.11 of the Revised Code;

(K) Receive all initiative and referendum petitions on state questions and issues and determine and certify to the sufficiency of those petitions;

(L) Require such reports from the several boards as are provided by law, or as the secretary of state considers necessary;

(M) Compel the observance by election officers in the several counties of the requirements of the election laws;

(N)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (N)(2) of this section, investigate the administration of election laws, frauds, and irregularities in elections in any county, and report violations of election laws to the attorney general or prosecuting attorney, or both, for prosecution;

(2) On and after August 24, 1995, report a failure to comply with or a violation of a provision in sections 3517.08 to 3517.13, 3517.20 to 3517.22, 3599.03, or 3599.031 of the Revised Code, whenever the secretary of state has or should have knowledge of a failure to comply with or a violation of a provision in one of those sections, by filing a complaint with the Ohio elections commission under section 3517.153 of the Revised Code.

(O) Make an annual report to the governor containing the results of elections, the cost of elections in the various counties, a tabulation of the votes in the several political subdivisions, and other information and recommendations relative
to elections the secretary of state considers desirable;

(P) Prescribe and distribute to boards of elections a list of instructions indicating all legal steps necessary to petition successfully for local option elections under sections 4301.32 to 4301.41, 4303.29, 4305.14, and 4305.15 of the Revised Code;

(Q) Adopt rules pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code for the removal by boards of elections of ineligible voters from the statewide voter registration database and, if applicable, from the poll list or signature pollbook used in each precinct, which rules shall provide for all of the following:

(1) A process for the removal of using information obtained from the national change of address service provided by the United States postal service system through its licensees to remove voters who have changed residence, which to a location outside this state. That process shall be uniform, nondiscriminatory, and in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, including a program that uses the national change of address service provided by the United States postal system through its licensees;

(2) A process for the removal of ineligible voters under section 3503.21 of the Revised Code;

(3) A uniform system for marking or removing the name of a voter who is ineligible to vote from the statewide voter registration database and, if applicable, from the poll list or signature pollbook used in each precinct and noting the reason for that mark or removal.

(R) Prescribe a general program for registering voters or
updating voter registration information, such as name and residence changes, by boards of elections, designated agencies, offices of deputy registrars of motor vehicles, public high schools and vocational schools, public libraries, public employment offices as described in section 4141.04 of the Revised Code, OhioMeansJobs centers as defined in section 6301.01 of the Revised Code, and offices of county treasurers consistent with the requirements of section 3503.09 of the Revised Code;

(S) Prescribe a program of distribution of voter registration forms through boards of elections, designated agencies, offices of the registrar and deputy registrars of motor vehicles, public high schools and vocational schools, public libraries, public employment offices as described in section 4141.04 of the Revised Code, OhioMeansJobs centers as defined in section 6301.01 of the Revised Code, and offices of county treasurers;

(T) To the extent feasible, provide copies, at no cost and upon request, of the voter registration form in post offices in this state;

(U) Adopt rules pursuant to section 111.15 of the Revised Code for the purpose of implementing the program for registering voters through boards of elections, designated agencies, and the offices of the registrar and deputy registrars of motor vehicles consistent with this chapter;

(V) Establish the full-time position of Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator within the office of the secretary of state to do all of the following:

(1) Assist the secretary of state with ensuring that there
is equal access to polling places for persons with disabilities;

(2) Assist the secretary of state with ensuring that each voter may cast the voter's ballot in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation, including privacy and independence, as for other voters;

(3) Advise the secretary of state in the development of standards for the certification of voting machines, marking devices, and automatic tabulating equipment.

(W) Establish and maintain a computerized statewide database of all legally registered voters under section 3503.15 of the Revised Code that complies with the requirements of the "Help America Vote Act of 2002," Pub. L. No. 107-252, 116 Stat. 1666, and provide training in the operation of that system;

(X) Ensure that all directives, advisories, other instructions, or decisions issued or made during or as a result of any conference or teleconference call with a board of elections to discuss the proper methods and procedures for conducting elections, to answer questions regarding elections, or to discuss the interpretation of directives, advisories, or other instructions issued by the secretary of state are posted on a web site of the office of the secretary of state as soon as is practicable after the completion of the conference or teleconference call, but not later than the close of business on the same day as the conference or teleconference call takes place.

(Y) Publish a report on a web site of the office of the secretary of state not later than one month after the completion of the canvass of the election returns for each primary and general election, identifying, by county, the number of absent
voter's ballots cast and the number of those ballots that were counted, and the number of provisional ballots cast and the number of those ballots that were counted, for that election. The secretary of state shall maintain the information on the website in an archive format for each subsequent election.

(Z) Conduct a comprehensive voter education program outlining voter identification, absent voter's ballots, provisional ballot, and other voting requirements through the use of broadcast, cable, or satellite communications, radio stations, print media, or internet social media outlets;

(AA) Establish a procedure by which a registered elector may make available to a board of elections a more recent signature to be used in the poll list or signature pollbook produced by the board of elections of the county in which the elector resides;

(BB) Disseminate information, which may include all or part of the official explanations and arguments, by means of direct mail or other written publication, broadcast, or other means or combination of means, as directed by the Ohio ballot board under division (F) of section 3505.062 of the Revised Code, in order to inform the voters as fully as possible concerning each proposed constitutional amendment, proposed law, or referendum;

(CC) Be the single state office responsible for the implementation of the "Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act," Pub. L. No. 99-410, 100 Stat. 924, 42 U.S.C. 1973ff, 20301 et seq., as amended, in this state. The secretary of state may delegate to the boards of elections responsibilities for the implementation of that act, including

(DD) Adopt rules, under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, to establish procedures and standards for determining when a board of elections shall be placed under the official oversight of the secretary of state, placing a board of elections under the official oversight of the secretary of state, a board that is under official oversight to transition out of official oversight, and the secretary of state to supervise a board of elections that is under official oversight of the secretary of state.

(EE) Adopt rules under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to establish procedures for maintaining election administration plans required under division (BB) of section 3501.11 of the Revised Code, including whether any information in an election administration plan is not a public record under section 149.433 of the Revised Code.

(FF) Perform other duties required by law.

Whenever a primary election is held under section 3513.32 of the Revised Code or a special election is held under section 3521.03 of the Revised Code to fill a vacancy in the office of representative to congress, the secretary of state shall establish a deadline, notwithstanding any other deadline required under the Revised Code, by which any or all of the following shall occur: the filing of a declaration of candidacy and petitions or a statement of candidacy and nominating petition together with the applicable filing fee; the filing of protests against the candidacy of any person filing a
declaration of candidacy or nominating petition; the filing of a
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate; the filing of
campaign finance reports; the preparation of, and the making of
corrections or challenges to, precinct voter registration lists;
the receipt of applications for absent voter's ballots or
uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots; the
supplying of election materials to precincts by boards of
elections; the holding of hearings by boards of elections to
consider challenges to the right of a person to appear on a
voter registration list; and the scheduling of programs to
instruct or reinstruct election officers.

In the performance of the secretary of state's duties as
the chief election officer, the secretary of state may
administer oaths, issue subpoenas, summon witnesses, compel the
production of books, papers, records, and other evidence, and
fix the time and place for hearing any matters relating to the
administration and enforcement of the election laws.

In any controversy involving or arising out of the
adoption of registration or the appropriation of funds for
registration, the secretary of state may, through the attorney
general, bring an action in the name of the state in the court
of common pleas of the county where the cause of action arose or
in an adjoining county, to adjudicate the question.

In any action involving the laws in Title XXXV of the
Revised Code wherein the interpretation of those laws is in
issue in such a manner that the result of the action will affect
the lawful duties of the secretary of state or of any board of
elections, the secretary of state may, on the secretary of
state's motion, be made a party.

The secretary of state may apply to any court that is
hearing a case in which the secretary of state is a party, for a change of venue as a substantive right, and the change of venue shall be allowed, and the case removed to the court of common pleas of an adjoining county named in the application or, if there are cases pending in more than one jurisdiction that involve the same or similar issues, the court of common pleas of Franklin county.

Public high schools and vocational schools, public libraries, and the office of a county treasurer shall implement voter registration programs as directed by the secretary of state pursuant to this section.

The secretary of state may mail unsolicited applications for absent voter's ballots to individuals only for a general election and only if the general assembly has made an appropriation for that particular mailing. Under no other circumstance shall a public office, or a public official or employee who is acting in an official capacity, mail unsolicited applications for absent voter's ballots to any individuals.

**Sec. 3501.10.** (A) The board of elections shall, as an expense of the board, provide suitable rooms for its offices and records and the necessary and proper furniture and supplies for those rooms. The board may lease such offices and rooms, necessary to its operation, for the length of time and upon the terms the board deems in the best interests of the public, provided that the term of any such lease shall not exceed fifteen years.

Thirty days prior to entering into such a lease, the board shall notify the board of county commissioners in writing of its intent to enter into the lease. The notice shall specify the terms and conditions of the lease. Prior to the thirtieth day
after receiving that notice and before any lease is entered
into, the board of county commissioners may reject the proposed
lease by a majority vote. After receiving written notification
of the rejection by the board of county commissioners, the board
of elections shall not enter into the lease that was rejected,
but may immediately enter into additional lease negotiations,
subject to the requirements of this section.

The board of elections in any county may, by resolution,
request that the board of county commissioners submit to the
electors of the county, in accordance with section 133.18 of the
Revised Code, the question of issuing bonds for the acquisition
of real estate and the construction on it of a suitable building
with necessary furniture and equipment for the proper
administration of the duties of the board of elections. The
resolution declaring the necessity for issuing such bonds shall
relate only to the acquisition of real estate and to the
construction, furnishing, and equipping of a building as
provided in this division.

(B) The board of elections in each county shall keep its
offices, or one or more of its branch registration offices, open
for the performance of its duties until nine p.m. on the last
day of registration before a general or primary election. At all
other times during each week, the board shall keep its offices
and rooms open for a period of time that the board considers
necessary for the performance of its duties.

(C) The board of elections may maintain permanent or
temporary branch offices at any place within the county, provided
that, if the board of elections permits electors to vote at a branch office, electors shall not be permitted to vote at any other branch office or any other office of the board of
Sec. 3501.11. Each board of elections shall exercise by a majority vote all powers granted to the board by Title XXXV of the Revised Code, shall perform all the duties imposed by law, and shall do all of the following:

(A) Establish, define, provide, rearrange, and combine election precincts;

(B) Fix and provide the places for registration and for holding primaries and elections;

(C) Provide for the purchase, preservation, and maintenance of booths, ballot boxes, books, maps, flags, blanks, cards of instructions, and other forms, papers, and equipment used in registration, nominations, and elections;

(D) Appoint and remove its director, deputy director, and employees and all registrars, precinct election officials, and other officers of elections, fill vacancies, and designate the ward or district and precinct in which each shall serve;

(E) Make and issue rules and instructions, not inconsistent with law or the rules, directives, or advisories issued by the secretary of state, as it considers necessary for the guidance of election officers and voters;

(F) Advertise and contract for the printing of all ballots and other supplies used in registrations and elections;

(G) Provide for the issuance of all notices, advertisements, and publications concerning elections, except as otherwise provided in division (G) of section 3501.17 and divisions (F) and (G) of section 3505.062 of the Revised Code;

(H) Provide for the delivery of ballots, pollbooks, and
other required papers and material to the polling places;

(I) Cause the polling places to be suitably provided with voting machines, marking devices, automatic tabulating equipment, stalls, and other required supplies. In fulfilling this duty, each board of a county that uses voting machines, marking devices, or automatic tabulating equipment shall conduct a full vote of the board during a public session of the board on the allocation and distribution of voting machines, marking devices, and automatic tabulating equipment for each precinct in the county.

