

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

H. B. No. 752

Representative Lorenz

To amend sections 3501.06, 3501.07, 3501.08,  
3501.12, and 3501.15 and to enact section  
3501.111 of the Revised Code to prohibit a board  
of elections member or employee from being a  
member of a political party's state central  
committee and to create a conflict of interest  
procedure for the boards of elections.

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

**Section 1.** That sections 3501.06, 3501.07, 3501.08,  
3501.12, and 3501.15 be amended and section 3501.111 of the  
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

**Sec. 3501.06.** ~~(A)~~ (A) (1) There shall be in each county of  
the state a board of elections consisting of four ~~qualified~~  
~~electors of the county~~ members and two alternate members, who  
shall be appointed by the secretary of state in accordance with  
section 3501.07 of the Revised Code, as the secretary's  
representatives. Each member and alternate member of the board  
shall be a qualified elector of the county. Members of the board  
shall serve terms of four years and alternate members of the  
board shall serve terms of two years.

(2) Alternate members of the board shall serve only as

required under section 3501.111 of the Revised Code.

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(B) (1) On the first day of March in the years 2014 and  
2016, the secretary of state shall appoint two of such board  
members for a term of three years. One of those board members  
shall be from the political party which cast the highest number  
of votes for the office of governor at the most recent regular  
state election, and the other shall be from the political party  
which cast the next highest number of votes for the office of  
governor at such election.

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(2) Beginning in 2017, on the first day of March in odd-  
numbered years, the secretary of state shall appoint two of such  
board members for a term of four years. One of those board  
members shall be from the political party which cast the highest  
number of votes for the office of governor at the most recent  
regular state election, and the other shall be from the  
political party which cast the next highest number of votes for  
the office of governor at such election. Thereafter, all  
appointments of board members shall be made on the first day of  
March in odd-numbered years for a term of four years.

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(3) Beginning on the first day of March in an odd-numbered  
year after this amendment takes effect, and on the first day of  
March in each odd-numbered year thereafter, the secretary of  
state shall appoint two alternate members to the board to serve  
terms of two years. One alternate member shall be from the  
political party that cast the highest number of votes for the  
office of governor at the most recent regular state election,  
and the other shall be from the political party that cast the  
next highest number of votes for the office of governor at such  
election.

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(C) All vacancies filled for unexpired terms and all

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appointments to new terms shall be made from the political party 51  
to which the vacating or outgoing member belonged, unless there 52  
is a third political party which cast a greater number of votes 53  
in the state at the most recent regular state election for the 54  
office of governor than did the party to which the retiring 55  
member belonged, in which event the vacancy shall be filled from 56  
such third party. 57

**Sec. 3501.07.** At a meeting held not more than sixty nor 58  
less than fifteen days before the expiration date of the term of 59  
office of a member or alternate member of the board of 60  
elections, or within fifteen days after a vacancy occurs in the 61  
board, the county executive committee of the major political 62  
party entitled to the appointment may make and file a 63  
recommendation with the secretary of state for the appointment 64  
of a qualified elector. The secretary of state shall appoint 65  
such elector, unless the secretary of state has reason to 66  
believe that the elector would not be a competent member or 67  
alternate member of such board, as applicable. In such cases the 68  
secretary of state shall so state in writing to the chairperson 69  
of such county executive committee, with the reasons therefor, 70  
and such committee may either recommend another elector or may 71  
apply for a writ of mandamus to the supreme court to compel the 72  
secretary of state to appoint the elector so recommended. In 73  
such action the burden of proof to show the qualifications of 74  
the person so recommended shall be on the committee making the 75  
recommendation. If no such recommendation is made, the secretary 76  
of state shall make the appointment. 77

If a vacancy on the board of elections is to be filled by 78  
a minor political party, authorized officials of that party may 79  
within fifteen days after the vacancy occurs recommend a 80  
qualified person to the secretary of state for appointment to 81

such vacancy.

