

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 619**

**Representative Lorenz**

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To amend section 3501.09 of the Revised Code to 1  
authorize a board of elections to conduct 2  
meetings by video conference or any other 3  
similar electronic technology. 4

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

**Section 1.** That section 3501.09 of the Revised Code be 5  
amended to read as follows: 6

**Sec. 3501.09.** (A) Biennially, within five days after the 7  
appointments to the board of elections are made by the secretary 8  
of state, the members of the board shall meet and organize by 9  
selecting one of their number as chairperson, who shall preside 10  
at all meetings. They shall, upon careful consideration of each 11  
such person's qualifications, select a resident elector of the 12  
county, other than a member of the board, as director, and a 13  
resident elector of the county as deputy director. All such 14  
officers shall continue in office, at the pleasure of the board, 15  
for two years. The balloting for such officers shall commence on 16  
the day of the convening and be taken until such organization is 17  
effected or five ballots have been cast. The director shall 18  
first be selected by the votes of at least three members. If, 19  
after five ballots, no person is agreed upon as director, the 20  
names of all persons voted for on the fifth ballot, together 21

with the names of the board members who nominated them, shall be 22  
certified to the secretary of state, who shall designate 23  
therefrom one of such persons to serve as director, unless the 24  
secretary of state has reason to believe that no person 25  
nominated is qualified. In this case the secretary of state 26  
shall so state in writing to the board, and the board shall 27  
nominate other persons, in the manner in which the original 28  
persons were nominated, and select from those nominated another 29  
person as director. If, after five ballots, no person is agreed 30  
upon as director, the names of all persons voted for on the 31  
fifth ballot, together with the names of the board members who 32  
nominated them, shall be certified to the secretary of state, 33  
who shall designate therefrom one of such nominees to serve as 34  
director and another such nominee to serve as deputy director. 35  
If the board fails to nominate another person as director, the 36  
office shall be filled in accordance with the procedures of 37  
section 3501.16 of the Revised Code. 38

(B) The director and deputy director shall be of opposite 39  
political parties, and each such officer shall have been 40  
nominated by a board member of the political party to which 41  
~~he~~the officer belongs, but the board may decide by the 42  
affirmative vote of at least three members that the services of 43  
a deputy director are unnecessary and such deputy director then 44  
shall not be employed. After the selection of the director and 45  
deputy director, the ~~chairman~~chairperson shall be selected from 46  
the members of the board of opposite politics to that of the 47  
director. If, upon the first ballot, no person is agreed upon as 48  
~~chairman~~chairperson, the member of opposite politics to the 49  
director having the shortest term to serve shall be ~~chairman~~ 50  
chairperson, and shall preside at all meetings. When such 51  
organization is perfected, the director shall forthwith report 52

it to the secretary of state. 53

(C) Notwithstanding division (B) (3) (e) (iv) of section 54  
121.221 of the Revised Code, a board of elections may conduct a 55  
meeting through means of video conference or any other similar 56  
electronic technology provided that the meeting is otherwise 57  
conducted in accordance with section 121.221 of the Revised 58  
Code. 59

**Section 2.** That existing section 3501.09 of the Revised 60  
Code is hereby repealed. 61