(J) Investigate irregularities, nonperformance of duties, or violations of Title XXXV of the Revised Code by election officers and other persons; administer oaths, issue subpoenas, summon witnesses, and compel the production of books, papers, records, and other evidence in connection with any such investigation; and report the facts to the prosecuting attorney or the secretary of state;

(K)(1) Review, examine, and certify the sufficiency and validity of petitions and nomination papers, and, after certification, return to the secretary of state all petitions and nomination papers that the secretary of state forwarded to the board;

(2) Examine each initiative petition, or a petition filed under section 307.94 or 307.95 of the Revised Code, received by the board to determine whether the petition falls within the scope of authority to enact via initiative and whether the petition satisfies the statutory prerequisites to place the issue on the ballot, as described in division (M) of section 3501.38 of the Revised Code. The petition shall be invalid if any portion of the petition is not within the initiative power.
(L) Receive the returns of elections, canvass the returns, make abstracts of them, and transmit those abstracts to the proper authorities;

(M) Issue certificates of election on forms to be prescribed by the secretary of state;

(N) Make an annual report to the secretary of state, on the form prescribed by the secretary of state, containing a statement of the number of voters registered, elections held, votes cast, appropriations received, expenditures made, and other data required by the secretary of state;

(O) Prepare and submit to the proper appropriating officer a budget estimating the cost of elections for the ensuing fiscal year;

(P) Perform other duties as prescribed by law or the rules, directives, or advisories of the secretary of state;

(Q) Investigate and determine the residence qualifications of electors;

(R) Administer oaths in matters pertaining to the administration of the election laws;

(S) Prepare and submit to the secretary of state, whenever the secretary of state requires, a report containing the names and residence addresses of all incumbent county, municipal, township, and board of education officials serving in their respective counties;

(T) Establish and maintain a voter registration database of all qualified electors in the county who offer to register;

(U) Maintain voter registration records, make reports concerning voter registration as required by the secretary of state.
state, and remove ineligible electors from voter registration lists in accordance with law and directives of the secretary of state;

(V) Give approval to ballot language for any local question or issue and transmit the language to the secretary of state for the secretary of state's final approval;

(W) Prepare and cause the following notice to be displayed in a prominent location in every polling place:

"NOTICE

Ohio law prohibits any person from voting or attempting to vote more than once at the same election.

Violators are guilty of a felony of the fourth degree and shall be imprisoned and additionally may be fined in accordance with law."

(X) In all cases of a tie vote or a disagreement in the board, if no decision can be arrived at, the director or chairperson shall submit the matter in controversy, not later than fourteen days after the tie vote or the disagreement, to the secretary of state, who shall summarily decide the question, and the secretary of state's decision shall be final.

(Y) Assist each designated agency, deputy registrar of motor vehicles, public high school and vocational school, public library, public employment office as described in section 4141.04 of the Revised Code, OhioMeansJobs center as defined in section 6301.01 of the Revised Code, and office of a county treasurer in the implementation of a program for registering voters at all voter registration locations as prescribed by the secretary of state. Under this program, each board of elections shall direct to the appropriate board of elections any voter
registration applications for persons residing outside the county where the board is located within five days after receiving the applications.

(Z) On any day on which an elector may vote in person at the office of the board or at another site designated by the board, consider the board or other designated site a polling place for that day. All requirements or prohibitions of law that apply to a polling place shall apply to the office of the board or other designated site on that day.

(AA) Perform any duties with respect to voter registration and voting by uniformed services and overseas voters that are delegated to the board by law or by the rules, directives, or advisories of the secretary of state.

(BB) Prepare and submit to the secretary of state not later than sixty days before a presidential primary election and one hundred twenty days before a general election an election administration plan. The election administration plan shall be on a template prescribed by the secretary of state. The election administration plan shall include procedures in case of an emergency on election day.

Sec. 3501.22. (A)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (A)(2) of this section, on or before the fifteenth day of September in each year, the board of elections by a majority vote shall, after careful examination and investigation as to their qualifications, appoint for each election precinct four residents of the county in which the precinct is located, as precinct election officials. Except as otherwise provided in division (C) of this section, all precinct election officials shall be qualified electors. The precinct election officials shall constitute the election officers of the precinct. Not more
than one-half of the total number of precinct election officials shall be members of the same political party. The term of such precinct officers shall be for one year. The board may, at any time, designate any number of election officers, not more than one-half of whom shall be members of the same political party, to perform their duties at any precinct in any election. The board may appoint additional officials, equally divided between the two major political parties, when necessary to expedite voting. If the board of elections determines that four precinct election officials are not required in a precinct for a special election, the board of elections may select two of the precinct's election officers, who are not members of the same political party, to serve as the precinct election officials for that precinct in that special election.

Vacancies for unexpired terms shall be filled by the board. When new precincts have been created, the board shall appoint precinct election officials for those precincts for the unexpired term. Any precinct election official may be summarily removed from office at any time by the board for neglect of duty, malfeasance, or misconduct in office or for any other good and sufficient reason.

Precinct election officials shall perform all of the duties provided by law for receiving the ballots and supplies, opening and closing the polls, and overseeing the casting of ballots during the time the polls are open, and any other duties required by section 3501.26 of the Revised Code.

A board of elections may designate two precinct election officials as counting officials to count and tally the votes cast and certify the results of the election at each precinct, and perform other duties as provided by law. To expedite the
counting of votes at each precinct, the board may appoint
additional officials, not more than one-half of whom shall be
members of the same political party.

Except as otherwise provided in division (A)(2) of this
section, the board shall designate one of the precinct election
officials who is a member of the dominant political party to
serve as a voting location manager, whose duty it is to deliver
the returns of the election and all supplies to the office of
the board. For these services, the voting location manager shall
receive additional compensation in an amount, consistent with
section 3501.28 of the Revised Code, determined by the board of
elections.

The board shall issue to each precinct election official a
certificate of appointment, which the official shall present to
the voting location manager at the time the polls are opened.

(2) If the board of elections, by a vote of at least three
members of the board, opts to have a single voting location
serve more than one precinct, the board may do any of the
following:

(a) Designate a single voting location manager for the
voting location. The voting location manager shall be a member
of the political party whose candidate received the highest
number of votes for governor at the most recent general election
for that office in the precincts whose polling places are
located at the applicable voting location, when tallying the
combined vote for governor in all such precincts.

(b) Combine the pollbooks for those precincts to create a
single pollbook for the voting location;

(c) If electronic pollbooks are being used in the voting

location, as described in section 3506.021 of the Revised Code, appoint not less than two precinct election officials for each precinct, so long as the board approves the decision to reduce the number of precinct election officials by the affirmative vote of at least three of its members.

(B) If the board of elections determines that not enough qualified electors in a precinct are available to serve as precinct officers, it may appoint persons to serve as precinct officers at a primary, special, or general election who are at least seventeen years of age and are registered to vote in accordance with section 3503.07 of the Revised Code.

(C)(1) A board of elections, in conjunction with the board of education of a city, local, or exempted village school district, the governing authority of a community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code, or the chief administrator of a nonpublic school may establish a program permitting certain high school students to apply and, if appointed by the board of elections, to serve as precinct officers at a primary, special, or general election.

In addition to the requirements established by division (C)(2) of this section, a board of education, governing authority, or chief administrator that establishes a program under this division in conjunction with a board of elections may establish additional criteria that students shall meet to be eligible to participate in that program.

(2)(a) To be eligible to participate in a program established under division (C)(1) of this section, a student shall be a United States citizen, a resident of the county, at least seventeen years of age, and enrolled in the junior or senior year of high school.
(b) Any student applying to participate in a program established under division (C)(1) of this section, as part of the student's application process, shall declare the student's political party affiliation with the board of elections.

(3) No student appointed as a precinct officer pursuant to a program established under division (C)(1) of this section shall be designated as a voting location manager.

(4) Any student participating in a program established under division (C)(1) of this section shall be excused for that student's absence from school on the day of an election at which the student is serving as a precinct officer.

(D) In any precinct with six or more precinct officers, up to two students participating in a program established under division (C)(1) of this section who are under eighteen years of age may serve as precinct officers. Not more than one precinct officer in any given precinct with fewer than six precinct officers shall be under eighteen years of age.

Sec. 3501.29. (A) The board of elections shall provide for each precinct a polling place and provide adequate facilities at each polling place for conducting the election. The board shall provide a sufficient number of screened or curtained voting compartments to which electors may retire and conveniently mark their ballots, protected from the observation of others. Each voting compartment shall be provided at all times with writing implements, instructions how to vote, and other necessary conveniences for marking the ballot. The voting location manager shall ensure that the voting compartments at all times are adequately lighted and contain the necessary supplies. The board shall utilize, in so far as practicable, rooms in public schools and other public buildings for polling places. Upon application
of the board of elections, the authority which has the control of any building or grounds supported by taxation under the laws of this state, shall make available the necessary space therein for the purpose of holding elections and adequate space for the storage of voting machines, without charge for the use thereof. A reasonable sum may be paid for necessary janitorial service.

When polling places are established in private buildings, the board may pay a reasonable rental therefor, and also the cost of liability insurance covering the premises when used for election purposes, or the board may purchase a single liability policy covering the board and the owners of the premises when used for election purposes. When removable buildings are supplied by the board, they shall be constructed under the contract let to the lowest and best bidder, and the board shall observe all ordinances and regulations then in force as to safety. The board shall remove all such buildings from streets and other public places within thirty days after an election, unless another election is to be held within ninety days.

(B)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the board shall ensure all of the following:

(a) That polling places are free of barriers that would impede ingress and egress of handicapped persons;

(b) That the minimum number of special parking locations, also known as handicapped parking spaces or disability parking spaces, for handicapped persons are designated at each polling place in accordance with 28 C.F.R. Part 36, Appendix A, and in compliance with division (E) of section 4511.69 of the Revised Code;

(c) That the entrances of polling places are level or are provided with a nonskid ramp that meets the requirements of the

(d) That doors are a minimum of thirty-two inches wide;

(e) That polling places, in accordance with any orders issued under section 3701.13, 3701.14, 3709.20, 3709.21, or 5502.22 of the Revised Code, allow for adequate distance between voters and precinct election officials, sanitation of voting compartments and supplies, and use of face masks or coverings.

(2) Notwithstanding division (B)(1)(a), (c), or (d) of this section, certain polling places may be specifically exempted by the secretary of state upon certification by a board of elections that a good faith, but unsuccessful, effort has been made to modify, or change the location of, such polling places.

(C) At any polling place that is exempted from compliance by the secretary of state, the board of elections shall permit any handicapped elector who travels to that elector's polling place, but who is unable to enter the polling place, to vote, with the assistance of two polling place officials of major political parties, in the vehicle that conveyed that elector to the polling place, or to receive and cast that elector's ballot at the door of the polling place.

(D) The secretary of state shall:

(1) Work with other state agencies to facilitate the distribution of information and technical assistance to boards of elections to meet the requirements of division (B) of this section;

(2) Work with organizations that represent or provide services to handicapped, disabled, or elderly citizens to effect
a wide dissemination of information about the availability of absentee voting, voting in the voter's vehicle or at the door of the polling place, or other election services to handicapped, disabled, or elderly citizens.

(E) Before the day of an election, the director of the board of elections of each county shall sign a statement verifying that each polling place that will be used in that county at that election meets the requirements of division (B) (1)(b) of this section. The signed statement shall be sent to the secretary of state by certified mail or electronically.

