

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

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H. B. No. 577

Representative Ferguson

To amend sections 3375.011, 3501.01, 3503.10, 1
3503.11, 3503.13, 3503.15, 3503.153, 3503.19, 2
3503.20, 3503.28, 3505.19, 3509.04, 3509.05, 3
3509.06, 3509.07, 3509.08, 3511.05, 3511.09, 4
4501.023, and 4507.01 and to enact section 5
3509.11 of the Revised Code to require photo 6
identification to cast absent voter's ballots by 7
mail and to modify the law regarding voter 8
registration. 9

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

Section 1. That sections 3375.011, 3501.01, 3503.10, 10
3503.11, 3503.13, 3503.15, 3503.153, 3503.19, 3503.20, 3503.28, 11
3505.19, 3509.04, 3509.05, 3509.06, 3509.07, 3509.08, 3511.05, 12
3511.09, 4501.023, and 4507.01 be amended and section 3509.11 of 13
the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 14

Sec. 3375.011. Any (A) As used in this section, "photo 15
identification" and "copy" of an individual's photo 16
identification have the same meanings as in section 3501.01 of 17
the Revised Code. 18

(B) Upon request by an individual, any library organized 19
under Chapter 3375. of the Revised Code shall provide free of 20

charge to any individual a photocopy of that individual's 21
driver's license, temporary driver's permit, or state 22
identification card, ~~if the individual requests one.~~ 23

(C) Upon request by an elector, any library organized 24
under Chapter 3375. of the Revised Code shall provide free of 25
charge to the elector a copy of the elector's photo 26
identification for the purpose of casting absent voter's ballots 27
by mail. 28

Sec. 3501.01. As used in the sections of the Revised Code 29
relating to elections and political communications: 30

(A) "General election" means the election held on the 31
first Tuesday after the first Monday in each November. 32

(B) "Regular municipal election" means the election held 33
on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each 34
odd-numbered year. 35

(C) "Regular state election" means the election held on 36
the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each 37
even-numbered year. 38

(D) "Special election" means any election other than those 39
elections defined in other divisions of this section. A special 40
election may be held only on the first Tuesday after the first 41
Monday in May or November, on the first Tuesday after the first 42
Monday in August in accordance with section 3501.022 of the 43
Revised Code, or on the day authorized by a particular municipal 44
or county charter for the holding of a primary election, except 45
that in any year in which a presidential primary election is 46
held, no special election shall be held in May, except as 47
authorized by a municipal or county charter, but may be held on 48
the third Tuesday after the first Monday in March. 49

(E) (1) "Primary" or "primary election" means an election 50
held for the purpose of nominating persons as candidates of 51
political parties for election to offices, and for the purpose 52
of electing persons as members of the controlling committees of 53
political parties and as delegates and alternates to the 54
conventions of political parties. Primary elections shall be 55
held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May of each 56
year except in years in which a presidential primary election is 57
held. 58

(2) "Presidential primary election" means a primary 59
election as defined by division (E) (1) of this section at which 60
an election is held for the purpose of choosing delegates and 61
alternates to the national conventions of the major political 62
parties pursuant to section 3513.12 of the Revised Code. Unless 63
otherwise specified, presidential primary elections are included 64
in references to primary elections. In years in which a 65
presidential primary election is held, all primary elections 66
shall be held on the third Tuesday after the first Monday in 67
March except as otherwise authorized by a municipal or county 68
charter. 69

(F) "Political party" means any group of voters meeting 70
the requirements set forth in section 3517.01 of the Revised 71
Code for the formation and existence of a political party. 72

(1) "Major political party" means any political party 73
organized under the laws of this state whose candidate for 74
governor or nominees for presidential electors received not less 75
than twenty per cent of the total vote cast for such office at 76
the most recent regular state election. 77

(2) "Minor political party" means any political party 78
organized under the laws of this state that meets either of the 79

following requirements: 80

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this division, the 81
political party's candidate for governor or nominees for 82
presidential electors received less than twenty per cent but not 83
less than three per cent of the total vote cast for such office 84
at the most recent regular state election. A political party 85
that meets the requirements of this division remains a political 86
party for a period of four years after meeting those 87
requirements. 88

(b) The political party has filed with the secretary of 89
state, subsequent to its failure to meet the requirements of 90
division (F) (2) (a) of this section, a petition that meets the 91
requirements of section 3517.01 of the Revised Code. 92

A newly formed political party shall be known as a minor 93
political party until the time of the first election for 94
governor or president which occurs not less than twelve months 95
subsequent to the formation of such party, after which election 96
the status of such party shall be determined by the vote for the 97
office of governor or president. 98

(G) "Dominant party in a precinct" or "dominant political 99
party in a precinct" means that political party whose candidate 100
for election to the office of governor at the most recent 101
regular state election at which a governor was elected received 102
more votes than any other person received for election to that 103
office in such precinct at such election. 104

(H) "Candidate" means any qualified person certified in 105
accordance with the provisions of the Revised Code for placement 106
on the official ballot of a primary, general, or special 107
election to be held in this state, or any qualified person who 108

claims to be a write-in candidate, or who knowingly assents to 109
being represented as a write-in candidate by another at either a 110
primary, general, or special election to be held in this state. 111

(I) "Independent candidate" means any candidate who claims 112
not to be affiliated with a political party, and whose name has 113
been certified on the office-type ballot at a general or special 114
election through the filing of a statement of candidacy and 115
nominating petition, as prescribed in section 3513.257 of the 116
Revised Code. 117

(J) "Nonpartisan candidate" means any candidate whose name 118
is required, pursuant to section 3505.04 of the Revised Code, to 119
be listed on the nonpartisan ballot, including all candidates 120
for judge of a municipal court, county court, or court of common 121
pleas, for member of any board of education, for municipal or 122
township offices in which primary elections are not held for 123
nominating candidates by political parties, and for offices of 124
municipal corporations having charters that provide for separate 125
ballots for elections for these offices. 126

(K) "Party candidate" means any candidate who claims to be 127
a member of a political party and who has been certified to 128
appear on the office-type ballot at a general or special 129
election as the nominee of a political party because the 130
candidate has won the primary election of the candidate's party 131
for the public office the candidate seeks, has been nominated 132
under section 3517.012, or is selected by party committee in 133
accordance with section 3513.31 of the Revised Code. 134

(L) "Officer of a political party" includes, but is not 135
limited to, any member, elected or appointed, of a controlling 136
committee, whether representing the territory of the state, a 137
district therein, a county, township, a city, a ward, a 138

precinct, or other territory, of a major or minor political 139
party. 140

(M) "Question or issue" means any question or issue 141
certified in accordance with the Revised Code for placement on 142
an official ballot at a general or special election to be held 143
in this state. 144

(N) "Elector" or "qualified elector" means a person having 145
the qualifications provided by law to be entitled to vote. 146

(O) "Voter" means an elector who votes at an election. 147

(P) "Voting residence" means that place of residence of an 148
elector which shall determine the precinct in which the elector 149
may vote. 150

(Q) "Precinct" means a district within a county 151
established by the board of elections of such county within 152
which all qualified electors having a voting residence therein 153
may vote at the same polling place. 154

(R) "Polling place" means that place provided for each 155
precinct at which the electors having a voting residence in such 156
precinct may vote. 157

(S) "Board" or "board of elections" means the board of 158
elections appointed in a county pursuant to section 3501.06 of 159
the Revised Code. 160

(T) "Political subdivision" means a county, township, 161
city, village, or school district. 162

(U) "Election officer" or "election official" means any of 163
the following: 164

(1) Secretary of state; 165

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

voters, or any other public or government office or agency that 194
implements a program designed and administered by the secretary 195
of state for registering voters, including the department of job 196
and family services, the program administered under section 197
3701.132 of the Revised Code by the department of health, the 198
department of mental health and addiction services, the 199
department of developmental disabilities, the opportunities for 200
Ohioans with disabilities agency, and any other agency the 201
secretary of state designates. "Designated agency" does not 202
include public high schools and vocational schools, public 203
libraries, or the office of a county treasurer. 204

(Y) "National Voter Registration Act of 1993" means the 205
"National Voter Registration Act of 1993," 107 Stat. 77, 42 206
U.S.C.A. 1973gg. 207

(Z) "Voting Rights Act of 1965" means the "Voting Rights 208
Act of 1965," 79 Stat. 437, 42 U.S.C.A. 1973, as amended. 209

(AA) (1) "Photo identification" means one of the following 210
documents that includes the individual's name and photograph and 211
is not expired: 212

(a) An Ohio driver's license, state identification card, 213
or interim identification form issued by the registrar of motor 214
vehicles or a deputy registrar under Chapter 4506. or 4507. of 215
the Revised Code; 216

(b) A United States passport or passport card; 217

(c) A United States military identification card, Ohio 218
national guard identification card, or United States department 219
of veterans affairs identification card. 220

(2) A "copy" of an individual's photo identification means 221
a physical paper that contains legible images of both the front 222

and back of a document described in division (AA) (1) of this 223
section, except that if the document is a United States 224
passport, a copy of the photo identification means ~~an~~ a physical 225
paper that contains a legible image of the passport's 226
identification page that includes the individual's name, 227
photograph, and other identifying information and the passport's 228
expiration date. 229

(BB) "Driver's license" means a license or permit issued 230
by the registrar or a deputy registrar under Chapter 4506. or 231
4507. of the Revised Code that authorizes an individual to 232
drive. "Driver's license" includes a driver's license, 233
commercial driver's license, probationary license, restricted 234
license, motorcycle operator's license, or temporary instruction 235
permit identification card. "Driver's license" does not include 236
a limited term license issued under section 4506.14 or 4507.09 237
of the Revised Code. 238

(CC) "State identification card" means a card issued by 239
the registrar or a deputy registrar under sections 4507.50 to 240
4507.52 of the Revised Code. 241

(DD) "Interim identification form" means the document 242
issued by the registrar or a deputy registrar to an applicant 243
for a driver's license or state identification card that 244
contains all of the information otherwise found on the license 245
or card and that an applicant may use as a form of 246
identification until the physical license or card arrives in the 247
mail. 248

Sec. 3503.10. (A) Each designated agency shall designate 249
one person within that agency to serve as coordinator for the 250
voter registration program within the agency and its 251
departments, divisions, and programs. The designated person 252

shall be trained under a program designed by the secretary of 253
state and shall be responsible for administering all aspects of 254
the voter registration program for that agency as prescribed by 255
the secretary of state. The designated person shall receive no 256
additional compensation for performing such duties. 257

(B) Every designated agency, public high school and 258
vocational school, public library, and office of a county 259
treasurer shall provide in each of its offices or locations 260
voter registration applications and assistance in the 261
registration of persons qualified to register to vote, in 262
accordance with this chapter, and, upon request, shall provide 263
electors with copies of their photo identification without 264
charge, in accordance with section 3509.11 of the Revised Code. 265

(C) Every designated agency shall distribute to its 266
applicants, prior to or in conjunction with distributing a voter 267
registration application, a form prescribed by the secretary of 268
state that includes all of the following: 269

(1) The question, "Do you want to register to vote or 270
update your current voter registration?"--followed by boxes for 271
the applicant to indicate whether the applicant would like to 272
register or decline to register to vote, and the statement, 273
highlighted in bold print, "If you do not check either box, you 274
will be considered to have decided not to register to vote at 275
this time."; 276