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This section does not apply to the appointment of a  
temporary alternate member under division (C) (2) of section  
3501.111 of the Revised Code.

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**Sec. 3501.08.** Before entering upon the duties of ~~his~~the  
office, each member and alternate member of the board of  
elections shall appear before a person authorized to administer  
oaths and take and subscribe to an oath that ~~he~~the member or  
alternate member will support the constitutions of the United  
States and of the state, will perform the duties of the office  
to the best of ~~his~~the member's or alternate member's ability,  
will enforce the election laws, and will protect and preserve  
the records and property pertaining to elections. Such oath  
shall be filed with the clerk of the court of common pleas of  
the county wherein the officer resides within fifteen days from  
the date of appointment.

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**Sec. 3501.111.** (A) No member, alternate member, or  
temporary alternate member of a board of elections shall  
participate in any hearing, deliberation, or vote on any matter  
in which the person has a direct personal, financial,  
professional, or political interest. For purposes of this  
division, the sole fact that a party to a matter before the  
board is a member of a particular political party does not in  
itself constitute a direct political interest on the part of a  
member, alternate member, or temporary alternate member of the  
board.

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(B) A member, alternate member, or temporary alternate  
member who has a conflict of interest as described in division  
(A) of this section first shall file a written disclosure of the  
conflict of interest with the board of elections and with the

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secretary of state and then shall recuse the person's self from 112  
the matter. The disclosure shall be on a form prescribed by the 113  
secretary of state and shall describe the nature of the conflict 114  
of interest. A disclosure filed under this division is a public 115  
record for purposes of section 149.43 of the Revised Code. 116

(C) (1) When a member is recused under division (B) of this 117  
section, the alternate member of the board who is from the same 118  
political party as the member shall serve in the recused 119  
member's place, solely for the purpose of hearing, deliberating, 120  
and voting on the matter in which the member has a conflict of 121  
interest. An alternate member shall participate in no other 122  
matter before the board. 123

(2) When an alternate member or temporary alternate member 124  
is recused under division (B) of this section, the secretary of 125  
state shall appoint a qualified elector of the county to serve 126  
as a temporary alternate member in the recused alternate or 127  
temporary alternate member's place, solely for the purpose of 128  
hearing, deliberating, and voting on the matter in which the 129  
alternate or temporary alternate member has a conflict of 130  
interest. A temporary alternate member shall participate in no 131  
other matter before the board. Before entering upon the 132  
temporary alternate member's duties, the temporary alternate 133  
member shall take the oath of office under section 3501.08 of 134  
the Revised Code. The temporary alternate member's term of 135  
office ends at the conclusion of the hearing, deliberation, and 136  
vote on the matter in which the alternate member has a conflict 137  
of interest. 138

**Sec. 3501.12.** ~~(A)~~ (A) (1) The annual compensation of 139  
members of the board of elections shall be determined on the 140  
basis of the population of the county according to the next 141

preceding federal census, and shall be paid monthly out of the 142  
appropriations made to the board and upon vouchers or payrolls 143  
certified by the chairperson, or a member of the board 144  
designated by it, and countersigned by the director or in the 145  
director's absence by the deputy director. Upon presentation of 146  
any such voucher or payroll, the county auditor shall issue a 147  
warrant upon the county treasurer for the amount thereof as in 148  
the case of vouchers or payrolls for county offices and the 149  
treasurer shall pay such warrant. 150

(2) Alternate members and temporary alternate members of 151  
the board of elections shall serve without compensation. 152

(B) In calendar year 2018, the amount of annual 153  
compensation of each member of the board of elections shall be 154  
the greater of the following: 155

(1) The sum of the following: 156

(a) One hundred two dollars and forty-one cents for each 157  
full one thousand of the first one hundred thousand population; 158

(b) Forty-eight dollars and seventy-nine cents for each 159  
full one thousand of the second one hundred thousand population; 160