(F) As used in this section, "handicapped" means having lost the use of one or both legs, one or both arms, or any combination thereof, or being blind or so severely disabled as to be unable to move about without the aid of crutches or a wheelchair.

(G) No board of elections shall establish fewer polling places than were established for the general election held on November 6, 2018.

Sec. 3503.09. (A)(1) The secretary of state shall adopt rules for the electronic transmission by boards of elections, designated agencies, offices of deputy registrars of motor vehicles, public high schools and vocational schools, public libraries, public employment offices as described in section 4141.04 of the Revised Code, OhioMeansJobs centers as defined in section 6301.01 of the Revised Code, and offices of county treasurers, where applicable, of name and residence changes for voter registration records in the statewide voter registration database.

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

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

(1) Prohibit any direct electronic connection between a designated agency, office of deputy registrar of motor vehicles, public high school or vocational school, public library, public employment office as described in section 4141.04 of the Revised Code, OhioMeansJobs center as defined in section 6301.01 of the Revised Code, or office of a county treasurer and the statewide voter registration database;

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

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

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

(B) Every designated agency, public high school and
vocational school, public library, public employment office as
described in section 4141.04 of the Revised Code, OhioMeansJobs
center as defined in section 6301.01 of the Revised Code, and
office of a county treasurer shall provide in each of its
offices or locations voter registration applications and
assistance in the registration of persons qualified to register
to vote, in accordance with this chapter.

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

(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
registration program in order to provide to each applicant who
wishes to register to vote and who accepts assistance, the same
degree of assistance with regard to completion of the voter
registration application as is provided by the agency with
regard to the completion of its own form;

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

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

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

(F) The secretary of state shall prepare and transmit written instructions on the implementation of the voter registration program within each designated agency, public high school and vocational school, public library, public employment office as described in section 4141.04 of the Revised Code, OhioMeansJobs center as defined in section 6301.01 of the Revised Code, and office of a county treasurer. The instructions shall include directions as follows:

(1) That each person designated to assist with voter registration maintain strict neutrality with respect to a person's political philosophies, a person's right to register or
(2) That each person designated to assist with voter registration not seek to influence a person's decision to register or not register to vote, not display or demonstrate any political preference or party allegiance, and not make any statement to a person or take any action the purpose or effect of which is to lead a person to believe that a decision to register or not register has any bearing on the availability of services or benefits offered, on the grade in a particular class in school, or on credit for a particular class in school;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(4) Distribute the statement, "applying to register or declining to register to vote will not affect or be a condition of your receiving a particular grade in or credit for a school course or class, participating in a curricular or extracurricular activity, receiving a benefit or privilege, or participating in a program or activity otherwise available to pupils enrolled in this school district's schools."

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

(H) Any person employed by the designated agency, public high school or vocational school, public library, public employment office as described in section 4141.04 of the Revised Code, OhioMeansJobs center as defined in section 6301.01 of the Revised Code, or office of a county treasurer may be designated to assist with voter registration pursuant to this section. The designated agency, public high school or vocational school, public library, public employment office, OhioMeansJobs center, or office of a county treasurer shall provide the designated person, and make available such space as may be necessary, without charge to the county or state.
(I) The secretary of state shall prepare and cause to be displayed in a prominent location in each designated agency a notice that identifies the person designated to assist with voter registration, the nature of that person's duties, and where and when that person is available for assisting in the registration of voters.

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

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

(K) Each public library, public employment office as described in section 4141.04 of the Revised Code, OhioMeansJobs center as defined in section 6301.01 of the Revised Code, and office of the county treasurer shall establish a method by which voter registration forms are transmitted to the board of elections within five days after being accepted by the public library, public employment office, OhioMeansJobs center, or office of the county treasurer.

(L) The department of job and family services and its departments, divisions, and programs shall limit administration of the aspects of the voter registration program for the department to the requirements prescribed by the secretary of state and the requirements of this section and the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.
Sec. 3503.14. (A) The secretary of state shall prescribe the form and content of the registration, change of residence, and change of name forms used in this state. The forms shall meet the requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and shall include spaces for all of the following:

(1) The voter's name;

(2) The voter's address;

(3) The current date;

(4) The voter's date of birth;

(5) The voter to provide one or more of the following:
   (a) The voter's driver's license number, if any;
   (b) The last four digits of the voter's social security number, if any;
   (c) A copy of a current and valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the voter's name and address.

(6) The voter's signature.

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.

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.

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

(1) An election official;
(2) A county treasurer;
(3) A deputy registrar of motor vehicles;
(4) An employee of a designated agency;
(5) An employee of a public high school;
(6) An employee of a public vocational school;
(7) An employee of a public library;
(8) An employee of the office of a county treasurer;
(9) An employee of the bureau of motor vehicles;
(10) An employee of a deputy registrar of motor vehicles;
(11) An employee of an election official.

(C) Except as provided in section 3501.382 of the Revised Code, any applicant who is unable to sign the applicant's own
name shall make an "X," if possible, which shall be certified by the signing of the name of the applicant by the person filling out the form, who shall add the person's own signature. If an applicant is unable to make an "X," the applicant shall indicate in some manner that the applicant desires to register to vote or to change the applicant's name or residence. The person registering the applicant shall sign the form and attest that the applicant indicated that the applicant desired to register to vote or to change the applicant's name or residence.

(D) No registration, change of residence, or change of name 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 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 or the signature obtained the first time the applicant votes 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. 3503.16. (A) Except as otherwise provided in division (E) of section 111.44 of the Revised Code, whenever a registered elector changes the place of residence of that registered elector from one precinct to another within a county or from one


county to another, or has a change of name, that registered
elector shall report the change by delivering a change of
residence or change of name form, whichever is appropriate, as
prescribed by the secretary of state under section 3503.14 of
the Revised Code to the state or local office of a designated
agency, a public high school or vocational school, a public
library, a public employment office as described in section
4141.04 of the Revised Code, an OhioMeansJobs center as defined
in section 6301.01 of the Revised Code, the office of the county
treasurer, the office of the secretary of state, any office of
the registrar or deputy registrar of motor vehicles, or any
office of a board of elections in person or by a third person.
Any voter registration, change of address, or change of name
application, returned by mail, may be sent only to the secretary
of state or the board of elections.

A registered elector also may update the registration of
that registered elector by filing a change of residence or
change of name form on the day of a special, primary, or general
election at the polling place in the precinct in which that
registered elector resides or at the board of elections or at
another site designated by the board.

(B)(1)(a) Any registered elector who moves within a
precinct on or prior to the day of a general, primary, or
special election and has not filed a notice of change of
residence with the board of elections may vote in that election
by going to that registered elector's assigned polling place,
completing and signing a notice of change of residence, showing
identification in the form of a current and valid photo
identification, a military identification, or a copy of a
current utility bill, bank statement, government check,
paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of
voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the name and current address of the elector, and casting a ballot.

(b) Any registered elector who changes the name of that registered elector and remains within a precinct on or prior to the day of a general, primary, or special election and has not filed a notice of change of name with the board of elections may vote in that election by going to that registered elector's assigned polling place, completing and signing a notice of a change of name, and casting a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised Code. If the registered elector provides to the precinct election officials proof of a legal name change, such as a marriage license or court order that includes the elector's current and prior names, the elector may complete and sign a notice of change of name and cast a regular ballot.

(2) Any registered elector who moves from one precinct to another within a county or moves from one precinct to another and changes the name of that registered elector on or prior to the day of a general, primary, or special election and has not filed a notice of change of residence or change of name, whichever is appropriate, with the board of elections may vote in that election if that registered elector complies with division (G) of this section or does all of the following:

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

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

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

(b) Completes and signs, under penalty of election
falsification, the written affirmation on the provisional ballot
envelope, which shall serve as a notice of change of residence
or change of name, whichever is appropriate;

(c) Votes a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of
the Revised Code at the polling place, at the office of the
board of elections, or
, if pursuant to division (C) of section
3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated at another
location in the county at which registered electors may vote, at
that other location instead of the office of the board of
elections, whichever is appropriate, using the address to which
that registered elector has moved or the name of that registered
elector as changed, whichever is appropriate;

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

(C) Any registered elector who moves from one county to another county within the state on or prior to the day of a general, primary, or special election and has not registered to vote in the county to which that registered elector moved may vote in that election if that registered elector complies with division (G) of this section or does all of the following:

(1) Appears at any time during regular business hours on or after the twenty-eighth day prior to the election in which that registered elector wishes to vote or, if the election is held on the day of a presidential primary election, the twenty-fifth day prior to the election, through noon of the Saturday prior to the election at the office of the board of elections or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated at another location in the county at which registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of the office of the board of elections, appears during regular business hours on the Monday prior to the election at the office of the board of elections or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated at another location in the county at which registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of the office of the board of elections, or appears on the day of the election at the office of the board of elections or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated at another location in the county at which registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of the office of the board of elections, or appears on the day of the election at the office of the board of elections or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated at another location in the county at which registered electors may vote, at that other location.
instead of the office of the board of elections;

(2) Completes and signs, under penalty of election falsification, the written affirmation on the provisional ballot envelope, which shall serve as a notice of change of residence;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) Makes a written application that includes all of the information required under section 3509.03 of the Revised Code to the appropriate board for an absent voter's ballot on or after the twenty-seventh day prior to the election in which the registered elector wishes to vote through noon of the Saturday prior to that election and requests that the absent voter's ballot be sent to the address to which the registered elector has moved if the registered elector has moved, or to the address of that registered elector who has not moved but has had a change of name;

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

(3) Completes and returns along with the completed absent voter's ballot a notice of change of residence indicating the
address to which the registered elector has moved, or a notice of change of name, whichever is appropriate;

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

Sec. 3503.19. (A) Persons qualified to register or to change their registration because of a change of address or change of name may register or change their registration in person at any state or local office of a designated agency, at the office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor vehicles, at a public high school or vocational school, at a public library, at a public employment office as described in section 4141.04 of the Revised Code, at an OhioMeansJobs center as defined in section 6301.01 of the Revised Code, at the office of a county treasurer, or at a branch office established by the board of elections, or in person, through another person, or by mail at the office of the secretary of state or at the office of a board of elections. A registered elector may also change the elector's registration on election day at any polling place where the elector is eligible to vote, in the manner provided under section 3503.16 of the Revised Code.

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 public employment office as described in section 4141.04 of the Revised Code, an OhioMeansJobs center as defined in section 6301.01 of the Revised Code, or the office of a county treasurer shall transmit any voter registration 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.

An otherwise valid voter registration application that is returned to the appropriate office other than by mail must be received by 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, a public employment office as described in section 4141.04 of the Revised Code, an OhioMeansJobs center as defined in section 6301.01 of the Revised Code, the office of a county treasurer, the office of the secretary of state, or the office of a board of elections no later than the thirtieth day preceding a primary, special, or general election for the person to qualify as an elector eligible to vote at that election. An otherwise valid registration application received after that day entitles the elector to vote at all subsequent elections.

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 public employment office as described in section 4141.04 of the Revised Code, an OhioMeansJobs center as defined in section 6301.01 of the Revised Code, or the office of a county treasurer shall date stamp a registration application or change of name or change of address form it receives using a date stamp that does not disclose the identity of the state or
Voter registration applications, if otherwise valid, that are returned by mail to the office of the secretary of state or to the office of a board of elections must be postmarked no later than the thirtieth day preceding a primary, special, or general election in order for the person to qualify as an elector eligible to vote at that election. If an otherwise valid voter registration application that is returned by mail does not bear a postmark or a legible postmark, the registration shall be valid for that election if received by the office of the secretary of state or the office of a board of elections no later than twenty-five days preceding any special, primary, or general election.