(2) If the agency provides public assistance, the 277
statement, "Applying to register or declining to register to 278
vote will not affect the amount of assistance that you will be 279
provided by this agency."; 280

(3) The statement, "If you would like help in filling out 281

the voter registration application form, we will help you. The 282
decision whether to seek or accept help is yours. You may fill 283
out the application form in private."; 284

(4) The statement, "If you believe that someone has 285
interfered with your right to register or to decline to register 286
to vote, your right to privacy in deciding whether to register 287
or in applying to register to vote, or your right to choose your 288
own political party or other political preference, you may file 289
a complaint with the prosecuting attorney of your county or with 290
the secretary of state," with the address and telephone number 291
for each such official's office. 292

(D) Each designated agency shall distribute a voter 293
registration form prescribed by the secretary of state to each 294
applicant with each application for service or assistance, and 295
with each written application or form for recertification, 296
renewal, or change of address. 297

(E) Each designated agency shall do all of the following: 298

(1) Have employees trained to administer the voter 299
registration program in order to provide to each applicant who 300
wishes to register to vote and who accepts assistance, the same 301
degree of assistance with regard to completion of the voter 302
registration application as is provided by the agency with 303
regard to the completion of its own form; 304

(2) Accept completed voter registration applications, 305
voter registration change of residence forms, and voter 306
registration change of name forms, regardless of whether the 307
application or form was distributed by the designated agency, 308
for transmittal to the office of the board of elections in the 309
county in which the agency is located. Each designated agency 310

and the appropriate board of elections shall establish a method 311
by which the voter registration applications and other voter 312
registration forms are transmitted to that board of elections 313
within five days after being accepted by the agency. 314

(3) If the designated agency is one that is primarily 315
engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities under 316
a state-funded program, and that agency provides services to a 317
person with disabilities at a person's home, provide the 318
services described in divisions (E) (1) and (2) of this section 319
at the person's home; 320

(4) Keep as confidential, except as required by the 321
secretary of state for record-keeping purposes, the identity of 322
an agency through which a person registered to vote or updated 323
the person's voter registration records, and information 324
relating to a declination to register to vote made in connection 325
with a voter registration application issued by a designated 326
agency. 327

(F) The secretary of state shall prepare and transmit 328
written instructions on the implementation of the voter 329
registration program within each designated agency, public high 330
school and vocational school, public library, and office of a 331
county treasurer. The instructions shall include directions as 332
follows: 333

(1) That each person designated to assist with voter 334
registration maintain strict neutrality with respect to a 335
person's political philosophies, a person's right to register or 336
decline to register, and any other matter that may influence a 337
person's decision to register or not register to vote; 338

(2) That each person designated to assist with voter 339

registration not seek to influence a person's decision to 340
register or not register to vote, not display or demonstrate any 341
political preference or party allegiance, and not make any 342
statement to a person or take any action the purpose or effect 343
of which is to lead a person to believe that a decision to 344
register or not register has any bearing on the availability of 345
services or benefits offered, on the grade in a particular class 346
in school, or on credit for a particular class in school; 347

(3) Regarding when and how to assist a person in 348
completing the voter registration application, what to do with 349
the completed voter registration application or voter 350
registration update form, and when the application must be 351
transmitted to the appropriate board of elections; 352

(4) Regarding what records must be kept by the agency and 353
where and when those records should be transmitted to satisfy 354
reporting requirements imposed on the secretary of state under 355
the National Voter Registration Act of 1993; 356

(5) Regarding whom to contact to obtain answers to 357
questions about voter registration forms and procedures. 358

(G) If the voter registration activity is part of an in- 359
class voter registration program in a public high school or 360
vocational school, whether prescribed by the secretary of state 361
or independent of the secretary of state, the board of education 362
shall do all of the following: 363

(1) Establish a schedule of school days and hours during 364
these days when the person designated to assist with voter 365
registration shall provide voter registration assistance; 366

(2) Designate a person to assist with voter registration 367
from the public high school's or vocational school's staff; 368

(3) Make voter registration applications and materials 369
available, as outlined in the voter registration program 370
established by the secretary of state pursuant to section 371
3501.05 of the Revised Code; 372

(4) Distribute the statement, "applying to register or 373
declining to register to vote will not affect or be a condition 374
of your receiving a particular grade in or credit for a school 375
course or class, participating in a curricular or 376
extracurricular activity, receiving a benefit or privilege, or 377
participating in a program or activity otherwise available to 378
pupils enrolled in this school district's schools."; 379

(5) Establish a method by which the voter registration 380
application and other voter registration forms are transmitted 381
to the board of elections within five days after being accepted 382
by the public high school or vocational school. 383

(H) Any person employed by the designated agency, public 384
high school or vocational school, public library, or office of a 385
county treasurer may be designated to assist with voter 386
registration pursuant to this section. The designated agency, 387
public high school or vocational school, public library, or 388
office of a county treasurer shall provide the designated 389
person, and make available such space as may be necessary, 390
without charge to the county or state. 391

(I) The secretary of state shall prepare and cause to be 392
displayed in a prominent location in each designated agency a 393
notice that identifies the person designated to assist with 394
voter registration, the nature of that person's duties, and 395
where and when that person is available for assisting in the 396
registration of voters. 397

A designated agency may furnish additional supplies and 398
services to disseminate information to increase public awareness 399
of the existence of a person designated to assist with voter 400
registration in every designated agency. 401

(J) This section does not limit any authority a board of 402
education, superintendent, or principal has to allow, sponsor, 403
or promote voluntary election registration programs within a 404
high school or vocational school, including programs in which 405
pupils serve as persons designated to assist with voter 406
registration, provided that no pupil is required to participate. 407

(K) Each public library and office of the county treasurer 408
shall establish a method by which voter registration forms are 409
transmitted to the board of elections within five days after 410
being accepted by the public library or office of the county 411
treasurer. 412

(L) The department of job and family services and its 413
departments, divisions, and programs shall limit administration 414
of the aspects of the voter registration program for the 415
department to the requirements prescribed by the secretary of 416
state and the requirements of this section and the National 417
Voter Registration Act of 1993. 418

Sec. 3503.11. (A) (1) When any person applies for a 419
driver's license, commercial driver's license, a state of Ohio 420
identification card issued under section 4507.50 of the Revised 421
Code, or motorcycle operator's license or endorsement, or the 422
renewal or duplicate of any license or endorsement under Chapter 423
4506. or 4507. of the Revised Code, and the person presents 424
proof of United States citizenship to the registrar of motor 425
vehicles or the deputy registrar or has previously presented 426
proof of United States citizenship to the registrar or any 427

deputy registrar, the registrar or deputy registrar shall offer 428
the applicant the opportunity to register to vote or to update 429
the applicant's voter registration by electronic means in 430
conjunction with the person's transaction with the registrar or 431
deputy registrar, in a manner prescribed by the secretary of 432
state. 433

(2) When any person submits a notice of change of address 434
to the registrar under division (C) of section 4507.09 of the 435
Revised Code, the registrar shall offer the applicant the 436
opportunity to submit a notice of change of address for voter 437
registration purposes by electronic means in conjunction with 438
the person's transaction with the registrar, in a manner 439
prescribed by the secretary of state. 440

(3) When a person registers to vote or updates the 441
person's voter registration under division (A) (1) or (2) of this 442
section, the registrar or deputy registrar shall electronically 443
transmit the person's signature that is on file with the bureau 444
of motor vehicles with the electronic record of the voter 445
registration or update, and that signature shall be considered 446
the person's signature on the voter registration or update and 447
for all other election and signature-matching purposes. 448

(B) Within twenty-four hours after a person registers to 449
vote or updates the person's voter registration under division 450
(A) of this section, the registrar or deputy registrar shall 451
transmit the electronic record of the voter registration or 452
update to the secretary of state by electronic means in a manner 453
prescribed by the secretary of state by rule. Rules adopted 454
under this division shall do all of the following: 455

(1) Prohibit any direct electronic connection between the 456
office of the registrar or a deputy registrar and the statewide 457

voter registration database; 458

(2) Require any voter registration information to be 459
verified by the secretary of state or a board of elections 460
before the information is added to the statewide voter 461
registration database; 462

(3) Require the registrar or deputy registrar to 463
electronically date stamp each electronic record in a manner 464
that does not disclose the identity of the office that receives 465
the voter registration or update. 466

(C) (1) The registrar of motor vehicles and each deputy 467
registrar also shall make available to all other customers paper 468
voter registration applications and update forms, but are not 469
required to offer assistance to customers in completing those 470
forms. The bureau of motor vehicles shall supply all of its 471
deputy registrars with a sufficient number of voter registration 472
applications and update forms. 473

(2) Within five days after a person submits a completed 474
paper voter registration application or update form to the 475
registrar or a deputy registrar, the registrar or deputy 476
registrar shall send the form to the board of elections of the 477
county in which the office of the registrar or deputy registrar 478
is located. 479

(D) The registrar shall collect from each deputy registrar 480
through the reports filed under division (J) of section 4503.03 481
of the Revised Code and transmit to the secretary of state 482
information on the number of voter registration applications and 483
change of residence or change of name forms completed or 484
declined, and any additional information required by the 485
secretary of state to comply with the National Voter 486

Registration Act of 1993. No information relating to an 487
applicant's decision to decline to register or update the 488
applicant's voter registration at the office of the registrar or 489
deputy registrar may be used for any purpose other than voter 490
registration record-keeping required by the secretary of state, 491
and all such information shall be kept confidential. 492

(E) Upon request, the registrar or a deputy registrar 493
shall provide an elector with a copy of the elector's photo 494
identification without charge, in accordance with section 495
3509.11 of the Revised Code. The registrar shall provide a 496
homebound elector with a copy of the elector's photo 497
identification without charge, in accordance with section 498
3509.11 of the Revised Code and as part of the bureau's 499
homebound identification program. 500

Sec. 3503.13. ~~(A)(1)~~ (A) Except as otherwise provided in 501
division ~~(A)(2)~~ (B) of this section, voter registration forms 502
submitted by applicants and the statewide voter registration 503
database established under section 3503.15 of the Revised Code 504
are public records subject to disclosure under section 149.43 of 505
the Revised Code. 506

~~(2)~~ (B) None of the following in the possession of the 507
secretary of state or a board of elections are subject to 508
~~disclosure under division (A)(1) of this section~~ as public 509
records: 510

~~(a)~~ (1) An elector's full or partial social security 511
number, driver's license or state identification card number, 512
telephone number, or electronic mail address; 513

~~(b)~~ (2) A copy of an elector's photo identification; 514

(3) A confidential voter registration record, as described 515

in section 111.44 of the Revised Code; 516

~~(e)~~ (4) The address of a designated public service worker, 517
if the designated public service worker has submitted a 518
redaction request to the board of elections under section 149.45 519
of the Revised Code; 520

~~(d)~~ (5) Any other information that is prohibited from 521
being disclosed by state or federal law. 522

~~(B)~~ (C) Subject to the other applicable requirements of 523
Title XXXV of the Revised Code, the secretary of state shall 524
prescribe procedures for the office of the secretary of state 525
and the boards of elections to store and dispose of electronic 526
files and physical documents that contain information described 527
in division (B) of this section in order to prevent the 528
disclosure of that information to the public. 529