(c) Twenty-six dollars and fifty cents for each full one 161  
thousand of the third one hundred thousand population; 162

(d) Eight dollars and thirteen cents for each full one 163  
thousand above three hundred thousand population. 164

(2) Six thousand dollars. 165

(C) The annual compensation of each member of the board 166  
shall be computed after increasing the dollar amounts specified 167  
in divisions (B)(1) and (2) of this section as follows: 168

(1) In calendar year 2019 and in each calendar year 169  
thereafter through calendar year 2025, by one and three-quarters 170  
per cent; 171

(2) In calendar year 2026 and in each calendar year 172  
thereafter through calendar year 2029, by five per cent. 173

(D) For the purposes of this section, members of boards of 174  
elections shall be deemed to be appointed and not elected, and 175  
therefore not subject to Section 20 of Article II of the Ohio 176  
Constitution. 177

**Sec. 3501.15.** (A) (1) No person shall serve as a member, 178  
alternate member, temporary alternate member, director, deputy 179  
director, or employee of the board of elections who is a 180  
candidate for any office to be filled at an election,~~except.~~ 181

(2) Division (A) (1) of this section does not apply to a 182  
candidate for the office of delegate or alternate to a 183  
convention, member of the board of directors of a county 184  
agricultural society, or presidential elector,~~or a.~~ 185

(3) Division (A) (1) of this section applies to a candidate 186  
for member of the state central committee of a political party 187  
but not to a candidate for member of a~~any other political party~~ 188  
~~committee. No~~ 189

(B) No member of the state central committee of a 190  
political party shall serve as a member, alternate member, 191  
temporary alternate member, director, deputy director, or 192  
employee of a board of elections. When a member, alternate 193  
member, temporary alternate member, director, deputy director, 194  
or employee of a board of elections becomes a member of the 195  
state central committee of a political party, the person's 196  
office or position with the board of elections is deemed vacant. 197

(C) No person who is a candidate for an office or position 198  
to be voted for by the electors of a precinct, except for a 199  
candidate for county central committee who is not opposed by any 200  
other candidate in that election and precinct, shall serve as a 201  
precinct election officer in said precinct. 202

**Section 2.** That existing sections 3501.06, 3501.07, 203  
3501.08, 3501.12, and 3501.15 of the Revised Code are hereby 204  
repealed. 205

**Section 3.** (A) Not later than fifteen days after the 206  
effective date of this section, the county executive committee 207  
of each political party that cast the highest or next highest 208  
number of votes for the office of Governor at the most recent 209  
regular state election may make and file a recommendation with 210  
the Secretary of State for the appointment of a qualified 211  
elector of the county to serve as an alternate member of the 212  
board of elections. The Secretary of State shall appoint that 213  
elector under division (B) of this section, unless the Secretary 214  
of State has reason to believe that the elector would not be a 215  
competent alternate member of the board. In that case, the 216  
Secretary of State shall state that fact and the reasons in 217  
writing to the chairperson of the county executive committee, 218  
and the committee may either recommend another elector or may 219  
apply for a writ of mandamus to the Supreme Court to compel the 220  
Secretary of State to appoint the recommended elector. The 221  
burden of proof to show the qualifications of the recommended 222  
elector are on the committee making the recommendation. If no 223  
such recommendation is made, the Secretary of State shall make 224  
the appointment under division (B) of this section. 225

(B) Not later than thirty days after the effective date of 226  
this section, the Secretary of State shall appoint two alternate 227

members to each board of elections. One alternate member shall 228  
be from the political party that cast the highest number of 229  
votes for the office of Governor at the most recent regular 230  
state election, and the other shall be from the political party 231  
that cast the next highest number of votes for the office of 232  
Governor at that election. The alternate members appointed under 233  
this division shall serve until the next alternate members are 234  
appointed and take office under division (B) (3) of section 235  
3501.06 of the Revised Code, as amended by this act. 236