(B)(1) Any person may apply in person, by telephone, by mail, or through another person for voter registration forms to the office of the secretary of state or the office of a board of elections. An individual who is eligible to vote as a uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6 also may apply for voter registration forms by electronic means 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 section 3503.191 of the Revised Code.

(2)(a) An applicant may return the applicant's completed registration form in person or by mail to any state or local office of a designated agency, to a public high school or vocational school, to a public library, to the office of a county treasurer, to the office of the secretary of state, or to the office of a board of elections. An applicant who is eligible to vote as a uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in
accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6 also may return the
applicant's completed voter registration 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 section 3503.191 of the Revised Code.

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

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

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

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

   (a) The applicant's registration;

   (b) The precinct in which the applicant is to vote;

   (c) In bold type as follows:

   "Voters must bring identification to the polls in order to verify identity. Identification may include a current and valid photo identification, a military identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than this notification, that shows the voter's name and current address. Voters who do not provide one of these documents will still be able to vote by casting a provisional ballot. Voters who do not have any of the above forms of identification, including a social security number, will still be able to vote by signing an affirmation swearing to the voter's identity under penalty of election falsification and by casting a provisional ballot."

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

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

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

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

Sec. 3503.20. (A) As used in this section, "applicant" means a person who meets both of the following requirements:

(1) The person is qualified to register to vote under this chapter; and
(2) The person has a current and valid Ohio driver's license or identification card issued under Chapter 4507. of the Revised Code or a social security number.

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

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

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

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

   (i) The applicant's name;

   (ii) The applicant's address;

   (iii) The applicant's date of birth;

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

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

(b) The applicant's name, address, and date of birth, the last four digits of the applicant's social security number, and the applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the number of the applicant's state identification card as they are provided in the application are not inconsistent with the information on file with the bureau of motor vehicles.
(c) The applicant is a United States citizen, will have lived in this state for thirty days immediately preceding the next election, will be at least eighteen years of age on or before the day of the next general election, and is otherwise eligible to register to vote;

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

(B) If an individual registers to vote or a registered elector updates the elector's name, address, or both under this section and provides an Ohio driver's license number or number of the individual's state identification card, the secretary of state shall obtain an electronic copy of the applicant's or elector's signature that is on file with the bureau of motor vehicles. That electronic signature shall be used as the applicant's or elector's signature on voter registration records, for all election and signature-matching purposes. If an individual does not have an electronic signature, the individual shall provide the individual's signature when the individual votes for the first time.

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

(D) The online voter registration application established under division (A) of this section shall include the following language:
"By clicking the box below, I affirm all of the following under penalty of election falsification, which is a felony of the fifth degree:

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

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

(3) I am a United States citizen.

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

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

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

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

(E) The online voter registration process established under division (A) of this section shall be in operation and
available for use by individuals who wish to register to vote or update their voter registration information online not earlier than January 1, 2017. (F)(1) When an applicant submits a voter registration application under this section, the secretary of state shall compare the information in the application with the information on file with the bureau of motor vehicles, as applicable.

(2) If the secretary of state determines that the application is valid, the secretary of state shall submit the application to the board of elections of the county in which the applicant resides, and the board shall register the applicant.

(3) If the secretary of state determines that the application is not valid, the secretary of state shall notify the applicant of that fact and provide the applicant with a voter registration form and instruct the applicant to submit that voter registration form.

(G)(1) If an applicant who is to be registered under division (F)(2) of this section has an electronic signature on file with the bureau of motor vehicles, the secretary of state shall obtain the electronic signature and shall transmit it to the board of elections to be used as the applicant's signature for all election and signature-matching purposes.

(2) If an applicant who is to be registered under division (F)(2) of this section does not have an electronic signature on file with the bureau of motor vehicles and the applicant is updating the elector's address, the board of elections of the county in which the applicant currently is registered shall create a legible digitized copy of the signature of the elector's existing registration record. That signature shall be used as the elector's signature on voter registration records.
for all election and signature-matching purposes.

(3) If an applicant who is to be registered under division (F)(2) of this section does not have an electronic signature on file with the bureau of motor vehicles and is not a registered elector who is updating the elector's address, all of the following shall apply:

(a)(i) The board of elections shall include with the applicant's notification of registration a signature card that instructs the applicant to sign the card and return it to the office of the board. The card shall notify the applicant that until the applicant signs and returns the card or signs a notice of change of name or residence, a poll list or signature pollbook, a provisional ballot affirmation, or an application for absent voter's ballots, the applicant's signature on an election petition is not valid.

(ii) If the applicant signs and returns the signature card to the board of elections, the board shall create a legible digitized copy of the signature on the card, and that signature shall be used as the applicant's signature on voter registration records for all election and signature-matching purposes.

(iii) The board of elections shall prepay the return postage for the signature card.

(iv) The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of the signature card.

(b) If the applicant does not sign and return the signature card, both of the following apply:

(i) The first time an applicant signs a notice of change of name or residence, a poll list or signature pollbook, a provisional ballot affirmation, or an application for absent
voter's ballots, the board of elections shall create a legible digitized copy of that signature. The signature shall be used as the applicant's signature on voter registration records for all election and signature-matching purposes.

(ii) Until the board of elections has obtained the applicant's signature from a signature card, a notice of change of name or residence, a poll list or signature pollbook, a provisional ballot affirmation, or an application for absent voter's ballots, the applicant's signature on an election petition is not valid.

(H) During the period beginning on the first day after the close of voter registration before an election and ending on the day of the election, the online voter registration system shall display a notice indicating that the applicant will not be registered to vote for the purposes of that election.

(E) (I) Notwithstanding section 1.50 of the Revised Code, if any provision of this section or of division (E) (C) of section 3503.14 of the Revised Code is held invalid, or if the application of any provision of this section or of that division to any person or circumstance is held invalid, then this section and that division cease to operate.

Sec. 3503.21. (A) The registration of a registered elector shall be canceled upon the occurrence of any of the following:

(1) The filing by a registered elector of a written request with a board of elections or the secretary of state, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state and signed by the elector, that the registration be canceled. The filing of such a request does not prohibit an otherwise qualified elector from reregistering to vote at any time.
(2) The filing of a notice of the death of a registered elector as provided in section 3503.18 of the Revised Code;

(3) The filing with the board of elections of a certified copy of the death certificate of a registered elector by the deceased elector's spouse, parent, or child, by the administrator of the deceased elector's estate, or by the executor of the deceased elector's will;

(4) The conviction of the registered elector of a felony under the laws of this state, any other state, or the United States as provided in section 2961.01 of the Revised Code;

(5) The adjudication of incompetency of the registered elector for the purpose of voting as provided in section 5122.301 of the Revised Code;

(6) The registration of the registered elector to vote in another county in this state in accordance with division (B)(1) of this section;

(7) The change of residence of the registered elector to a location outside the county of registration in this state in accordance with division (B)(2) of this section;

(7)-(8) The failure of the registered elector, after having been mailed a confirmation notice, to do either any of the following at least once during a period of four consecutive years, which period shall include two general federal elections:

(a) Respond to such a confirmation notice and vote at least once during a period of four consecutive years, which period shall include two general federal elections;

(b) Update the elector's registration and vote at least once during a period of four consecutive years, which period...
shall include two general federal elections.

(c) Vote in an election.

(B)(1) The secretary of state shall prescribe procedures to identify and cancel the registration in a prior county of residence of any registrant who changes the registrant's voting residence to a location outside the registrant's current registers to vote in another county of registration in this state. Any procedures prescribed in this division shall be uniform and nondiscriminatory, and shall comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The secretary of state may prescribe procedures under this division that include the use of the national change of address service provided by the United States postal system through its licensees. Any program so prescribed shall be completed not later than ninety days prior to the date of any primary or general election for federal office.

(2) The registration of any elector identified as having changed the elector's voting residence to a location outside the elector's current county of registration shall not be canceled unless the registrant is sent a confirmation notice on a form prescribed by the secretary of state and the registrant fails to respond to the confirmation notice or otherwise update the registration and fails to vote in any election during the period of two federal elections subsequent to the mailing of the confirmation notice. The secretary of state shall prescribe a process to use the national change of address service provided by the United States postal service system through its licensees to identify and send a confirmation notice to any registrant who...
changes the elector's voting residence to a location outside of this state. That process shall be uniform and nondiscriminatory, shall comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and shall be completed not later than ninety days before the date of any primary or general election for federal office.

(3) The secretary of state or a board of elections shall not mail a confirmation notice to an elector under division (B) of this section unless the secretary of state or the board possesses reliable evidence from the national change of address service that the elector has changed the elector's voting residence to a location outside this state.

(C) The secretary of state or a board of elections shall not mail a confirmation notice to an elector solely on the basis that the elector has failed to update the elector's registration or vote during a given period.

(D) The registration of a registered elector shall not be canceled except as provided in this section, section 111.44 of the Revised Code, division (Q) of section 3501.05 of the Revised Code, division (C)(2) of section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, or division (C) of section 3503.24 of the Revised Code.

(E) Boards of elections shall send their voter registration information to the secretary of state as required under section 3503.15 of the Revised Code. The secretary of state may prescribe by rule adopted pursuant to section 111.15 of the Revised Code the format in which the boards of elections must send that information to the secretary of state. In the first quarter of each year, the secretary of state shall send the information to the national change of address service described in division (B) of this section and request that service to provide the secretary of state with a list of any
voters sent by the secretary of state who have moved to a location outside this state within the last twelve months. The secretary of state shall transmit to each appropriate board of elections whatever lists the secretary of state receives from that service. The board shall send a notice to each person on the list transmitted by the secretary of state requesting confirmation of the person's change of address, together with a postage prepaid, preaddressed return envelope containing a form on which the voter may verify or correct the change of address information.

(E) The registration of a registered elector described in division (A)(7) or (B)(2) of this section shall be canceled not later than one hundred twenty days after the date of the second general federal election in which the elector fails to vote or not later than one hundred twenty days after the expiration of the four-year period in which the elector fails to vote or respond to a confirmation notice, whichever is later.

(F)(1) When a registration is canceled pursuant to division (A)(2) or (3) of this section, the applicable board of elections shall send a written notice, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, to the address at which the elector was registered, informing the recipient that the elector's registration has been canceled, of the reason for the cancellation, and that if the cancellation was made in error, the elector may contact the board of elections to correct the error.

(2) If the elector's registration is canceled pursuant to division (A)(2) or (3) of this section in error, it shall be restored and treated as though it were never canceled.

(G) Any voter registration that, before the effective date
of this amendment, was canceled after the elector was sent a confirmation notice for either of the following reasons shall promptly be restored and treated as though it were never canceled, if the secretary of state or a board of elections has a record of that voter registration and cancellation:

(1) The elector failed to update the elector's registration or vote at least once during a given period.

(2) The elector was identified as having moved to another county in this state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(6) A notice, which shall be written in bold type, stating as follows:
"Voters must bring identification to the polls in order to verify identity. Identification may include a current and valid photo identification, a military identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a voter registration notification sent by a board of elections, that shows the voter's name and current address. Voters who do not provide one of these documents will still be able to vote by casting a provisional ballot. Voters who do not have any of the above forms of identification, including a social security number, will still be able to vote by signing an affirmation swearing to the voter's identity under penalty of election falsification and by casting a provisional ballot."