(D) A board of elections may use a legible digitized 530
signature list of voter signatures, copied from the signatures 531
on the registration forms in a form and manner prescribed by the 532
secretary of state, provided that the board includes the 533
required voter registration information in the statewide voter 534
registration database established under section 3503.15 of the 535
Revised Code, and provided that the precinct election officials 536
have computer printouts at the polls prepared in the manner 537
required under section 3503.23 of the Revised Code. 538

Sec. 3503.15. (A) The secretary of state shall establish 539
and maintain a statewide voter registration database that shall 540
be administered by the office of data analytics and archives in 541
the office of the secretary of state and made continuously 542
available to each board of elections and to other agencies as 543
authorized by law. 544

The statewide voter registration database shall be the 545
official list of registered electors for all elections conducted 546
in this state. 547

(B) The statewide voter registration database shall, at a 548
minimum, include all of the following: 549

(1) An electronic network that connects all board of 550
elections offices with the office of the secretary of state and 551
with the offices of all other boards of elections; 552

(2) A computer program that harmonizes the records 553
contained in the database with records maintained by each board 554
of elections; 555

(3) An interactive computer program that allows access to 556
the records contained in the database by each board of elections 557
and by any persons authorized by the secretary of state to add, 558
delete, modify, or print database records, and to conduct 559
updates of the database; 560

(4) A search program capable of verifying registered 561
electors and their registration information by name, driver's 562
license or state identification card number, birth date, social 563
security number, or current address; 564

(5) Safeguards and components to ensure that the 565
integrity, security, and confidentiality of the voter 566
registration information is maintained; 567

(6) Methods to retain canceled voter registration records 568
for not less than five years after they are canceled and to 569
record the reason for their cancellation. 570

(C) For each registered elector, the statewide voter 571
registration database shall include all of the following 572

information:	573
(1) The elector's name;	574
(2) The elector's birth date;	575
(3) The elector's current residence address;	576
(4) The elector's precinct number;	577
(5) The elector's Ohio driver's license or state identification card number, if available;	578 579
(6) The last four digits of the elector's social security number, if available;	580 581
(7) The elector's telephone number, if available;	582
(8) The elector's electronic mail address, if available;	583
(9) (a) The elector's voter registration date, which shall be determined based on the elector's most recent application to register to vote in this state, subject to division (C) (9) (b) of this section, as follows:	584 585 586 587
(i) In the case of an application delivered in person to a state or local office of a designated agency, the office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public library, or the office of a county treasurer, the date stamped on the application upon receipt by the entity that transmits the application to the board of elections or the secretary of state;	588 589 590 591 592 593 594
(ii) In the case of an application delivered in person to a board of elections or the secretary of state, the date stamped on the application upon receipt by the board of elections or the secretary of state, as applicable;	595 596 597 598
(iii) In the case of an application delivered by mail to a	599

board of elections or the secretary of state, the date the 600
application is postmarked; 601

(iv) In the case of an application submitted through the 602
online voter registration system established under section 603
3503.20 of the Revised Code, the date of the online submission; 604

(v) In the case of an application submitted to a board of 605
elections by facsimile transmission or electronic mail under 606
Chapter 3511. of the Revised Code, the date of the receipt of 607
the transmission or electronic mail by the board of elections; 608

(vi) In the case of a provisional ballot affirmation that 609
serves as an application to register to vote in future elections 610
because the individual who cast the ballot is not registered to 611
vote, the date the board of elections determines that the 612
provisional ballot is invalid under section 3505.183 of the 613
Revised Code. 614

(b) For purposes of determining an elector's voter 615
registration date under division (C) (9) (a) of this section, all 616
of the following apply: 617

(i) An elector's voter registration date shall not be 618
during the period beginning on the day after the close of voter 619
registration before an election and ending on the day of the 620
election. If the date determined under division (C) (9) (a) of 621
this section would be during that period, the voter registration 622
date instead shall be the date on which the board of elections 623
processes the application to register to vote after the day of 624
the election. 625

(ii) A change of address or change of name form, including 626
a provisional ballot affirmation that serves as a change of 627
address or change of name form, is not considered an application 628

to register to vote. 629

(iii) An application to register to vote that is submitted 630
by an individual who is already registered to vote in this state 631
is not considered an application to register to vote. 632

(10) The elector's voting history, including all of the 633
following for each election in which the elector cast a ballot 634
that was counted: 635

(a) The date of the election; 636

(b) If the election was a primary election, the political 637
party whose ballot the elector cast at the primary election or 638
an indication that the elector voted only on the questions and 639
issues appearing on the ballot at a special election held on the 640
day of the primary election; 641

(c) The type of ballot the elector cast. 642

(11) The elector's last activity date, which shall be 643
determined in accordance with rules adopted by the secretary of 644
state pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. 645

(12) Any other information the secretary of state requires 646
to be included by rule adopted pursuant to Chapter 119. of the 647
Revised Code. 648

(D) Every business day ~~during the period beginning on the~~ 649
~~forty-sixth day before an election and ending on the eighty-~~ 650
~~first day after the day of the election,~~ a board of elections 651
shall create a daily record of its voter registration database 652
as of four p.m. and shall transmit the daily record to the 653
secretary of state in a secure manner prescribed by the 654
secretary of state. The secretary of state shall archive the 655
daily record and retain it ~~for at least twenty-two months after~~ 656

~~the day of the election permanently.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 3503.153. (A) The statewide voter registration database shall be made available on a web site of the office of the secretary of state as follows:

(1) Except as otherwise provided in ~~division~~ divisions (A) (2) and (3) of this section, ~~the following all of the~~ information from the statewide voter registration database regarding a registered elector shall be made available on the web site:—

- ~~(a) The elector's name;—~~
- ~~(b) The elector's birth date;—~~
- ~~(c) The elector's current residence address;—~~
- ~~(d) The elector's precinct number;—~~
- ~~(e) The elector's voter registration date, as described in division (C) (9) of section 3503.15 of the Revised Code;—~~
- ~~(f) The elector's voting history, as described in division (C) (10) of section 3503.15 of the Revised Code;—~~
- ~~(g) The elector's last activity date, as described in~~

~~division (C) (11) of section 3503.15 of the Revised Code.~~ 713

(2) During the thirty days before the day of a primary or 714
general election, the web site interface of the statewide voter 715
registration database shall permit an elector to search for the 716
polling location at which that elector may cast a ballot. 717

(3) No information in the statewide voter registration 718
database that is exempt from disclosure under division ~~(A) (2)~~ (B) 719
of section 3503.13 of the Revised Code shall be made available 720
on the web site. 721

(4) The web site shall permit a member of the public to 722
access the information described in division (A) (1) of this 723
section by two methods: 724

(a) The web site shall permit a user to download voter 725
registration records from any given date, as provided to the 726
secretary of state by the boards of elections under division (D) 727
of section 3503.15 of the Revised Code, in a widely accessible 728
electronic format. 729

(b) The web site shall permit a user to search for an 730
elector by name. 731

(5) The web site also shall include contact information 732
for each board of elections and, if an elector is required to 733
cast a provisional ballot, the reason for that fact and 734
instructions for the elector to provide any additional, 735
corrected, or updated information to a board of elections that 736
the elector must provide in order to cast a regular ballot. 737

(B) (1) The secretary of state shall establish, by rule 738
adopted under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, a process for 739
boards of elections to notify the secretary of state of changes 740
in the locations of precinct polling places for the purpose of 741

updating the information made available on the secretary of 742
state's web site under division (A)(2) of this section. Those 743
rules shall require a board of elections, during the thirty days 744
before the day of a primary or general election, to notify the 745
secretary of state within one business day of any change to the 746
location of a precinct polling place within the county. 747

(2) During the thirty days before the day of a primary or 748
general election, not later than one business day after 749
receiving a notification from a county pursuant to division (B) 750
(1) of this section that the location of a precinct polling 751
place has changed, the secretary of state shall update that 752
information on the secretary of state's web site for the purpose 753
of division (A)(2) of this section. 754

Sec. 3503.19. (A) Persons qualified to register or to 755
change their registration because of a change of address or 756
change of name may register or change their registration in 757
person at any state or local office of a designated agency, at 758
the office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor 759
vehicles, at a public high school or vocational school, at a 760
public library, at the office of a county treasurer, or at a 761
branch office established by the board of elections, or in 762
person, through another person, or by mail at the office of the 763
secretary of state or at the office of a board of elections. A 764
registered elector may also change the elector's registration on 765
election day at any polling place where the elector is eligible 766
to vote, in the manner provided under section 3503.16 of the 767
Revised Code. 768

Any state or local office of a designated agency, a public 769
high school or vocational school, a public library, or the 770
office of a county treasurer shall transmit any voter 771

registration application or change of registration form that it 772
receives to the board of elections of the county in which the 773
state or local office is located, within five days after 774
receiving the voter registration application or change of 775
registration form. The office of the registrar or any deputy 776
registrar of motor vehicles shall transmit any electronic voter 777
registration application or change of registration that it 778
receives to the secretary of state within twenty-four hours 779
after receiving it, and shall transmit any paper voter 780
registration application or change of registration form that it 781
receives to the board of elections of the county in which the 782
office of the registrar or deputy registrar is located within 783
five days after receiving the voter registration application or 784
change of registration form, as required under section 3503.11 785
of the Revised Code. 786

An otherwise valid voter registration application that is 787
returned to the appropriate office other than by mail must be 788
received by a state or local office of a designated agency, the 789
office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor 790
vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public 791
library, the office of a county treasurer, the office of the 792
secretary of state, or the office of a board of elections no 793
later than the thirtieth day preceding a primary, special, or 794
general election for the person to qualify as an elector 795
eligible to vote at that election. An otherwise valid 796
registration application received after that day entitles the 797
elector to vote at all subsequent elections. 798

Any state or local office of a designated agency, the 799
office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor 800
vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public 801
library, or the office of a county treasurer shall date stamp a 802

registration application or change of name or change of address 803
form it receives using a date stamp that does not disclose the 804
identity of the state or local office that receives the 805
registration. 806

Voter registration applications, if otherwise valid, that 807
are returned by mail to the office of the secretary of state or 808
to the office of a board of elections must be postmarked no 809
later than the thirtieth day preceding a primary, special, or 810
general election in order for the person to qualify as an 811
elector eligible to vote at that election. If an otherwise valid 812
voter registration application that is returned by mail does not 813
bear a postmark or a legible postmark, the registration shall be 814
valid for that election if received by the office of the 815
secretary of state or the office of a board of elections no 816
later than twenty-five days preceding any special, primary, or 817
general election. 818

(B) (1) Any person may apply in person, by telephone, by 819
mail, or through another person for voter registration forms to 820
the office of the secretary of state or the office of a board of 821
elections. An individual who is eligible to vote as a uniformed 822
services voter or an overseas voter in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 823
1973ff-6 also may apply for voter registration forms by 824
electronic means to the office of the secretary of state or to 825
the board of elections of the county in which the person's 826
voting residence is located pursuant to section 3503.191 of the 827
Revised Code. 828

(2) (a) An applicant may return the applicant's completed 829
registration form in person or by mail to any state or local 830
office of a designated agency, to a public high school or 831
vocational school, to a public library, to the office of a 832

county treasurer, to the office of the secretary of state, or to 833
the office of a board of elections. An applicant who is eligible 834
to vote as a uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in 835
accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6 also may return the 836
applicant's completed voter registration form electronically to 837
the office of the secretary of state or to the board of 838
elections of the county in which the person's voting residence 839
is located pursuant to section 3503.191 of the Revised Code. 840

(b) Subject to division (B) (2) (c) of this section, an 841
applicant may return the applicant's completed registration form 842
through another person to any board of elections or the office 843
of the secretary of state. 844

(c) A person who receives compensation for registering a 845
voter shall return any registration form entrusted to that 846
person by an applicant to any board of elections or to the 847
office of the secretary of state. 848

(d) If a board of elections or the office of the secretary 849
of state receives a registration form under division (B) (2) (b) 850
or (c) of this section before the thirtieth day before an 851
election, the board or the office of the secretary of state, as 852
applicable, shall forward the registration to the board of 853
elections of the county in which the applicant is seeking to 854
register to vote within ten days after receiving the 855
application. If a board of elections or the office of the 856
secretary of state receives a registration form under division 857
(B) (2) (b) or (c) of this section on or after the thirtieth day 858
before an election, the board or the office of the secretary of 859
state, as applicable, shall forward the registration to the 860
board of elections of the county in which the applicant is 861
seeking to register to vote within thirty days after that 862

election. 863

(C) (1) A board of elections that receives a voter 864
registration application and is satisfied as to the truth of the 865
statements made in the registration form shall register the 866
applicant not later than twenty business days after receiving 867
the application, unless that application is received during the 868
thirty days immediately preceding the day of an election. The 869
board shall promptly notify the applicant in writing of each of 870
the following: 871

(a) The applicant's registration; 872

(b) The precinct in which the applicant is to vote; 873

(c) In bold type as follows: 874

"Voters must ~~bring~~ provide photo identification ~~to the~~ 875
~~polls~~ in order to verify identity. Voters who do not provide 876
photo identification will still be able to vote by casting a 877
provisional ballot." 878

The notification shall be by nonforwardable mail. If the 879
mail is returned to the board, it shall investigate and cause 880
the notification to be delivered to the correct address. 881

(2) If, after investigating as required under division (C) 882
(1) of this section, the board is unable to verify the voter's 883
correct address, it shall cause the voter's name in the official 884
registration list and in the poll list or signature pollbook to 885
be marked to indicate that the voter's notification was returned 886
to the board. 887

At the first election at which a voter whose name has been 888
so marked appears to vote, the voter shall be required to vote 889
by provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised 890

Code. If the provisional ballot is counted pursuant to division 891
(B) (3) of section 3505.183 of the Revised Code, the board shall 892
correct that voter's registration, if needed, and shall remove 893
the indication that the voter's notification was returned from 894
that voter's name on the official registration list and on the 895
poll list or signature pollbook. If the provisional ballot is 896
not counted pursuant to division (B) (4) (a) (i), (v), or (vi) of 897
section 3505.183 of the Revised Code, the voter's registration 898
shall be canceled. The board shall notify the voter by United 899
States mail of the cancellation. 900

(3) If a notice of the disposition of an otherwise valid 901
registration application is sent by nonforwardable mail and is 902
returned undelivered, the person shall be registered as provided 903
in division (C) (2) of this section and sent a confirmation 904
notice by forwardable mail. If the person fails to respond to 905
the confirmation notice, update the person's registration, or 906
vote by provisional ballot as provided in division (C) (2) of 907
this section in any election during the period of two federal 908
elections subsequent to the mailing of the confirmation notice, 909
the person's registration shall be canceled. 910

Sec. 3503.20. (A) The secretary of state shall establish a 911
secure online voter registration system. The system shall 912
provide for all of the following: 913

(1) An applicant to submit a voter registration 914
application to the secretary of state online through the 915
internet; 916

(2) The online applicant to be registered to vote, if all 917
of the following apply: 918

(a) The application contains all of the following 919

information: 920

(i) The applicant's name; 921

(ii) The applicant's address; 922

(iii) The applicant's date of birth; 923

(iv) The last four digits of the applicant's social 924
security number; 925

(v) The applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the 926
number of the applicant's state identification card issued under 927
section 4507.50 of the Revised Code. 928

(b) The applicant's name, address, and date of birth, the 929
last four digits of the applicant's social security number, and 930
the applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the number of 931
the applicant's state identification card as they are provided 932
in the application are not inconsistent with the information on 933
file with the bureau of motor vehicles; 934

(c) The applicant is a United States citizen, will have 935
lived in this state for thirty days immediately preceding the 936
next election, will be at least eighteen years of age on or 937
before the day of the next general election, and is otherwise 938
eligible to register to vote; 939

(d) The applicant attests to the truth and accuracy of the 940
information submitted in the online application under penalty of 941
election falsification. 942

(B) If an individual registers to vote or a registered 943
elector updates the elector's name, address, or both under this 944
section, the secretary of state shall obtain an electronic copy 945
of the applicant's or elector's signature that is on file with 946
the bureau of motor vehicles. That electronic signature shall be 947

used as the applicant's or elector's signature on voter 948
registration records, for all election and signature-matching 949
purposes. 950

~~(C)~~ (C) (1) The secretary of state shall employ whatever 951
security measures the secretary of state considers necessary to 952
ensure the integrity and accuracy of voter registration 953
information submitted electronically pursuant to this section. 954
~~Errors~~ Before an applicant may submit a voter registration 955
application or update, the online voter registration system 956
shall require the applicant to verify the applicant's identity. 957
When accessing the online voter registration system using a 958
secure online account registered to the person the applicant 959
purports to be, the applicant shall complete multifactor 960
authentication each time the applicant uses the account, using 961
one or more of the following methods: 962

(a) Entering a code sent to an electronic mail address or 963
telephone number that, according to the previously existing 964
records of the secretary of state or another state agency, 965
belongs to the person the applicant purports to be; 966

(b) Providing a token from authentication software 967
installed on a device that, according to the previously existing 968
records of the secretary of state or another state agency, 969
belongs to the person the applicant purports to be; 970

(c) Answering one or more questions about the person the 971
applicant purports to be, based on information about the person 972
in the previously existing records of the secretary of state or 973
another state agency that is not available to the public. 974

(2) As used in division (C) (1) of this section, 975
"multifactor authentication" has the same meaning as in section 976

3965.01 of the Revised Code. 977

(3) Errors in processing voter registration applications 978
in the online system shall not prevent an applicant from 979
becoming registered or from voting. 980

(D) The online voter registration application established 981
under division (A) of this section shall include the following 982
language: 983

"By clicking the box below, I affirm all of the following 984
under penalty of election falsification, which is a felony of 985
the fifth degree: 986

(1) I am the person whose name and identifying information 987
is provided on this form, and I desire to register to vote, or 988
update my voter registration, in the State of Ohio. 989

(2) All of the information I have provided on this form is 990
true and correct as of the date I am submitting this form. 991

(3) I am a United States citizen. 992

(4) I will have lived in Ohio for thirty days immediately 993
preceding the next election. 994

(5) I will be at least eighteen years of age on or before 995
the day of the next general election. 996

(6) I authorize the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to transmit 997
to the Ohio Secretary of State my signature that is on file with 998
the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and I understand and agree that 999
the signature transmitted by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will 1000
be used by the Secretary of State to validate this electronic 1001
voter registration application as if I had signed this form 1002
personally." 1003

In order to register to vote or update a voter
registration under division (A) 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.~~ 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.

(F) Notwithstanding section 1.50 of the Revised Code, if
any provision of this section or of division (E) 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. 3503.28. (A) The secretary of state shall develop an
information brochure regarding voter registration and
identification. 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 1033
applicant's completed registration form; 1034

(4) The location to which a person who is compensated for 1035
registering voters may return an applicant's completed 1036
registration form; 1037

(5) The registration and affirmation requirements 1038
applicable to persons who are compensated for registering voters 1039
under section 3503.29 of the Revised Code; 1040

(6) A notice, which shall be written in bold type, stating 1041
as follows: 1042

"Voters must ~~bring~~ provide photo identification ~~to the~~ 1043
~~polls~~ in order to verify identity. Voters who do not provide 1044
photo identification will still be able to vote by casting a 1045
provisional ballot." 1046

(7) The acceptable types of photo identification; 1047

(8) The requirement to include a copy of the voter's photo 1048
identification when casting absent voter's ballots by mail; 1049

(9) The manner in which an elector may receive a state 1050
identification card without the payment of any fee; 1051

(10) The manner in which an elector may receive a copy of 1052
the elector's photo identification without the payment of any 1053
fee, as described in section 3509.11 of the Revised Code. 1054

(B) ~~Except as otherwise provided in division (D) of this~~ 1055
~~section, a~~ A board of elections, designated agency, public high 1056
school, public vocational school, public library, office of a 1057
county treasurer, or deputy registrar of motor vehicles shall 1058
~~distribute~~ offer a copy of the brochure developed under division 1059
(A) of this section to any person who requests ~~more than two a~~ 1060

voter registration ~~forms at one time~~ form or otherwise registers 1061
to vote through the office. 1062

(C) (1) The secretary of state shall provide the 1063
information required to be included in the brochure developed 1064
under division (A) of this section to any person who prints a 1065
voter registration form that is made available on a web site of 1066
the office of the secretary of state and to any person who 1067
registers to vote or updates the person's registration through 1068
the online voter registration system described in section 1069
3503.20 of the Revised Code. 1070

(2) If a board of elections operates and maintains a web 1071
site, the board shall provide the information required to be 1072
included in the brochure developed under division (A) of this 1073
section to any person who prints a voter registration form that 1074
is made available on that web site. 1075

~~(D) A board of elections shall not be required to~~ 1076
~~distribute a copy of a brochure under division (B) of this~~ 1077
~~section to any of the following officials or employees who are~~ 1078
~~requesting more than two voter registration forms at one time in~~ 1079
~~the course of the official's or employee's normal duties:~~ 1080

~~(1) An election official;~~ 1081

~~(2) A county treasurer;~~ 1082

~~(3) A deputy registrar of motor vehicles;~~ 1083

~~(4) An employee of a designated agency;~~ 1084

~~(5) An employee of a public high school;~~ 1085

~~(6) An employee of a public vocational school;~~ 1086

~~(7) An employee of a public library;~~ 1087

~~(8) An employee of the office of a county treasurer;~~ 1088

~~(9) An employee of the bureau of motor vehicles;~~ 1089

~~(10) An employee of a deputy registrar of motor vehicles;~~ 1090

~~(11) An employee of an election official.~~ 1091

~~(E)~~ As used in this section, "registering voters" includes 1092
any effort, for compensation, to provide voter registration 1093
forms or to assist persons in completing or returning those 1094
forms. 1095

Sec. 3505.19. (A) An elector who does not have photo 1096
identification because the elector has a religious objection to 1097
being photographed may complete an affidavit of religious 1098
objection in lieu of providing photo identification for the 1099
purpose of casting a provisional ballot or casting absent 1100
voter's ballots by mail. 1101