(B) Except as otherwise provided in division (D) of this section, a board of elections, designated agency, public high school, public vocational school, public library, public employment office as described in section 4141.04 of the Revised Code, OhioMeansJobs center as defined in section 6301.01 of the Revised Code, office of a county treasurer, or deputy registrar of motor vehicles shall distribute a copy of the brochure developed under division (A) of this section to any person who requests more than two voter registration forms at one time.

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

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

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

(1) An election official;

(2) A county treasurer;

(3) A deputy registrar of motor vehicles;

(4) An employee of a designated agency;

(5) An employee of a public high school;

(6) An employee of a public vocational school;

(7) An employee of a public library;

(8) An employee of the office of a county treasurer;

(9) An employee of the bureau of motor vehicles;

(10) An employee of a deputy registrar of motor vehicles;

(11) An employee of an election official;

(12) An employee of a public employment office as described in section 4141.04 of the Revised Code;

(13) An employee of an OhioMeansJobs center as defined in section 6301.01 of the Revised Code.

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

Sec. 3505.18. (A)(1) When an elector appears in a polling place to vote, the elector shall announce to the precinct election officials the elector's full name and current address and provide proof of the elector's identity in the form of a current and valid photo identification, a military identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the name and current address of the elector.

(2) If an elector does not have or is unable to provide to the precinct election officials any of the forms of identification required under division (A)(1) of this section, the elector may cast a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised Code and do either of the following:

(a) Write the elector's driver's license or state identification card number or the last four digits of the elector's social security number on the provisional ballot envelope; or

(b) Appear at the office of the board of elections not later than the seventh day after the day of the election and provide the identification required under division (A)(1) of this section, the elector's driver's license or state identification card number, or the last four digits of the elector's social security number to the board of elections not later than the seventh business day after the day of the election.

(B)(1) After the elector has announced the elector's full
name and current address and provided any of the forms of identification required under division (A)(1) of this section, the elector shall write the elector's name and address at the proper place in the poll list or signature pollbook provided for the purpose, except that if, for any reason, an elector is unable to write the elector's name and current address in the poll list or signature pollbook, the elector may make the elector's mark at the place intended for the elector's name, and a precinct election official shall write the name of the elector at the proper place on the poll list or signature pollbook following the elector's mark. The making of such a mark shall be attested by the precinct election official, who shall evidence the same by signing the precinct election official's name on the poll list or signature pollbook as a witness to the mark. Alternatively, if applicable, an attorney in fact acting pursuant to section 3501.382 of the Revised Code may sign the elector's signature in the poll list or signature pollbook in accordance with that section. The—

(2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in division (B)(2) (b) of this section, the elector's signature in the poll list or signature pollbook then shall be compared with the elector's signature on the elector's registration form or a digitized signature list as provided for in section 3503.13 of the Revised Code, and if, in the opinion of a majority of the precinct election officials, the signatures are the signatures of the same person, the election officials shall enter the date of the election on the registration form or shall record the date by other means prescribed by the secretary of state. The validity of an attorney in fact's signature on behalf of an elector shall be determined in accordance with section 3501.382 of the Revised Code.
(b) If the elector's registration form does not include a signature because of the circumstances described in division (G) (3) of section 3503.20 of the Revised Code, it shall not be necessary to compare the elector's signature in the poll list or signature pollbook with the signature on the elector's registration form or digitized signature list.

(3) If the right of the elector to vote is not then challenged, or, if being challenged, the elector establishes the elector's right to vote, the elector shall be allowed to proceed to use the voting machine. If voting machines are not being used in that precinct, the precinct election official in charge of ballots shall then detach the next ballots to be issued to the elector from Stub B attached to each ballot, leaving Stub A attached to each ballot, hand the ballots to the elector, and call the elector's name and the stub number on each of the ballots. The precinct election official shall enter the stub numbers opposite the signature of the elector in the pollbook. The elector shall then retire to one of the voting compartments to mark the elector's ballots. No mark shall be made on any ballot which would in any way enable any person to identify the person who voted the ballot.

Sec. 3505.181. (A) All of the following individuals shall be permitted to cast a provisional ballot at an election:

(1) An individual who declares that the individual is a registered voter in the precinct in which the individual desires to vote and that the individual is eligible to vote in an election, but the name of the individual does not appear on the official list of eligible voters for the precinct or an election official asserts that the individual is not eligible to vote;

(2) An individual who does not have or is unable to
provide to the election officials any of the forms of
identification required under division (A)(1) of section 3505.18
of the Revised Code;

(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;

(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;

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

(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;

(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.

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

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

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

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

(b) Eligible to vote in that election.

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

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

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

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

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

(6) If, at the time that an individual casts a provisional ballot, the individual provides identification in the form of a current and valid photo identification, a military identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the individual's name and current address, or provides the individual's driver's license or state identification card number or the last four digits of the individual's social security number, the individual shall record
the type of identification provided or the driver's license, 1894
state identification card, or social security number information 1895
and include that information on the provisional ballot 1896
affirmation under division (B)(3) of this section. 1897

(7) During the seven business days after the day of an 1898
election, an individual who casts a provisional ballot because 1899
the individual does not have or is unable to provide to the 1900
election officials any of the required forms of identification 1901
or because the individual has been successfully challenged under 1902
section 3505.20 of the Revised Code, or whose provisional ballot 1903
affirmation otherwise is incomplete or incorrect, shall appear 1904
at the office of the board of elections and may provide to the 1905
board of elections any additional information necessary to 1906
determine the eligibility of the individual who cast the 1907
provisional ballot, as described in division (G)(1) of section 1908
3505.183 of the Revised Code. 1909

(a) For a provisional ballot cast by an individual who 1910
does not have or is unable to provide to the election officials 1911
any of the required forms of identification to be eligible to be 1912
counted, the individual who cast that ballot, within seven 1913
business days after the day of the election, shall may do either 1914
of the following:

(i) Provide to the board of elections proof of the 1915
individual's identity in the form of a current and valid photo 1916
identification, a military identification, or a copy of a 1917
current utility bill, bank statement, government check, 1918
paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of 1919
voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 1920
3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the individual's name 1921
and current address; or 1922
(ii) Provide to the board of elections the individual's driver's license or state identification card number or the last four digits of the individual's social security number.

(b) For a provisional ballot cast by an individual who has been successfully challenged under section 3505.20 of the Revised Code to be eligible to be counted, the individual who cast that ballot, within seven business days after the day of that election, shall may provide to the board of elections any identification or other documentation required to be provided by the applicable challenge questions asked of that individual under section 3505.20 of the Revised Code.

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

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.

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

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

(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;
(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.

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

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

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

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

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

(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
to have been violated;

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

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

Sec. 3505.182. Each individual who casts a provisional
ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised Code shall execute
a written affirmation. The form of the written affirmation shall
be printed upon the face of the provisional ballot envelope and
shall be as follows:

"Provisional Ballot Affirmation

(A) Clearly print your full name: ___________________
(B) Write your date of birth: _____________________
(C)(1) Write your current address: ________________
_________________________________________________
(2) Have you moved without updating your voter
registration?:
Yes _____ No _____
If yes, write your former address: ________________
_________________________________________________
Failure to provide your former address will not cause your
provisional ballot to be rejected.

(D) Provide one of the following forms of identification:

(1) Write your full Ohio driver's license or state
identification card number: ______________________

(2) Write the last four digits of your Social Security
number: ______________
(3) If you did not write your full Ohio driver's license or state identification card number or the last four digits of your Social Security number, you must show one of the following forms of identification to the precinct election official. If you do not check one of the following boxes affirming the type of identification you showed to the precinct election official, the board of elections will conclude that you did not show identification to your precinct election official and that you must show identification at the board of elections during the seven business days after the election for your vote to be eligible to be counted.

- A form of photo identification that was issued by the United States government or the State of Ohio, that contains your name and current address (or your former address if the identification is an Ohio driver's license or state identification card), and that has an expiration date that has not passed;

- A military identification card; or

- A current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections, that contains your name and current address.

(4) If you fail to provide identification at this time, you must go to the board of elections on or before the seventh day following this election to provide a qualifying form of identification in order for this ballot to count to the board of elections on or before the seventh business day following this election.

(E) If your right to vote has been challenged, you must
may provide any required additional information to the board of
elections on or before the seventh business day following this
election.

(F) Sign and date the following statement:

I solemnly swear or affirm that I am a citizen of the United States; that I will be at least 18 years of age at the
time of the general election; that I have lived in this state for 30 days immediately preceding this election in which I am
voting this ballot; that I am a registered voter in the precinct in which I am voting this provisional ballot; and that I am
eligible to vote in the election in which I am voting this provisional ballot.

I understand that, if the information I provide on this provisional ballot affirmation is not fully completed and
correct, if the board of elections determines that I am not
registered to vote, a resident of this precinct, or eligible to
vote in this election, or if the board of elections determines
that I have already voted in this election, my provisional
ballot will not be counted. I understand that, if I am not
currently registered to vote or if I am not registered at my
current address or under my current name, this form will serve
as an application to register to vote or update my registration
for future elections, as long as I provide all of the
information required to register to vote or update my
registration. I further understand that knowingly providing
false information is a violation of law and subjects me to
possible criminal prosecution.

I hereby declare, under penalty of election falsification,
that the above statements are true and correct to the best of my
knowledge and belief.
WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A
FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE."

In addition to any information required to be included on
the written affirmation, an individual casting a provisional
ballot may provide additional information to the election
official to assist the board of elections in determining the
individual's eligibility to vote in that election, including the
date and location at which the individual registered to vote, if
known.

If the individual provided all of the information required
under section 3503.14 of the Revised Code to register to vote or
to update the individual's registration on the provisional
ballot affirmation, the board of elections shall consider the
individual's provisional ballot affirmation to also serve as a
notice of change of name, change of residence, or both, or as a
voter registration form, as applicable, for that individual only
for the purposes of future elections.

Sec. 3505.183. (A) When the ballot boxes are delivered to
the board of elections from the precincts, the board shall
separate the provisional ballot envelopes from the rest of the
ballots. Teams of employees of the board consisting of one
member of each major political party shall place the sealed
provisional ballot envelopes in a secure location within the
office of the board. The sealed provisional ballot envelopes
shall remain in that secure location until the validity of those
ballots is determined under division (B) of this section. While the provisional ballot is stored in that secure location, and prior to the counting of the provisional ballots, if the board receives information regarding the validity of a specific provisional ballot under division (B) of this section, the board may note, on the sealed provisional ballot envelope for that ballot, whether the ballot is valid and entitled to be counted.

(B)(1) To determine whether a provisional ballot is valid and entitled to be counted, the board shall examine its records and determine whether the individual who cast the provisional ballot is registered and eligible to vote in the applicable election. The board shall examine the information contained in the written affirmation executed by the individual who cast the provisional ballot under division (B)(2) of section 3505.181 of the Revised Code. The following information shall be included in the written affirmation in order for the provisional ballot to be eligible to be counted:

(a) The individual's printed name, signature, date of birth, and current address;

(b) A statement that the individual is a registered voter in the precinct in which the provisional ballot is being voted;

(c) A statement that the individual is eligible to vote in the election in which the provisional ballot is being voted.

(2) In addition to the information required to be included in an affirmation under division (B)(1) of this section, in determining whether a provisional ballot is valid and entitled to be counted, the board also shall examine any additional information for determining ballot validity provided by the provisional voter on the affirmation, provided by the
provisional voter to an election official under section 3505.182 of the Revised Code, or provided to the board of elections during the seven business days after the day of the election under division (B)(7)–(G)(1) of this section 3505.181 of the Revised Code, to assist the board in determining the individual's eligibility to vote.

(3) If, in examining a provisional ballot affirmation and additional information under divisions (B)(1) and (2) of this section and comparing the information required under division (B)(1) of this section provided with the elector's information in the statewide voter registration database, the board determines that all both of the following apply, the provisional ballot envelope shall be opened, and the ballot shall be placed in a ballot box to be counted:

(a) The individual named on the affirmation is properly registered to vote.

(b) The individual named on the affirmation is eligible to cast a ballot in the precinct and for the election in which the individual cast the provisional ballot.

(c) The individual provided all of the information required under division (B)(1) of this section in the affirmation that the individual executed at the time the individual cast the provisional ballot.

(d) The last four digits of the elector's social security number or the elector's driver's license number or state identification card number are not different from the last four digits of the elector's social security number or the elector's driver's license number or state identification card number contained in the statewide voter registration database.
(e) Except as otherwise provided in this division, the month and day of the elector's date of birth are not different from the day and month of the elector's date of birth contained in the statewide voter registration database.

This division does not apply to an elector's provisional ballot if either of the following is true:

(i) The elector's date of birth contained in the statewide voter registration database is January 1, 1800.

(ii) The board of elections has found, by a vote of at least three of its members, that the elector has met all other requirements of division (B)(3) of this section.

(f) The elector's current address is not different from the elector's address contained in the statewide voter registration database, unless the elector indicated that the elector is casting a provisional ballot because the elector has moved and has not submitted a notice of change of address, as described in division (A)(6) of section 3505.181 of the Revised Code.

(g) If applicable, the individual provided any additional information required under division (B)(7) of section 3505.181 of the Revised Code within seven days after the day of the election.

(4)(a) Except as otherwise provided in division (D) of this section, if, in examining a provisional ballot affirmation and additional information under divisions (B)(1) and (2) of this section and comparing the information required under division (B)(1) of this section with the elector's information in the statewide voter registration database, the board determines that any of the following applies, the provisional
ballot envelope shall not be opened, and the ballot shall not be counted:

(i) The individual named on the affirmation is not qualified or is not properly registered to vote.

(ii) The individual named on the affirmation is not eligible to cast a ballot in the precinct or for the election in which the individual cast the provisional ballot.

(iii) The individual did not provide all of the information required under division (B)(1) of this section in the affirmation that the individual executed at the time the individual cast the provisional ballot.

(iv) The individual has already cast a ballot for the election in which the individual cast the provisional ballot.

(v) If applicable, the individual did not provide any additional information required under division (B)(7) of section 3505.181 of the Revised Code within seven days after the day of the election.

(vi) The individual failed to provide a current and valid photo identification, a military identification, a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, with the voter's name and current address, the individual's driver's license or state identification card number, or the last four digits of the individual's social security number or to execute an affirmation under division (B) of section 3505.181 of the Revised Code.

(vii) The last four digits of the elector's social security number or the elector's driver's license number or-
state identification card number are different from the last four digits of the elector's social security number or the elector's driver's license number or state identification card number contained in the statewide voter registration database.

(viii) Except as otherwise provided in this division, the month and day of the elector's date of birth are different from the day and month of the elector's date of birth contained in the statewide voter registration database.

This division does not apply to an elector's provisional ballot if either of the following is true:

(I) The elector's date of birth contained in the statewide voter registration database is January 1, 1800.

(II) The board of elections has found, by a vote of at least three of its members, that the elector has met all of the requirements of division (B)(3) of this section, other than the requirements of division (B)(3)(e) of this section.

(ix) The elector's current address is different from the elector's address contained in the statewide voter registration database, unless the elector indicated that the elector is casting a provisional ballot because the elector has moved and has not submitted a notice of change of address, as described in division (A)(6) of section 3505.181 of the Revised Code.

(b) If, in examining a provisional ballot affirmation and additional information under divisions (B)(1) and (2) of this section and comparing the information required under division (B)(1) of this section with the elector's information in the statewide voter registration database, the board is unable to determine either of the following, the provisional ballot envelope shall not be opened, and the ballot shall not be
counted:

(i) Whether the individual named on the affirmation is qualified or properly registered to vote;

(ii) Whether the individual named on the affirmation is eligible to cast a ballot in the precinct or for the election in which the individual cast the provisional ballot.

(C) For each provisional ballot rejected under division (B)(4) of this section, the board shall record the name of the provisional voter who cast the ballot, the identification number of the provisional ballot envelope, the names of the election officials who determined the validity of that ballot, the date and time that the determination was made, and the reason that the ballot was not counted, unless the board has already recorded that information in another database.

(D)(1) If an individual cast a provisional ballot in a precinct in which the individual is not registered and eligible to vote, but in the correct polling location for the precinct in which the individual is registered and eligible to vote in this state, and the election official failed to direct the individual to the correct precinct, the individual's ballot shall be remade under division (D)(2) of this section. The election official shall be deemed to have directed the individual to the correct precinct if the election official correctly completed the form described in division (C)(2) of section 3505.181 of the Revised Code.

(2) A board of elections that remakes a provisional ballot under division (D)(1) of this section shall remake the provisional ballot on a ballot for the appropriate precinct to reflect the offices, questions, and issues for which the
individual was eligible to cast a ballot and for which the
individual attempted to cast a provisional ballot. The remade
ballot shall be counted for each office, question, and issue for
which the individual was eligible to vote.

(3) If an individual cast a provisional ballot in a
precinct in which the individual is not registered and eligible
to vote and in the incorrect polling location for the precinct
in which the individual is registered and eligible to vote, the
provisional ballot envelope shall not be opened, and the ballot
shall not be counted.

(E) Provisional ballots that are rejected under division
(B)(4) of this section shall not be counted but shall be
preserved in their provisional ballot envelopes unopened until
the time provided by section 3505.31 of the Revised Code for the
destruction of all other ballots used at the election for which
ballots were provided, at which time they shall be destroyed.

(F) Provisional ballots that the board determines are
eligible to be counted under division (B)(3) or (D) of this
section shall be counted in the same manner as provided for
other ballots under section 3505.27 of the Revised Code. No
provisional ballots shall be counted in a particular county
until the board determines the eligibility to be counted of all
provisional ballots cast in that county under division (B) of
this section for that election. Observers, as provided in
section 3505.21 of the Revised Code, may be present at all times
that the board is determining the eligibility of provisional
ballots to be counted and counting those provisional ballots
determined to be eligible. No person shall recklessly disclose
the count or any portion of the count of provisional ballots in
such a manner as to jeopardize the secrecy of any individual
ballot.

(G)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (G)(2) of this section, nothing in this section shall prevent a board of elections from examining and additional information under divisions (B)(1) and (2) of this section promptly after the day of the election to determine the eligibility of provisional ballots to be counted during the ten days after the day of an election whether the information provided is incomplete or incorrect. If the board finds that a provisional ballot affirmation is incomplete or that the information contained in the affirmation does not conform to the information contained in the statewide voter registration database concerning the voter, the board shall mail a written notice to the voter, informing the voter of the nature of the defect. The notice shall inform the voter that the voter may provide the necessary information to the board of elections in writing and on a form prescribed by the secretary of state not later than the seventh day after the day of the election. The voter may deliver the form to the office of the board in person or by mail.

(2) A board of elections shall not examine the make a final determination concerning whether a provisional ballot affirmation and additional information under divisions (B)(1) and (2) of this section of any provisional ballot cast by an individual who must provide additional or corrected information to the board of elections under division (B)(7)(G)(1) of this section 3505.181 of the Revised Code for the board to determine the individual's eligibility is eligible to be counted until the individual provides that information or until the eleventh day after the day of the election, whichever is earlier.
Sec. 3509.02. (A) Any qualified elector may vote by absent voter's ballots at an election.

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

Sec. 3509.05. (A)(1) When an elector receives an absent voter's ballot pursuant to the elector's application or request, the elector shall, before placing any marks on the ballot, note whether there are any voting marks on it. If there are any voting marks, the ballot shall be returned immediately to the board of elections; otherwise, the elector shall cause the ballot to be marked, folded in a manner that the stub on it and the indorsements and facsimile signatures of the members of the board of elections on the back of it are visible, and placed and sealed within the identification envelope received from the director of elections for that purpose. Then, the elector shall cause the statement of voter on the outside of the identification envelope to be completed and signed, under penalty of election falsification.

(2) If the elector does not provide the elector's driver's
license number or the last four digits of the elector's social
security number on the statement of voter on the identification
envelope, the elector also shall include in the return envelope
with the identification envelope a copy of the elector's current
valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification,
or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government
check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a
notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections
under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the name
and address of the elector.

(3)(a) The elector shall mail the identification
envelope to the director from whom it was received in the return
envelope and return it to the board of elections by one of the
following methods:

(i) By mailing it, postage prepaid, or the elector may to
the office of the board;

(ii) By personally delivering it to the director,
office of the board or to a ballot drop box in the county
described in section 3509.052 of the Revised Code;

(iii) By having another person of the elector's choice deliver it to the director,
office of the board or to a ballot drop box in the county
described in section 3509.052 of the Revised Code.

(b) The return envelope shall be transmitted to the
director of elections in no other manner, except as
provided in section 3509.08 of the Revised Code.

(4) When absent voter's ballots are delivered to an elector at the office of the board, the elector may retire to a voting compartment provided by the board and there mark the ballots. Thereupon, the elector shall fold them, place them in the identification envelope provided, seal the envelope, fill in and sign the statement on the envelope under penalty of election falsification, and deliver the envelope to the election officials at the office of the board.

(5) Except as otherwise provided in division (B) of this section, all other envelopes containing marked absent voter's ballots shall be delivered to the director received at the office of the board or at a ballot drop box in the county not later than the close of the polls on the day of an election. Absent voter's ballots delivered to the director received at the office of the board later than the times specified shall not be counted, but shall be kept by the board in the sealed identification envelopes in which they are delivered to the director, until the time provided by section 3505.31 of the Revised Code for the destruction of all other ballots used at the election for which ballots were provided, at which time they shall be destroyed.

(B)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (B)(2) of this section, any return envelope that is returned by mail and is postmarked prior to or otherwise dated or marked by the United States postal service on or before the day of the election shall be delivered to the director received at the office of the board prior to the eleventh day after the election. Ballots delivered in envelopes that are postmarked prior to or otherwise dated or marked by the United States postal service on
or before the day of the election that are received after the close of the polls on election day through the tenth day thereafter shall be counted on the eleventh day at the board of elections in the manner provided in divisions (C) and (D) of section 3509.06 of the Revised Code or in the manner provided in division (E) of that section, as applicable. Any such ballots that are received by the director later than the tenth day following the election shall not be counted, but shall be kept by the board in the sealed identification envelopes as provided in division (A) of this section.

(2) Division (B)(1) of this section shall not apply to any mail that is postmarked using a postage evidencing system, including a postage meter, as defined in 39 C.F.R. 501.1.

Sec. 3509.051. Notwithstanding section 3509.05 or any other provision of the Revised Code to the contrary, all of the following shall apply to the casting of absent voter's ballots in person:

(A) The absent voter shall provide identification to the election officials in the same manner as one of the following:

(1) As a voter who casts a ballot in person on the day of an election is required to provide identification under section 3505.18 of the Revised Code; or

(2) As a voter who casts an absent voter's ballot is required to submit a completed written application for an absent voter's ballot under section 3509.03 of the Revised Code.

(B) The absent voter shall not be required to complete a statement of voter on an absent voter's ballot identification envelope.