(B) The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of the 1102
affidavit of religious objection, which shall be substantially 1103
as follows: 1104

"Affidavit of Religious Objection 1105

I, _____ (first and last name of 1106
elector), declare under penalty of election falsification that I 1107
do not have photo identification because I have a sincere 1108
religious objection to being photographed. 1109

The last four digits of my Social Security number are: 1110

_____ 1111

_____ 1112

(Signature of individual) 1113

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A 1114

FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE." 1115

(C) Upon receiving a completed affidavit of religious 1116
objection, the board of elections shall transmit the information 1117
in the affidavit to the secretary of state. The secretary of 1118
state shall consult the database of the bureau of motor vehicles 1119
to determine whether the registrar of motor vehicles or a deputy 1120
registrar has issued a currently unexpired photo identification 1121
to the elector and shall notify the board of the result. 1122

(D) An affidavit of religious objection is not valid if 1123
either of the following apply: 1124

(1) The last four digits of the elector's social security 1125
number, as provided on the affidavit, are different from the 1126
last four digits of the elector's social security number in the 1127
statewide voter registration database. 1128

(2) The registrar of motor vehicles or a deputy registrar 1129
has issued a currently unexpired photo identification to the 1130
elector. 1131

Sec. 3509.04. (A) If a board of elections receives an 1132
application for absent voter's ballots that does not contain all 1133
of the required information or is not submitted on an 1134
appropriate form, the board promptly shall notify the applicant 1135
of the additional information required to be provided by the 1136
applicant to complete that application, direct the applicant to 1137
use an appropriate form, or both, as applicable. 1138

(B) Upon receipt by the board of elections of an 1139
application for absent voter's ballots that contains all of the 1140
required information and is submitted on an appropriate form, as 1141
provided by section 3509.03 and division (G) of section 3503.16 1142
of the Revised Code, the board, if the board finds that the 1143

applicant is a qualified elector, shall deliver to the applicant 1144
in person or mail directly to the applicant by special delivery 1145
mail, air mail, or regular mail, postage prepaid, proper absent 1146
voter's ballots. The board shall deliver or mail with the 1147
ballots an unsealed identification envelope upon the face of 1148
which shall be printed a form substantially as follows: 1149

"Identification Envelope Statement of Voter 1150

I, _____ (Name of voter as it appears on 1151
the voter's Ohio driver's license or state identification card 1152
or, if the voter does not have one, on the voter's social 1153
security card), declare under penalty of election falsification 1154
that the within ballot or ballots contained no voting marks of 1155
any kind when I received them, and I caused the ballot or 1156
ballots to be marked, enclosed in the identification envelope, 1157
and sealed in that envelope. 1158

My voting residence in Ohio is 1159

_____ 1160

(Street and Number, if any, or Rural Route and Number) 1161
of _____ (City, Village, or Township) 1162
Ohio, which is in Ward _____ Precinct _____ 1163
in that city, village, or township. 1164

If I have a confidential voter registration record, I am 1165
providing my program participant identification number instead 1166
of my residence address: _____ 1167

The primary election ballots, if any, within this envelope 1168
are primary election ballots of the _____ Party. 1169

Ballots contained within this envelope are to be voted at 1170
the _____ (general, special, or primary) election to be 1171

held on the _____ day of 1172

_____, _____. 1173

My date of birth is _____ (Month and Day), 1174

_____ (Year). 1175

(Voter must provide one of the following:) 1176

My Ohio driver's license or state identification card 1177

number is _____ (Driver's license or state 1178

identification card number). 1179

I do not have an Ohio driver's license or state 1180

identification card. The last four digits of my Social Security 1181

Number are _____ (Last four digits of Social Security 1182

Number). 1183

(Voter must provide one of the following:) 1184

_____ ~~In lieu of providing a driver's license or state~~ 1185

~~identification card number or the last four digits of my Social~~ 1186

~~Security Number, I am enclosing a legible paper copy of the~~ 1187

~~front and back of my photo identification in the return envelope~~ 1188

~~in which this identification envelope will be mailed. Acceptable~~ 1189

~~photo identification is an Ohio driver's license, state~~ 1190

~~identification card, or interim identification form issued by~~ 1191

~~the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, a United States passport or~~ 1192

~~passport card, a United States military identification card, an~~ 1193

~~Ohio National Guard identification card, or a United States~~ 1194

~~Department of Veterans Affairs identification card. Your photo~~ 1195

~~identification must include your name and photograph and must~~ 1196

~~not be expired.~~ 1197

ENCLOSE A **COPY** OF YOUR PHOTO ID, NOT THE ORIGINAL PHOTO ID 1198

_____ I am enclosing a completed affidavit of religious 1199

objection to being photographed in the return envelope in which 1200
this identification envelope will be mailed. 1201

I hereby declare, under penalty of election falsification, 1202
that the statements above are true, as I verily believe. 1203

1204

(Signature of Voter) 1205

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF 1206
THE FIFTH DEGREE." 1207

The board shall mail with the ballots and the unsealed 1208
identification envelope an unsealed return envelope upon the 1209
face of which shall be printed the post-office address of the 1210
board. In the upper left corner on the face of the return 1211
envelope, several blank lines shall be printed upon which the 1212
voter may write the voter's name and return address. The return 1213
envelope shall be of such size that the identification envelope 1214
can be conveniently placed within it for returning the 1215
identification envelope to the board. 1216

No public office, and no public official or employee who 1217
is acting in an official capacity, shall prepay the return 1218
postage for any absent voter's ballots. 1219

Except as otherwise provided in this section and in 1220
sections 3505.24 and 3509.08 of the Revised Code, an election 1221
official shall not fill out any portion of an identification 1222
envelope statement of voter or an absent voter's ballot on 1223
behalf of an elector. A board of elections may preprint only an 1224
elector's name and address on an identification envelope 1225
statement of voter before mailing absent voter's ballots to the 1226
elector, except that if the elector has a confidential voter 1227
registration record, as described in section 111.44 of the 1228

Revised Code, the board of elections shall not preprint the 1229
elector's address on the identification envelope statement of 1230
voter. 1231

Sec. 3509.05. (A) When an elector receives an absent 1232
voter's ballot pursuant to the elector's application or request, 1233
the elector shall, before placing any marks on the ballot, note 1234
whether there are any voting marks on it. If there are any 1235
voting marks, the ballot shall be returned immediately to the 1236
board of elections; otherwise, the elector shall cause the 1237
ballot to be marked, folded in a manner that the stub on it and 1238
the indorsements and facsimile signatures of the members of the 1239
board of elections on the back of it are visible, and placed and 1240
sealed within the identification envelope received from the 1241
board of elections for that purpose. Then, the elector shall 1242
cause the statement of voter on the outside of the 1243
identification envelope to be completed and signed, under 1244
penalty of election falsification. 1245

~~(B)~~ (B) (1) The elector shall provide one of the following: 1246

~~(1)~~ (a) The elector's Ohio driver's license or state 1247
identification card number on the statement of voter on the 1248
identification envelope; 1249

~~(2)~~ (b) The last four digits of the elector's social 1250
security number on the statement of voter on the identification 1251
envelope; 1252

~~(3) A copy of the elector's photo identification in the~~ 1253
~~return envelope with the identification envelope.~~ 1254

(2) The elector shall enclose one of the following in the 1255
return envelope with the identification envelope: 1256

(a) A copy of the elector's photo identification; 1257

(b) A completed affidavit of religious objection to being 1258
photographed, as described in section 3505.19 of the Revised 1259
Code. 1260

(C) (1) The elector shall mail the identification envelope 1261
to the office of the board of elections in the return envelope, 1262
postage prepaid, or the elector may personally deliver it to the 1263
office of the board, or the spouse of the elector, the father, 1264
mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, 1265
brother, or sister of the whole or half blood, or the son, 1266
daughter, adopting parent, adopted child, stepparent, stepchild, 1267
uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece of the elector may deliver it to 1268
the office of the board. The return envelope shall be returned 1269
by no other person, in no other manner, and to no other 1270
location, except as otherwise provided in section 3509.08 of the 1271
Revised Code. 1272

(2) If the board maintains multiple offices in the county, 1273
as permitted under division (C) of section 3501.10 of the 1274
Revised Code, the board may designate any of its offices for the 1275
return of absent voter's ballots under this section, provided 1276
that the board shall designate only one office to which absent 1277
voter's ballots shall be returned under this section. 1278

(3) (a) The board of elections may place not more than one 1279
secure receptacle outside the office of the board, on the 1280
property on which the office of the board is located, for the 1281
purpose of receiving absent voter's ballots under this section. 1282

(b) A secure receptacle shall be open to receive ballots 1283
only during the period beginning on the first day after the 1284
close of voter registration before the election and ending at 1285
seven-thirty p.m. on the day of the election. The receptacle 1286
shall be open to receive ballots at all times during that 1287

period. 1288

(c) A secure receptacle shall be monitored by recorded 1289
video surveillance at all times. The video recordings are a 1290
public record. The board shall do one of the following: 1291

(i) Make the video recordings available for inspection 1292
upon request in accordance with section 149.43 of the Revised 1293
Code. 1294

(ii) Make each day's video recording available to the 1295
public on the internet for streaming or download without charge 1296
within seventy-two hours after the recording ends and make the 1297
video recordings available to the public upon request in 1298
accordance with section 149.43 of the Revised Code. 1299

(d) Only a bipartisan team of election officials may open 1300
a secure receptacle or handle its contents. A bipartisan team of 1301
election officials shall collect the contents of each secure 1302
receptacle and deliver them to the board for processing at least 1303
once each day and at seven-thirty p.m. on the day of the 1304
election. If, at seven-thirty p.m. on the day of the election, 1305
there are persons waiting in line to deposit absent voter's 1306
ballots in a receptacle, those persons shall be permitted to 1307
deposit the ballots. 1308

(4) (a) During the period beginning on the forty-fifth day 1309
before election day and ending on the day after election day, on 1310
each day the office of the board of elections is open for 1311
business, the board shall report to the secretary of state all 1312
of the following information concerning the previous business 1313
day: 1314

(i) The number of return envelopes purporting to contain 1315
absent voter's ballots or uniformed services or overseas absent 1316

voter's ballots the board received by personal delivery, other 1317
than to a receptacle described in division (C) (3) of this 1318
section; 1319

(ii) If the board has placed a secure receptacle outside 1320
the office of the board under division (C) (3) of this section, 1321
the number of return envelopes purporting to contain absent 1322
voter's ballots or uniformed services or overseas absent voter's 1323
ballots the board received in the receptacle. 1324

(b) As soon as practicable after receiving a report under 1325
division (C) (4) (a) of this section, the secretary of state shall 1326
make the information in the report available to the public on 1327
the secretary of state's official web site. 1328

(D) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (D) (2) of 1329
this section, all envelopes containing marked absent voter's 1330
ballots shall be delivered to the office of the board not later 1331
than the close of the polls on the day of an election. Absent 1332
voter's ballots delivered to the office of the board later than 1333
the times specified shall not be counted, but shall be kept by 1334
the board in the sealed identification envelopes in which they 1335
are delivered, until the time provided by section 3505.31 of the 1336
Revised Code for the destruction of all other ballots used at 1337
the election for which ballots were provided, at which time they 1338
shall be destroyed. 1339