(C) The board of elections shall provide a signature book
to be signed by absent voters who are casting their ballots in person.

(D) No person other than an election official shall be permitted to challenge the right to vote of an absent voter who is casting a ballot in person. An election official may challenge the right to vote of an absent voter who is casting a ballot in person in the same manner as a precinct election official may challenge the right to vote of an elector on the day of an election under section 3505.20 or 3513.19 of the Revised Code.

(E) No absent voter may receive a replacement ballot after the voter's absent voter's ballot has been scanned or entered into automatic tabulating equipment.

(F) The board of elections may permit electors to cast absent voter's ballots in person at the office of the board, at one or more branch offices, or at all of those locations.

Sec. 3509.052. (A) The board of elections may establish one or more secure drop boxes in the county for the return of absent voter's ballots to the board without the payment of postage.

(B) A bipartisan team of election officials shall close the drop box and collect the deposited ballots promptly at seven-thirty p.m. on the day of the election, provided that persons who are waiting in line to deposit ballots in the drop box at that time shall be permitted to deposit those ballots.

Sec. 3509.053. The board of elections shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the appropriate regional office of the United States postal service. The memorandum of understanding shall allow election officials to perform visual
inspections of relevant postal facilities in the county, on the
day of each election and on the tenth day after the day of each
election, in order to ensure that no undelivered absent voter's
ballots remain in those facilities.

Sec. 3509.06. (A) The board of elections shall determine
whether absent voter's ballots shall be processed and counted in
each precinct, at the office of the board, or at some other
location designated by the board, and shall proceed accordingly
under division (B), (C), or (E) of this section, as applicable.

(B)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (B)(2) of
this section, when the board of elections determines that absent
voter's ballots shall be processed and counted in each precinct,
the director shall deliver to the voting location manager of
each precinct on election day identification envelopes
purporting to contain absent voter's ballots of electors whose
voting residence appears from the statement of voter on the
outside of each of those envelopes, to be located in that
manager's precinct, and which were received by the director not
later than the close of the polls on election day. The director
shall deliver to the voting location manager a list containing
the name and voting residence of each person whose voting
residence is in such precinct to whom absent voter's ballots
were mailed.

(2) The director shall not deliver to the voting location
manager identification envelopes cast by electors who provided a
program participant identification number instead of a residence
address on the identification envelope and shall not inform the
voting location manager of the names and voting residences of
persons who have confidential voter registration records. Those
identification envelopes shall be examined and processed as
described in division (E) of this section.

(C) When the board of elections determines that absent voter's ballots shall be processed and counted at the office of the board of elections or at another location designated by the board, special election officials shall be appointed by the board for that purpose having the same authority as is exercised by precinct election officials. The votes so cast shall be added to the vote totals by the board, and the absent voter's ballots shall be preserved separately by the board, in the same manner and for the same length of time as provided by section 3505.31 of the Revised Code.

(D) Each of the identification envelopes purporting to contain absent voter's ballots delivered to the voting location manager of the precinct or the special election official appointed by the board of elections shall be handled as follows:

(1) The election officials shall compare the signature of the elector on the outside of the identification envelope with the signature of that elector on the elector's registration form and verify that the absent voter's ballot is eligible to be counted under section 3509.07 of the Revised Code.

(2) (a) Any of the precinct officials may challenge the right of the elector named on the identification envelope to vote the absent voter's ballots upon the ground that the signature on the envelope is not the same as the elector's signature on the registration form, that the identification envelope statement of voter is incomplete, or upon any other of the grounds upon which the right of persons to vote may be lawfully challenged.

(b) If the elector's name does not appear in the pollbook
or poll list or signature pollbook, the precinct officials shall deliver the absent voter's ballots to the director of the board of elections to be examined and processed in the manner described in division (E) of this section.

(3) (a) An identification envelope statement of voter shall be considered incomplete if it does not include all of the following:

(i) The voter's name;

(ii) The voter's residence address or, if the voter has a confidential voter registration record, as described in section 111.44 of the Revised Code, the voter's program participant identification number;

(iii) The voter's date of birth. The requirements of this division are satisfied if the voter provided a date of birth and any of the following is true:

(I) The month and day of the voter's date of birth on the identification envelope statement of voter are not different from the month and day of the voter's date of birth contained in the statewide voter registration database.

(II) The voter's date of birth contained in the statewide voter registration database is January 1, 1800.

(III) The board of elections has found, by a vote of at least three of its members, that the voter has met the requirements of divisions (D)(3)(a)(i), (ii), (iv), and (v) of this section.

(iv) The voter's signature; and

(v) One of the following forms of identification:
(I) The voter's driver's license number;

(II) The last four digits of the voter's social security number; or

(III) A copy of a current and valid photo identification, a military identification, or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections, that shows the voter's name and address.

(b) If the election officials find that the identification envelope statement of voter is incomplete or that the information contained in that statement does not conform to the information contained in the statewide voter registration database concerning the voter, the election officials shall mail a written notice to the voter, informing the voter of the nature of the defect. The notice shall inform the voter that in order for the voter's ballot to be counted, the voter must provide the necessary information to the board of elections in writing and on a form prescribed by the secretary of state not later than the seventh business day after the day of the election. The voter may deliver the form to the office of the board in person or by mail. If the voter provides the necessary information to the board of elections not later than the seventh day after the day of the election and the ballot is not successfully challenged on another basis, the voter's ballot shall be processed and counted in accordance with this section.

(4) If no such challenge is made, or if such a challenge is made and not sustained, the voting location manager shall open the envelope without defacing the statement of voter and without mutilating the ballots in it, and shall remove the ballots contained in it and proceed to count them.
As Introduced

(5)(a) Except as otherwise provided in division (D)(5)(b) of this section, the name of each person voting who is entitled to vote only an absent voter's presidential ballot shall be entered in a pollbook or poll list or signature pollbook followed by the words "Absentee Presidential Ballot." The name of each person voting an absent voter's ballot, other than such persons entitled to vote only a presidential ballot, shall be entered in the pollbook or poll list or signature pollbook and the person's registration card marked to indicate that the person has voted.

(b) If the person voting has a confidential voter registration record, the person's registration card shall be marked to indicate that the person has voted, but the person's name shall not be entered in the pollbook or poll list or signature pollbook.

(6) The date of such election shall also be entered on the elector's registration form. If any such challenge is made and sustained, the identification envelope of such elector shall not be opened, shall be endorsed "Not Counted" with the reasons the ballots were not counted, and shall be delivered to the board.

(E)(1) When the board of elections receives absent voter's ballots from an elector who has provided a program participant identification number instead of a residence address on the identification envelope statement of voter, the director and the deputy director personally shall examine and process the identification envelope statement of voter in the manner prescribed in division (D) of this section.

(2) If the director and the deputy director find that the identification envelope statement of voter is incomplete or that the information contained in that statement does not conform to
the information contained in the statewide voter registration database concerning the voter or to the information contained in the voter's confidential voter registration record, the director and the deputy director shall mail a written notice to the voter informing the voter of the nature of the defect. The notice shall inform the voter that in order for the voter's ballot to be counted the voter must provide the necessary information to the board of elections in writing and on a form prescribed by the secretary of state not later than the seventh business day after the day of the election. The voter may deliver the form to the office of the board in person or by mail. If the voter provides the necessary information to the board of elections not later than the seventh day after the day of the election and the ballot is not successfully challenged on another basis, the voter's ballot shall be counted in accordance with this section.

(3) The director or the deputy director may challenge the ballot on the ground that the signature on the envelope is not the same as the elector's signature on the registration form, that the identification envelope statement of voter is incomplete, or upon any other of the grounds upon which the right of persons to vote may be lawfully challenged. If such a challenge is made, the board of elections shall decide whether to sustain the challenge.

(4) If neither the director nor the deputy director challenges the ballot, or if such a challenge is made and not sustained, the director and the deputy director shall open the envelope without defacing the statement of voter and without mutilating the ballots in it, shall remove the ballots contained in it, and shall transmit the ballots to the election officials to be counted with other absent voter's ballots from that precinct.
(F) The board of elections may process absent voter's ballots before the time for counting those ballots, but the board shall not tabulate or count the votes on those ballots before that time. As used in this section and section 3511.11 of the Revised Code, processing an absent voter's ballot means any of the following:

(1) Examining the identification envelope statement of voter in order to verify that the absent voter's ballot is eligible to be counted under section 3509.07 of the Revised Code;

(2) Opening the identification envelope, if the absent voter's ballot is eligible to be counted;

(3) Determining the validity of the absent voter's ballot under section 3509.07 of the Revised Code;

(4) Preparing and sorting the absent voter's ballot for scanning by automatic tabulating equipment;

(5) Scanning the absent voter's ballot by automatic tabulating equipment, if the equipment used by the board of elections permits an absent voter's ballot to be scanned without tabulating or counting the votes on the ballots scanned.

(G) Special election officials, employees or members of the board of elections, or observers shall not disclose the count or any portion of the count of absent voter's ballots prior to the time of the closing of the polling places. No person shall recklessly disclose the count or any portion of the count of absent voter's ballots in such a manner as to jeopardize the secrecy of any individual ballot.

(H)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (H)(2) of this section, observers may be appointed under section 3505.21.
of the Revised Code to witness the examination and opening of identification envelopes and the processing and counting of absent voters' ballots under this section.

(2) Observers shall not be permitted to witness the examination and opening of identification envelopes returned by, and the processing and counting of absent voter's ballots cast by, electors who have confidential voter registration records in a manner that would permit the observers to learn the identities or residence addresses of those electors.

Sec. 3509.07. If election officials find that any of the following are true concerning an absent voter's ballot or absent voter's presidential ballot and, if applicable, the person did not provide any required additional information to the board of elections not later than the seventh business day after the day of the election, as permitted under division (D)(3)(b) or (D)(3) or (E)(2) of section 3509.06 of the Revised Code, the ballot shall not be accepted or counted:

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

(B) The signatures on the identification envelope statement of voter do not correspond with the person's registration signature.

(C) The applicant is not a qualified elector in the precinct.

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

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

(F) The elector has not included with the elector's ballot any identification required under section 3509.05 or 3511.09 of the Revised Code. (D) The person has already cast a ballot in the election.

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

Sec. 3509.09. (A) The poll list or signature pollbook for each precinct shall identify each registered elector in that precinct who has requested an absent voter's ballot for that election, other than an elector who has a confidential voter registration record, as described in section 111.44 of the Revised Code.

(B)(1) If a registered elector appears to vote in that precinct and that elector has requested an absent voter's ballot for that election but the poll list or signature pollbook does not indicate that the director has not received a sealed identification envelope purporting to contain that elector's voted absent voter's ballots for that election, the elector shall be permitted to cast a provisional regular ballot under section 3505.101 of the Revised Code in that precinct on the day of that election.

(2) If a registered elector appears to vote in that precinct and that elector has requested an absent voter's ballot
for that election and, but the poll list or signature pollbook indicates that the director has received a sealed identification envelope purporting to contain that elector's voted absent voter's ballots for that election, the elector shall be permitted to cast a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised Code in that precinct on the day of that election.

(C)(1) In counting absent voter's ballots under section 3509.06 of the Revised Code, the board of elections election officials shall compare the signature of each elector from whom the director has received a sealed identification envelope purporting to contain that elector's voted absent voter's ballots for that election to the signature on that elector's registration form. Except as otherwise provided in division (C)(3) of this section, if the board of elections determines that the absent voter's ballot in the sealed identification envelope is valid, it shall be counted. If the board of elections determines that the signature on the sealed identification envelope purporting to contain the elector's voted absent voter's ballot does not match the signature on the elector's registration form, the ballot shall be set aside and the board shall examine, during the time prior to the beginning of the official canvass, the poll list or signature pollbook from the each precinct in which the elector is registered to vote to determine if the whether any elector from whom the board has received a sealed identification envelope purporting to contain the elector's voted absent voter's ballot for that election also cast a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised Code in that precinct on the day of the election.