(2) (a) Except as otherwise provided in division (D) (2) (b) 1340
of this section, any return envelope that is postmarked prior to 1341
the day of the election shall be delivered to the director prior 1342
to the fifth day after the election. Ballots delivered in 1343
envelopes postmarked prior to the day of the election that are 1344
received after the close of the polls on election day through 1345
the fourth day thereafter shall be counted on the fifth day at 1346

the board of elections in the manner provided in divisions (C) 1347
and (D) of section 3509.06 of the Revised Code or in the manner 1348
provided in division (E) of that section, as applicable. Any 1349
such ballots that are received by the director later than the 1350
fourth day following the election shall not be counted, but 1351
shall be kept by the board in the sealed identification 1352
envelopes as provided in division (A) of this section. 1353

(b) Division (D)(2)(a) of this section shall not apply to 1354
any mail that is postmarked using a postage evidencing system, 1355
including a postage meter, as defined in 39 C.F.R. 501.1. 1356

Sec. 3509.06. (A) The board of elections shall determine 1357
whether absent voter's ballots cast under section 3503.16, 1358
3509.05, 3509.08, or 3511.09 of the Revised Code shall be 1359
processed and counted in each precinct, at the office of the 1360
board, or at some other location designated by the board, and 1361
shall proceed accordingly under division (B), (C), or (E) of 1362
this section, as applicable. 1363

(B)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (B)(2) of 1364
this section, when the board of elections determines that those 1365
absent voter's ballots shall be processed and counted in each 1366
precinct, the board shall deliver to the voting location manager 1367
of each precinct on election day identification envelopes 1368
purporting to contain absent voter's ballots of electors whose 1369
voting residence appears from the statement of voter on the 1370
outside of each of those envelopes, to be located in that 1371
manager's precinct, and which were received by the board not 1372
later than the close of the polls on election day. The board 1373
shall deliver to the voting location manager a list containing 1374
the name and voting residence of each person whose voting 1375
residence is in such precinct to whom absent voter's ballots 1376

were mailed. 1377

(2) The board shall not deliver to the voting location 1378
manager identification envelopes cast by electors who provided a 1379
program participant identification number instead of a residence 1380
address on the identification envelope and shall not inform the 1381
voting location manager of the names and voting residences of 1382
persons who have confidential voter registration records. Those 1383
identification envelopes shall be examined and processed as 1384
described in division (E) of this section. 1385

(C) When the board of elections determines that those 1386
absent voter's ballots shall be processed and counted at the 1387
office of the board of elections or at another location 1388
designated by the board, special election officials shall be 1389
appointed by the board for that purpose having the same 1390
authority as is exercised by precinct election officials. The 1391
votes so cast shall be added to the vote totals by the board, 1392
and the absent voter's ballots shall be preserved separately by 1393
the board, in the same manner and for the same length of time as 1394
provided by section 3505.31 of the Revised Code. 1395

(D) Each of the identification envelopes purporting to 1396
contain absent voter's ballots delivered to the voting location 1397
manager of the precinct or the special election official 1398
appointed by the board of elections shall be handled as follows: 1399

(1) The election officials shall compare the signature of 1400
the elector on the outside of the identification envelope with 1401
the signature of that elector on the elector's registration form 1402
and verify that the absent voter's ballot is eligible to be 1403
counted under section 3509.07 of the Revised Code. 1404

(2) (a) Any of the precinct officials may challenge the 1405

right of the elector named on the identification envelope to 1406
vote the absent voter's ballots upon the ground that the 1407
signature on the envelope is not the same as the signature on 1408
the registration form, that the identification envelope 1409
statement of voter is incomplete, that the ballots are invalid 1410
under section 3509.07 of the Revised Code, or upon any other of 1411
the grounds upon which the right of persons to vote may be 1412
lawfully challenged. 1413

(b) If the elector's name does not appear in the pollbook 1414
or poll list or signature pollbook, the precinct officials shall 1415
deliver the absent voter's ballots to the director of the board 1416
of elections to be examined and processed in the manner 1417
described in division (E) of this section. 1418

(3) (a) An identification envelope statement of voter shall 1419
be considered incomplete if it does not include all of the 1420
following: 1421

(i) The voter's name ~~is~~ as it appears on the voter's Ohio 1422
driver's license or state identification card or, if the voter 1423
does not have an Ohio driver's license or state identification 1424
card, as it appears on the voter's social security card. The 1425
voter's name is considered complete if all of the following 1426
conditions are met: 1427

(I) Any difference in the first or middle name is due to 1428
the use of a formal, informal, or commonly recognized nickname 1429
version of the same name, whether on the identification envelope 1430
statement of voter or in the records of the bureau of motor 1431
vehicles or the social security administration. 1432

(II) The middle name and middle initial begin with the 1433
same letter. 1434

(III) The last name on the identification envelope 1435
statement of voter exactly matches the last name in the records 1436
of the bureau of motor vehicles or the social security 1437
administration. 1438

(ii) The voter's residence address or, if the voter has a 1439
confidential voter registration record, as described in section 1440
111.44 of the Revised Code, the voter's program participant 1441
identification number; 1442

(iii) The voter's date of birth. The requirements of this 1443
division are satisfied if the voter provided a date of birth and 1444
any of the following is true: 1445

(I) The month and day of the voter's date of birth on the 1446
identification envelope statement of voter are not different 1447
from the month and day of the voter's date of birth contained in 1448
the statewide voter registration database. 1449

(II) The voter's date of birth contained in the statewide 1450
voter registration database is January 1, 1800. 1451

(III) The board of elections has found, by a vote of at 1452
least three of its members, that the voter has met the 1453
requirements of divisions (D) (3) (a) (i), (ii), (iv), and (v) of 1454
this section. 1455

(iv) The voter's signature; ~~and~~ 1456

(v) ~~One of the following forms of identification:~~ 1457

~~(I) The voter's Ohio driver's license or state~~ 1458
~~identification card number;~~ 1459

~~(II) The~~ if the voter has one, or if the voter does not 1460
have an Ohio driver's license or state identification card, the 1461
last four digits of the voter's social security number; ~~or~~ 1462

~~(III)~~-(vi) A copy of the voter's photo identification or a 1463
valid affidavit of religious objection to being photographed, as 1464
described in section 3505.19 of the Revised Code. 1465

(b) If the election officials find that a copy of the 1466
voter's photo identification or a valid affidavit of religious 1467
objection to being photographed is not enclosed, that the 1468
identification envelope statement of voter is incomplete, or 1469
that the information contained in that statement does not 1470
conform to the enclosed copy of the voter's photo identification 1471
or the affidavit of religious objection to being photographed or 1472
to the information contained in the statewide voter registration 1473
database concerning the voter, the election officials shall mail 1474
a written notice to the voter, informing the voter of the nature 1475
of the defect. The notice shall inform the voter that in order 1476
for the voter's ballot to be counted, the voter must provide the 1477
necessary information, identification, or affidavit to the board 1478
of elections ~~in writing and on a form prescribed by the~~ 1479
~~secretary of state~~ not later than the fourth day after the day 1480
of the election. The voter shall provide any necessary 1481
information in writing and on a form prescribed by the secretary 1482
of state. The voter may deliver the form, identification, or 1483
affidavit to the office of the board in person or by mail. If 1484
the voter provides the necessary information, identification, or 1485
affidavit to the board of elections not later than the fourth 1486
day after the day of the election and the ballot is not 1487
successfully challenged on another basis, the voter's ballot 1488
shall be processed and counted in accordance with this section. 1489

(4) If no such challenge is made, or if such a challenge 1490
is made and not sustained, the voting location manager shall 1491
open the envelope without defacing the statement of voter and 1492
without mutilating the ballots in it, and shall remove the 1493

ballots contained in it and proceed to count them. 1494

(5) (a) Except as otherwise provided in division (D) (5) (b) 1495
of this section, the name of each person voting who is entitled 1496
to vote only an absent voter's presidential ballot shall be 1497
entered in a pollbook or poll list or signature pollbook 1498
followed by the words "Absentee Presidential Ballot." The name 1499
of each person voting an absent voter's ballot, other than such 1500
persons entitled to vote only a presidential ballot, shall be 1501
entered in the pollbook or poll list or signature pollbook and 1502
the person's registration card marked to indicate that the 1503
person has voted. 1504

(b) If the person voting has a confidential voter 1505
registration record, the person's registration card shall be 1506
marked to indicate that the person has voted, but the person's 1507
name shall not be entered in the pollbook or poll list or 1508
signature pollbook. 1509

(6) The date of such election shall also be entered on the 1510
elector's registration form. If any such challenge is made and 1511
sustained, the identification envelope of such elector shall not 1512
be opened, shall be endorsed "Not Counted" with the reasons the 1513
ballots were not counted, and shall be delivered to the board. 1514

(E) (1) When the board of elections receives absent voter's 1515
ballots from an elector who has provided a program participant 1516
identification number instead of a residence address on the 1517
identification envelope statement of voter, the director and the 1518
deputy director personally shall examine and process the 1519
identification envelope statement of voter in the manner 1520
prescribed in division (D) of this section. 1521

(2) If the director and the deputy director find that the 1522

identification envelope statement of voter is incomplete or that 1523
the information contained in that statement does not conform to 1524
the information contained in the statewide voter registration 1525
database concerning the voter or to the information contained in 1526
the voter's confidential voter registration record, the director 1527
and the deputy director shall mail a written notice to the voter 1528
informing the voter of the nature of the defect. The notice 1529
shall inform the voter that in order for the voter's ballot to 1530
be counted the voter must provide the necessary information, 1531
identification, or affidavit to the board of elections ~~in-~~ 1532
~~writing and on a form prescribed by the secretary of state not~~ 1533
later than the fourth day after the day of the election. The 1534
voter shall provide any necessary information in writing and on 1535
a form prescribed by the secretary of state. The voter may 1536
deliver the form, identification, or affidavit to the office of 1537
the board in person or by mail. If the voter provides the 1538
necessary information, identification, or affidavit to the board 1539
of elections not later than the fourth day after the day of the 1540
election and the ballot is not successfully challenged on 1541
another basis, the voter's ballot shall be counted in accordance 1542
with this section. 1543

(3) The director or the deputy director may challenge the 1544
ballot on the ground that the signature on the envelope is not 1545
the same as the signature on the registration form, that the 1546
identification envelope statement of voter is incomplete, or 1547
upon any other of the grounds upon which the right of persons to 1548
vote may be lawfully challenged. If such a challenge is made, 1549
the board of elections shall decide whether to sustain the 1550
challenge. 1551

(4) If neither the director nor the deputy director 1552
challenges the ballot, or if such a challenge is made and not 1553

sustained, the director and the deputy director shall open the 1554
envelope without defacing the statement of voter and without 1555
mutilating the ballots in it, shall remove the ballots contained 1556
in it, and shall transmit the ballots to the election officials 1557
to be counted with other absent voter's ballots from that 1558
precinct. 1559

(F) The board of elections shall process absent voter's 1560
ballots before the time for counting those ballots, but the 1561
board shall not tabulate or count the votes on those ballots 1562
before that time. As used in this section and section 3511.11 of 1563
the Revised Code, processing an absent voter's ballot means all 1564
of the following: 1565

(1) Examining the identification envelope statement of 1566
voter in order to verify that the absent voter's ballot is 1567
eligible to be counted under section 3509.07 of the Revised 1568
Code; 1569

(2) Opening the identification envelope, if the absent 1570
voter's ballot is eligible to be counted; 1571

(3) Determining the validity of the absent voter's ballot 1572
under section 3509.07 of the Revised Code; 1573

(4) Preparing and sorting the absent voter's ballot for 1574
scanning by automatic tabulating equipment; 1575

(5) Scanning the absent voter's ballot by automatic 1576
tabulating equipment, if the equipment used by the board of 1577
elections permits an absent voter's ballot to be scanned without 1578
tabulating or counting the votes on the ballots scanned. 1579

(G) Special election officials, employees or members of 1580
the board of elections, or observers shall not disclose the 1581
count or any portion of the count of absent voter's ballots 1582

prior to the time of the closing of the polling places. No 1583
person shall recklessly disclose the count or any portion of the 1584
count of absent voter's ballots in such a manner as to 1585
jeopardize the secrecy of any individual ballot. 1586

(H) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (H) (2) of 1587
this section, observers may be appointed under section 3505.21 1588
of the Revised Code to witness the examination and opening of 1589
identification envelopes and the processing and counting of 1590
absent voters' ballots under this section. 1591

(2) Observers shall not be permitted to witness the 1592
examination and opening of identification envelopes returned by, 1593
and the processing and counting of absent voter's ballots cast 1594
by, electors who have confidential voter registration records in 1595
a manner that would permit the observers to learn the identities 1596
or residence addresses of those electors. 1597

Sec. 3509.07. If election officials find that any of the 1598
following are true concerning an absent voter's ballot or absent 1599
voter's presidential ballot cast under section 3503.16, 3509.05, 1600
3509.08, or 3511.09 of the Revised Code and, if applicable, the 1601
person did not provide any required additional information, 1602
identification, or affidavit to the board of elections not later 1603
than the fourth day after the day of the election, as permitted 1604
under division (D) (3) (b) or (E) (2) of section 3509.06 of the 1605
Revised Code, the ballot shall not be accepted or counted: 1606

(A) The statement accompanying the ballot is incomplete as 1607
described in division (D) (3) (a) of section 3509.06 of the 1608
Revised Code or is insufficient; 1609

(B) The signatures do not correspond with the person's 1610
registration signature; 1611

(C) The applicant is not a qualified elector in the 1612
precinct; 1613

(D) The ballot envelope contains more than one ballot of 1614
any one kind, or any voted ballot that the elector is not 1615
entitled to vote; 1616

(E) Stub A is detached from the absent voter's ballot or 1617
absent voter's presidential ballot; or 1618

(F) The elector has not included with the elector's ballot 1619
~~any the~~ identification required under section 3509.05 or 3511.09 1620
of the Revised Code. 1621

The vote of any absent voter may be challenged for cause 1622
in the same manner as other votes are challenged, and the 1623
election officials shall determine the legality of that ballot. 1624
Every ballot not counted shall be endorsed on its back "Not 1625
Counted" with the reasons the ballot was not counted, and shall 1626
be enclosed and returned to or retained by the board of 1627
elections along with the contested ballots. 1628

Sec. 3509.08. (A) Any qualified elector, who, on account 1629
of the elector's own personal illness, physical disability, or 1630
infirmity, or on account of the elector's confinement in a jail 1631
or workhouse under sentence for a misdemeanor or awaiting trial 1632
on a felony or misdemeanor, will be unable to travel from the 1633
elector's home or place of confinement to the voting booth in 1634
the elector's precinct on the day of any general, special, or 1635
primary election may make application in writing for an absent 1636
voter's ballot to the board of elections of the elector's county 1637
in the manner described in section 3509.03 of the Revised Code. 1638
The application shall state the nature of the elector's illness, 1639
physical disability, or infirmity, or the fact that the elector 1640

is confined in a jail or workhouse and the elector's resultant 1641
inability to travel to the election booth in the elector's 1642
precinct on election day. 1643

The absent voter's ballot may be mailed directly to the 1644
applicant at the applicant's voting residence or place of 1645
confinement as stated in the applicant's application, or the 1646
board may designate two board employees belonging to the two 1647
major political parties for the purpose of delivering the ballot 1648
to the disabled or confined elector and returning it to the 1649
board, unless the applicant is confined to a public or private 1650
institution within the county, in which case the board shall 1651
designate two board employees belonging to the two major 1652
political parties for the purpose of delivering the ballot to 1653
the disabled or confined elector and returning it to the board. 1654
In all other instances, the ballot shall be returned to the 1655
office of the board in the manner prescribed in section 3509.05 1656
of the Revised Code. 1657

Any disabled or confined elector who declares to the two 1658
board employees belonging to the two major political parties 1659
that the elector is unable to mark the elector's ballot by 1660
reason of physical infirmity that is apparent to the employees 1661
to be sufficient to incapacitate the voter from marking the 1662
elector's ballot properly, may receive, upon request, the 1663
assistance of the employees in marking the elector's ballot, and 1664
they shall thereafter give no information in regard to this 1665
matter. Such assistance shall not be rendered for any other 1666
cause. 1667

When two board employees belonging to the two major 1668
political parties deliver a ballot to a disabled or confined 1669
elector, each of the employees shall be present when the ballot 1670

is delivered, when assistance is given, and when the ballot is 1671
returned to the office of the board, and shall subscribe to the 1672
declaration on the identification envelope. 1673

The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of 1674
application for absent voter's ballots under this division. 1675

This chapter applies to disabled and confined absent 1676
voter's ballots except as otherwise provided in this section. 1677

(B) (1) Any qualified elector who is unable to travel to 1678
the voting booth in the elector's precinct on the day of any 1679
general, special, or primary election may apply to the board of 1680
elections of the county where the elector is a qualified elector 1681
to vote in the election by absent voter's ballot if either of 1682
the following apply: 1683

(a) The elector is confined in a hospital as a result of 1684
an accident or unforeseeable medical emergency occurring before 1685
the election; 1686

(b) The elector's minor child is confined in a hospital as 1687
a result of an accident or unforeseeable medical emergency 1688
occurring before the election. 1689

(2) The application authorized under division (B) (1) of 1690
this section shall be made in writing in the manner described in 1691
section 3509.03 of the Revised Code, except that the application 1692
shall be delivered to the office of the board not later than 1693
three p.m. on the day of the election. The application shall 1694
indicate the hospital where the applicant or the applicant's 1695
child is confined, the date of the applicant's or the 1696
applicant's child's admission to the hospital, and the offices 1697
for which the applicant is qualified to vote. The applicant may 1698
also request that a member of the applicant's family, as listed 1699

in section 3509.05 of the Revised Code, deliver the absent 1700
voter's ballot to the applicant. The board, after establishing 1701
to the board's satisfaction the validity of the circumstances 1702
claimed by the applicant, shall supply an absent voter's ballot 1703
to be delivered to the applicant. When the applicant or the 1704
applicant's child is in a hospital in the county where the 1705
applicant is a qualified elector and no request is made for a 1706
member of the family to deliver the ballot, the board shall 1707
arrange for the delivery of an absent voter's ballot to the 1708
applicant, and for its return to the office of the board, by two 1709
board employees belonging to the two major political parties 1710
according to the procedures prescribed in division (A) of this 1711
section. When the applicant or the applicant's child is in a 1712
hospital outside the county where the applicant is a qualified 1713
elector and no request is made for a member of the family to 1714
deliver the ballot, the board shall arrange for the delivery of 1715
an absent voter's ballot to the applicant by mail, and the 1716
ballot shall be returned to the office of the board in the 1717
manner prescribed in section 3509.05 of the Revised Code. 1718

(3) Any qualified elector who is eligible to vote under 1719
division (B) or (C) of section 3503.16 of the Revised Code but 1720
is unable to do so because of the circumstances described in 1721
division (B)(2) of this section may vote in accordance with 1722
division (B)(1) of this section if that qualified elector states 1723
in the application for absent voter's ballots that that 1724
qualified elector moved or had a change of name under the 1725
circumstances described in division (B) or (C) of section 1726
3503.16 of the Revised Code and if that qualified elector 1727
complies with divisions (G)(1) to (4) of section 3503.16 of the 1728
Revised Code. 1729

(C) Any qualified elector described in division (A) or (B) 1730

(1) of this section who needs no assistance to vote or to return
absent voter's ballots to the board of elections may apply for
absent voter's ballots under section 3509.03 of the Revised Code
instead of applying for them under this section or may cast
absent voter's ballots in person under section 3509.051 of the
Revised Code.

(D) Any qualified elector described in division (A) or (B)
(1) of this section to whom ballots are delivered by two
employees of the board of elections or who votes with the
assistance of two employees of the board of elections shall be
considered to have cast absent voter's ballots by mail, rather
than in person, for the purpose of the laws governing voter
identification. The board of elections shall provide its
employees who deliver ballots to electors under this section
with appropriate equipment to provide to an elector, without
charge, a copy of the elector's photo identification for the
purpose of casting absent voter's ballots under this section.

Sec. 3509.11. Upon request made in person by an elector,
all of the following shall provide to the elector, without
charge, a copy of the elector's photo identification for the
purpose of casting absent voter's ballots by mail:

(A) The secretary of state;

(B) A board of elections;

(C) The registrar of motor vehicles or a deputy registrar;

(D) A designated agency;

(E) A public high school or vocational school;

(F) A public library;

(G) A county treasurer.

Sec. 3511.05. (A) The board of elections shall place 1759
uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots sent by 1760
mail in an unsealed identification envelope, gummed ready for 1761
sealing. The board shall include with uniformed services or 1762
overseas absent voter's ballots sent electronically, including 1763
by facsimile machine, an instruction sheet for preparing a 1764
gummed envelope in which the ballots shall be returned. The 1765
envelope for returning ballots sent by either means shall have 1766
printed or written on its face a form substantially as follows: 1767

"Identification Envelope Statement of Voter 1768

I, _____ (Name of voter as it appears on 1769
the voter's Ohio driver's license or state identification card 1770
or, if the voter does not have one, on the voter's social 1771
security card), declare under penalty of election falsification 1772
that the within ballot or ballots contained no voting marks of 1773
any kind when I received them, and I caused the ballot or 1774
ballots to be marked, enclosed in the identification envelope, 1775
and sealed in that envelope. 1776

My voting residence in Ohio is 1777

_____ 1778

(Street and Number, if any, or Rural Route and Number) 1779
of _____ (City, Village, or Township) 1780
Ohio, which is in Ward _____ Precinct _____ 1781
in that city, village, or township. 1782

If I have a confidential voter registration record, I am 1783
providing my program participant identification number instead 1784
of my residence address: _____ 1785

The primary election ballots, if any, within this envelope 1786

are primary election ballots of the _____ Party. 1787

Ballots contained within this envelope are to be voted at 1788
the _____ (general, special, or primary) election to be 1789
held on the _____ day of 1790
_____, 1791

My date of birth is _____ (Month and Day), 1792
_____ (Year). 1793

(Voter must provide one of the following:) 1794

My Ohio driver's license or state identification card 1795
number is _____ (Driver's license or state 1796
identification card number). 1797

I do not have an Ohio driver's license or state 1798
identification card. The last four digits of my Social Security 1799
Number are _____ (Last four digits of Social Security 1800
Number). 1801

(Voter must provide one of the following:) 1802

~~_____ In lieu of providing a driver's license or state~~ 1803
~~identification card number or the last four digits of my Social~~ 1804
~~Security Number,~~ I am enclosing a legible paper copy of the 1805
front and back of my photo identification in the return envelope 1806
in which this identification envelope will be mailed. Acceptable 1807
photo identification is an Ohio driver's license, state 1808
identification card, or interim identification form issued by 1809
the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, a United States passport or 1810
passport card, a United States military identification card, an 1811
Ohio National Guard identification card, or a United States 1812
Department of Veterans Affairs identification card. Your photo 1813
identification must include your name and photograph and must 1814
not be expired. 1815

ENCLOSE A **COPY** OF YOUR PHOTO ID, NOT THE ORIGINAL PHOTO ID

1816

I am enclosing a completed affidavit of religious
objection to being photographed in the return envelope in which
this identification envelope will be mailed.