(2) If such an elector cast a regular ballot on the day of the election, the absent voter's ballot shall not be counted. If such an elector cast a provisional ballot on the day...
of the election, the board of elections shall count the
provisional ballot, instead of the absent voter's ballot, if
both of the following apply:

(a) The board of elections determines that the signature
of the elector on the outside of the identification envelope in
which the absent voter's ballots are enclosed does not match the
signature of the elector on is not the elector's registration
form signature;

(b) The elector cast a provisional ballot in the precinct
on the day of the election.

(3) If the board of elections does not receive the sealed
identification envelope purporting to contain the elector's
voted absent voter's ballot by the applicable deadline
established under section 3509.05 of the Revised Code, the
provisional ballot cast under section 3505.181 of the Revised
Code in that precinct on the day of the election shall be
counted as valid, if that provisional ballot is otherwise
determined to be valid pursuant to section 3505.183 of the
Revised Code.

(D) If the board of elections counts a provisional ballot
under division (C)(2) or (3) of this section, the returned
identification envelope of that elector shall not be opened, and
the ballot within that envelope shall not be counted. The
identification envelope shall be endorsed "Not Counted" with the
reason the ballot was not counted.

Sec. 3511.09. Upon receiving uniformed services or
overseas absent voter's ballots, the elector shall cause the
questions on the face of the identification envelope to be
answered, and, by writing the elector's usual signature in the
proper place on the identification envelope, the elector shall declare under penalty of election falsification that the answers to those questions are true and correct to the best of the elector's knowledge and belief. Then, the elector shall note whether there are any voting marks on the ballot. If there are any voting marks, the ballot shall be returned immediately to the board of elections; otherwise, the elector shall cause the ballot to be marked, folded separately so as to conceal the markings on it, deposited in the identification envelope, and securely sealed in the identification envelope. The elector then shall sign the identification envelope not later than seven-thirty p.m. eastern standard time on the day of the election and cause the identification envelope to be placed within the return envelope, sealed in the return envelope, and mailed to the director of the board of elections to whom it is addressed. The ballot shall be submitted for mailing not later than 12:01 a.m. at the place where the voter completes the ballot, on the date of the election. If the elector does not provide the elector's driver's license number or the last four digits of the elector's social security number on the statement of voter on the identification envelope, the elector also shall include in the return envelope with the identification envelope a copy of the elector's current valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the name and address of the elector. Each elector who will be outside the United States on the day of the election shall check the box on the return envelope indicating this fact and shall mail the return envelope to the director prior to the close of the polls on election day.
Every uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot identification envelope shall be accompanied by the following statement in boldface capital letters: WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE.

Sec. 3511.11. (A) Upon receipt of any return envelope bearing the designation "Official Election Uniformed Services or Overseas Absent Voter's Ballot" prior to the eleventh day after the day of any election, the director of the board of elections shall open it but shall not open the identification envelope contained in it. If, upon so opening the return envelope, the director finds ballots in it that are not enclosed in and properly sealed in the identification envelope, the director shall not look at the markings upon the ballots and shall promptly place them in the identification envelope and promptly seal it. If, upon so opening the return envelope, the director finds that ballots are enclosed in the identification envelope but that it is not properly sealed, the director shall not look at the markings upon the ballots and shall promptly seal the identification envelope.

(B) Uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots delivered to the director office of the board of elections or at a ballot drop box in the county described in section 3509.052 of the Revised Code not later than the close of the polls on election day shall be processed and counted in the manner provided in section 3509.06 of the Revised Code.

(C) A return envelope is not required to be postmarked in order for a uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot contained in it to be valid. Except as otherwise provided in this division, whether or not the return envelope containing the ballot is postmarked, contains a late postmark, or contains an
illegible postmark, a uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot that is received by mail after the close of the polls on election day through the tenth day after the election day shall be processed and counted on the eleventh day after the election day at the office of the board of elections in the manner provided in section 3509.06 of the Revised Code if the voter signed the identification envelope by the time specified in section 3511.09 of the Revised Code. However, if a return envelope containing a uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot is so received and so indicates, but the identification envelope in it is signed after the close of the polls on election day, the uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot shall not be counted.

(D) The following types of uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots shall not be counted:

(1) Uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots contained in return envelopes that bear the designation "Official Election Uniformed Services or Overseas Absent Voter's Ballots," that are received by the director after the close of the polls on the day of the election, and that contain an identification envelope that is signed after the time specified in section 3511.09 of the Revised Code;

(2) Uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots contained in return envelopes that bear that designation and that are received after the tenth day following the election.

The uncounted ballots shall be preserved in their identification envelopes unopened until the time provided by section 3505.31 of the Revised Code for the destruction of all other ballots used at the election for which ballots were provided, at which time they shall be destroyed.
Sec. 3599.11. (A) No person shall knowingly register or make application or attempt to register in a precinct in which the person is not a qualified voter; or knowingly aid or abet any person to so register; or attempt to register or knowingly induce or attempt to induce any person to so register; or knowingly impersonate another or write or assume the name of another, real or fictitious, in registering or attempting to register; or by false statement or other unlawful means procure, aid, or attempt to procure the erasure or striking out on the register or duplicate list of the name of a qualified elector therein; or knowingly induce or attempt to induce a registrar or other election authority to refuse registration in a precinct to an elector thereof; or knowingly swear or affirm falsely upon a lawful examination by or before any registering officer; or make, print, or issue any false or counterfeit certificate of registration or knowingly alter any certificate of registration.

No person shall knowingly register under more than one name or knowingly induce any person to so register.

No person shall knowingly make any false statement on any form for registration or change of registration or upon any application or return envelope for an absent voter's ballot.

Whoever violates this division is guilty of a felony of the fifth degree.

(B)(1) No person who helps another person register outside an official voter registration place shall knowingly destroy, or knowingly help another person to destroy, any completed registration form.

Whoever violates this division is guilty of election falsification, a felony of the fifth degree.
(2)(a) No person who helps another person register outside an official voter registration place shall knowingly fail to return any registration form entrusted to that person to any board of elections or the office of the secretary of state within ten days after that registration form is completed, or on or before the thirtieth day before the election, whichever day is earlier, unless the registration form is received by the person within twenty-four hours of the thirtieth day before the election, in which case the person shall return the registration form to any board of elections or the office of the secretary of state within ten days of its receipt.

Whoever violates this division is guilty of election falsification, a felony of the fifth degree, unless the person has not previously been convicted of a violation of this division (B)(2)(a), (B)(2)(b), (C)(1), or (C)(2) of this section, the violation of this division does not cause any person to miss any voter registration deadline with regard to any election, and the number of voter registration forms that the violator has failed to properly return does not exceed forty-nine, in which case the violator is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(b) Subject to division (C)(2) of this section, no person who helps another person register outside an official registration place shall knowingly return any registration form entrusted to that person to any location other than any board of elections or the office of the secretary of state.

Whoever violates this division is guilty of election falsification, a felony of the fifth degree, unless the person has not previously been convicted of a violation of division (B)
(2)(a), (B)(2)(b), (C)(1), or (C)(2) of this section, the violation of this division does not cause any person to miss any voter registration deadline with regard to any election, and the number of voter registration forms that the violator has failed to properly return does not exceed forty-nine, in which case the violator is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(C)(1) No person who receives compensation for registering a voter shall knowingly fail to return any registration form entrusted to that person to any board of elections or the office of the secretary of state within ten days after that voter registration form is completed, or on or before the thirtieth day before the election, whichever is earlier, unless the registration form is received by the person within twenty-four hours of the thirtieth day before the election, in which case the person shall return the registration form to any board of elections or the office of the secretary of state within ten days of its receipt.

Whoever violates this division is guilty of election falsification, a felony of the fifth degree, unless the person has not previously been convicted of a violation of division (B) (2)(a), (B)(2)(b), (C)(1), or (C)(2) of this section, the violation of this division does not cause any person to miss any voter registration deadline with regard to any election, and the number of voter registration forms that the violator has failed to properly return does not exceed forty-nine, in which case the violator is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(2) No person who receives compensation for registering a voter shall knowingly return any registration form entrusted to that person to any location other than any board of elections or the office of the secretary of state.
Whoever violates this division is guilty of election falsification, a felony of the fifth degree, unless the person has not previously been convicted of a violation of division (B)(2)(a), (B)(2)(b), (C)(1), or (C)(2) of this section, the violation of this division does not cause any person to miss any voter registration deadline with regard to any election, and the number of voter registration forms that the violator has failed to properly return does not exceed forty-nine, in which case the violator is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(D) As used in division (C) of this section, "registering a voter" includes any effort, for compensation, to provide voter registration forms or to assist persons in completing or returning those forms.

Section 2. That existing sections 3501.05, 3501.10, 3501.11, 3501.22, 3501.29, 3503.09, 3503.10, 3503.14, 3503.16, 3503.19, 3503.20, 3503.21, 3503.28, 3505.18, 3505.181, 3505.182, 3505.183, 3509.02, 3509.05, 3509.051, 3509.06, 3509.07, 3509.09, 3511.09, 3511.11, and 3599.11 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.

Section 3. That section 3503.29 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed.

Section 4. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of the Revised Code, as soon as possible after the close of voter registration before the general election to be held on November 3, 2020, the boards of elections shall mail absent voter's ballots for that election to every registered elector in this state, return postage prepaid.

Section 5. Any funds received by the Secretary of State through the "Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020," Pub. L.
No. 116-93 or the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act," Pub. L. No. 116-136 shall be used in accordance with this act. This provision applies to all appropriations made to appropriation item 050616, Help America Vote Act (HAVA), related to funding received through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 or the CARES Act and deposited into the Help America Vote Act Fund (Fund 3AS0) for the biennium ending June 30, 2021. The Secretary of State shall use that funding for purposes including, but not limited to, the following:

(A) To provide a one-time incentive bonus payment to precinct election officials and temporary employees of the boards of elections for the general election to be held on November 3, 2020, in a manner to be determined in conjunction with the boards of elections;

(B) To provide personal protective equipment for election officials, and to pay for cleaning and modifying the layout of polling places and the offices of the boards of elections to provide for adequate social distancing;

(C) To provide any additional electronics or related equipment needed to handle increased volumes of mail that may result during the general election to be held on November 3, 2020;

(D) To pay for return postage on absent voter's ballots under Section 4 of this act;

(E) To reimburse the boards of elections for the cost of printing additional absent voter's ballots for the general election to be held on November 3, 2020, in anticipation of greater use of absent voting than in past elections.
Section 6. The General Assembly, applying the principle stated in division (B) of section 1.52 of the Revised Code that amendments are to be harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous operation, finds that the following sections, presented in this act as composites of the sections as amended by the acts indicated, are the resulting versions of the sections in effect prior to the effective date of the sections as presented in this act:

Section 3501.29 of the Revised Code as amended by both S.B. 10 and S.B. 109 of the 130th General Assembly.

Section 3503.21 of the Revised Code as amended by both H.B. 359 and S.B. 63 of the 131st General Assembly.

Section 3505.18 of the Revised Code as amended by S.B. 47, S.B. 109, and S.B. 216, all of the 130th General Assembly.