1817

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1819

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

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1821

1822

(Signature of Voter)

1823

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

1824

1825

(B) The board shall also mail with the ballots and the
unsealed identification envelope sent by mail an unsealed return
envelope, gummed, ready for sealing, for use by the voter in
returning the voter's marked ballots to the office of the board.
The board shall send with the ballots and the instruction sheet
for preparing a gummed envelope sent electronically, including
by facsimile machine, an instruction sheet for preparing a
second gummed envelope as described in this division, for use by
the voter in returning that voter's marked ballots to the board.
The return envelope shall have two parallel lines, each one
quarter of an inch in width, printed across its face paralleling
the top, with an intervening space of one quarter of an inch
between such lines. The top line shall be one and one-quarter
inches from the top of the envelope. Between the parallel lines
shall be printed: "OFFICIAL ELECTION UNIFORMED SERVICES OR
OVERSEAS ABSENT VOTER'S BALLOTS -- VIA AIR MAIL." Three blank
lines shall be printed in the upper left corner on the face of
the envelope for the use by the voter in placing the voter's
complete military, naval, or mailing address on these lines. The

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post-office address of the office of the board shall be printed 1845
on the face of such envelope in the lower right portion below 1846
the bottom parallel line. 1847

(C) On the back of each identification envelope and each 1848
return envelope shall be printed the following: 1849

"Instructions to voter: 1850

If the flap on this envelope is so firmly stuck to the 1851
back of the envelope when received by you as to require forcible 1852
opening in order to use it, open the envelope in the manner 1853
least injurious to it, and, after marking your ballots and 1854
enclosing same in the envelope for mailing them to the board of 1855
elections, reclose the envelope in the most practicable way, by 1856
sealing or otherwise, and sign the blank form printed below. 1857

The flap on this envelope was firmly stuck to the back of 1858
the envelope when received, and required forced opening before 1859
sealing and mailing. 1860

_____ 1861

(Signature of voter)" 1862

(D) Division (C) of this section does not apply when 1863
absent voter's ballots are sent electronically, including by 1864
facsimile machine. 1865

(E) Except as otherwise provided in this division and in 1866
sections 3505.24 and 3509.08 of the Revised Code, an election 1867
official shall not fill out any portion of an identification 1868
envelope statement of voter or an absent voter's ballot on 1869
behalf of an elector. A board of elections may preprint only an 1870
elector's name and address on an identification envelope 1871
statement of voter before mailing or electronically transmitting 1872

absent voter's ballots to the elector, except that if the
elector has a confidential voter registration record, as
described in section 111.44 of the Revised Code, the board of
elections shall not preprint the elector's address on the
identification envelope statement of voter.

Sec. 3511.09. (A) 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
shall sign the identification envelope not later than the close
of the polls on the day of the election. The elector then shall
cause the identification envelope to be placed within the return
envelope, sealed in the return envelope, and mailed to the board
of elections to which it is addressed.

~~(B)~~ (B) (1) The elector shall provide one of the following:

~~(1)~~ (a) The elector's Ohio driver's license or state
identification card number on the statement of voter on the
identification envelope;

~~(2)~~ (b) The last four digits of the elector's social
security number on the statement of voter on the identification

envelope+ 1903

~~(3) A copy of the elector's photo identification in the~~ 1904
~~return envelope with the identification envelope.~~ 1905

(2) The elector shall enclose one of the following in the 1906
return envelope with the identification envelope: 1907

(a) A copy of the elector's photo identification; 1908

(b) A completed affidavit of religious objection to being 1909
photographed, as described in section 3505.19 of the Revised 1910
Code. 1911

(C) Every uniformed services or overseas absent voter's 1912
ballot identification envelope shall be accompanied by the 1913
following statement in boldface capital letters: WHOEVER COMMITS 1914
ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH 1915
DEGREE. 1916

(D) The elector shall cause the uniformed services or 1917
overseas absent voter's ballots to be returned to the office of 1918
the board of elections in a manner described in division (C) of 1919
section 3509.05 of the Revised Code, provided that the elector 1920
shall not be required to prepay the postage on the return 1921
envelope if, under 39 U.S.C. 3406, no postage is required. 1922

Sec. 4501.023. (A) The registrar of motor vehicles shall 1923
designate an employee of the bureau of motor vehicles to be in 1924
charge of and responsible for voter registration within the 1925
bureau. Each deputy registrar of motor vehicles shall designate 1926
an employee in that deputy registrar's office to be in charge of 1927
and responsible for voter registration within that office. 1928

(B) The registrar shall provide, in cooperation with the 1929
secretary of state, a training program and materials for initial 1930

training in voter registration and for ongoing training for all 1931
deputy registrars and their employees. 1932

(C) The registrar shall report to the secretary of state 1933
at least once annually the number of applicants for licenses 1934
served and the number of voter registration transactions 1935
completed and transmitted to the board of elections by the 1936
registrar and all deputy registrars. 1937

(D) The registrar shall manage a homebound identification 1938
program in order to provide an identification card to an 1939
individual who is unable to travel to a deputy registrar office 1940
because of confinement, a medical condition, or a disability. 1941
Through the program, a homebound individual may request that a 1942
representative of the department of public safety come to the 1943
individual's residence in order to verify the individual's 1944
identity and issue a physical identification card. 1945

Additionally, through the program, a homebound individual 1946
may request a copy of the individual's identification card 1947
without charge, in accordance with section 3509.11 of the 1948
Revised Code, in order to provide the required photo 1949
identification for the purpose of casting an absent voter's 1950
ballot by mail. 1951

Sec. 4507.01. (A) As used in this chapter, "motor 1952
vehicle," "motorized bicycle," "state," "owner," "operator," 1953
"chauffeur," and "highways" have the same meanings as in section 1954
4501.01 of the Revised Code. 1955

"Driver's license" means a class D license issued to any 1956
person to operate a motor vehicle or motor-driven cycle, other 1957
than a commercial motor vehicle, and includes "probationary 1958
license," "restricted license," "limited term license," and any 1959

operator's or chauffeur's license issued before January 1, 1990.	1960
"Probationary license" means the license issued to any	1961
person between sixteen and eighteen years of age to operate a	1962
motor vehicle.	1963
"Restricted license" means the license issued to any	1964
person to operate a motor vehicle subject to conditions or	1965
restrictions imposed by the registrar of motor vehicles.	1966
"Commercial driver's license" means the license issued to	1967
a person under Chapter 4506. of the Revised Code to operate a	1968
commercial motor vehicle.	1969
"Commercial motor vehicle" has the same meaning as in	1970
section 4506.01 of the Revised Code.	1971
"Motorcycle operator's temporary instruction permit,	1972
license, or endorsement" includes a temporary instruction	1973
permit, license, or endorsement for a motor-driven cycle or	1974
motor scooter unless otherwise specified.	1975
"Motorized bicycle license" means the license issued under	1976
section 4511.521 of the Revised Code to any person to operate a	1977
motorized bicycle including a "probationary motorized bicycle	1978
license."	1979
"Probationary motorized bicycle license" means the license	1980
issued under section 4511.521 of the Revised Code to any person	1981
between fourteen and sixteen years of age to operate a motorized	1982
bicycle.	1983
"Identification card" means a card issued under sections	1984
4507.50 to 4507.52 of the Revised Code.	1985
"Resident" means a person who, in accordance with	1986
standards prescribed in rules adopted by the registrar, resides	1987

in this state on a permanent basis. 1988

"Temporary resident" means a person who, in accordance 1989
with standards prescribed in rules adopted by the registrar, 1990
resides in this state on a temporary basis. 1991

"Photo identification" and "copy" of an individual's photo 1992
identification have the same meanings as in section 3501.01 of 1993
the Revised Code. 1994

(B) In the administration of this chapter and Chapter 1995
4506. of the Revised Code, the registrar has the same authority 1996
as is conferred on the registrar by section 4501.02 of the 1997
Revised Code. Any act of an authorized deputy registrar of motor 1998
vehicles under direction of the registrar is deemed the act of 1999
the registrar. 2000

To carry out this chapter, the registrar shall appoint 2001
such deputy registrars in each county as are necessary. 2002

The registrar also shall provide at each place where an 2003
application for a driver's or commercial driver's license or 2004
identification card may be made the necessary equipment to take 2005
a photograph of the applicant for such license or card as 2006
required under section 4506.11 or 4507.06 of the Revised Code, 2007
to provide a copy of an individual's photo identification as 2008
required under section 3509.11 of the Revised Code, and to 2009
conduct the vision screenings required by section 4507.12 of the 2010
Revised Code. 2011

The registrar shall assign one or more deputy registrars 2012
to any driver's license examining station operated under the 2013
supervision of the director of public safety, whenever the 2014
registrar considers such assignment possible. Space shall be 2015
provided in the driver's license examining station for any such 2016

deputy registrar so assigned. The deputy registrars shall not 2017
exercise the powers conferred by such sections upon the 2018
registrar, unless they are specifically authorized to exercise 2019
such powers by such sections. 2020

(C) No agent for any insurance company, writing automobile 2021
insurance, shall be appointed deputy registrar, and any such 2022
appointment is void. No deputy registrar shall in any manner 2023
solicit any form of automobile insurance, nor in any manner 2024
advise, suggest, or influence any licensee or applicant for 2025
license for or against any kind or type of automobile insurance, 2026
insurance company, or agent, nor have the deputy registrar's 2027
office directly connected with the office of any automobile 2028
insurance agent, nor impart any information furnished by any 2029
applicant for a license or identification card to any person, 2030
except the registrar. This division shall not apply to any 2031
nonprofit corporation appointed deputy registrar. 2032

(D) The registrar shall immediately remove a deputy 2033
registrar who violates the requirements of this chapter. 2034

Section 2. That existing sections 3375.011, 3501.01, 2035
3503.10, 3503.11, 3503.13, 3503.15, 3503.153, 3503.19, 3503.20, 2036
3503.28, 3505.19, 3509.04, 3509.05, 3509.06, 3509.07, 3509.08, 2037
3511.05, 3511.09, 4501.023, and 4507.01 of the Revised Code are 2038
hereby repealed. 2039