

As Introduced

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

S. B. No. 260

Senator Reynolds

To amend sections 3501.01, 3503.09, 3503.10, 1
3503.11, 3503.14, 3503.15, 3503.153, 3503.16, 2
3503.19, 3503.20, 3503.23, 3503.28, 3505.181, 3
3509.02, 3509.03, 3509.04, 3509.08, 3513.041, 4
3513.05, 3513.07, 3513.18, 3513.19, 3513.191, 5
3513.257, 3517.012, 3517.013, and 3599.12; to 6
enact section 3503.071; and to repeal section 7
3513.20 of the Revised Code to permit an elector 8
to change party affiliation through the voter 9
registration process and to name this act the 10
Voter Registration Modernization Act. 11

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

Section 1. That sections 3501.01, 3503.09, 3503.10, 12
3503.11, 3503.14, 3503.15, 3503.153, 3503.16, 3503.19, 3503.20, 13
3503.23, 3503.28, 3505.181, 3509.02, 3509.03, 3509.04, 3509.08, 14
3513.041, 3513.05, 3513.07, 3513.18, 3513.19, 3513.191, 15
3513.257, 3517.012, 3517.013, and 3599.12 be amended and section 16
3503.071 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 17

Sec. 3501.01. As used in the sections of the Revised Code 18
relating to elections and political communications: 19

(A) "General election" means the election held on the 20

first Tuesday after the first Monday in each November. 21

(B) "Regular municipal election" means the election held 22
on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each 23
odd-numbered year. 24

(C) "Regular state election" means the election held on 25
the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each 26
even-numbered year. 27

(D) "Special election" means any election other than those 28
elections defined in other divisions of this section. A special 29
election may be held only on the first Tuesday after the first 30
Monday in May or November, on the first Tuesday after the first 31
Monday in August in accordance with section 3501.022 of the 32
Revised Code, or on the day authorized by a particular municipal 33
or county charter for the holding of a primary election, except 34
that in any year in which a presidential primary election is 35
held, no special election shall be held in May, except as 36
authorized by a municipal or county charter, but may be held on 37
the third Tuesday after the first Monday in March. 38

(E) (1) "Primary" or "primary election" means an election 39
held for the purpose of nominating persons as candidates of 40
political parties for election to offices, and for the purpose 41
of electing persons as members of the controlling committees of 42
political parties and as delegates and alternates to the 43
conventions of political parties. Primary elections shall be 44
held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May of each 45
year except in years in which a presidential primary election is 46
held. 47

(2) "Presidential primary election" means a primary 48
election as defined by division (E) (1) of this section at which 49

an election is held for the purpose of choosing delegates and 50
alternates to the national conventions of the major political 51
parties pursuant to section 3513.12 of the Revised Code. Unless 52
otherwise specified, presidential primary elections are included 53
in references to primary elections. In years in which a 54
presidential primary election is held, all primary elections 55
shall be held on the third Tuesday after the first Monday in 56
March except as otherwise authorized by a municipal or county 57
charter. 58

(F) "Political party" means any group of voters meeting 59
the requirements set forth in section 3517.01 of the Revised 60
Code for the formation and existence of a political party. 61

(1) "Major political party" means any political party 62
organized under the laws of this state whose candidate for 63
governor or nominees for presidential electors received not less 64
than twenty per cent of the total vote cast for such office at 65
the most recent regular state election. 66

(2) "Minor political party" means any political party 67
organized under the laws of this state that meets either of the 68
following requirements: 69

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this division, the 70
political party's candidate for governor or nominees for 71
presidential electors received less than twenty per cent but not 72
less than three per cent of the total vote cast for such office 73
at the most recent regular state election. A political party 74
that meets the requirements of this division remains a political 75
party for a period of four years after meeting those 76
requirements. 77

(b) The political party has filed with the secretary of 78

state, subsequent to its failure to meet the requirements of 79
division (F) (2) (a) of this section, a petition that meets the 80
requirements of section 3517.01 of the Revised Code. 81

A newly formed political party shall be known as a minor 82
political party until the time of the first election for 83
governor or president which occurs not less than twelve months 84
subsequent to the formation of such party, after which election 85
the status of such party shall be determined by the vote for the 86
office of governor or president. 87

(G) "Dominant party in a precinct" or "dominant political 88
party in a precinct" means that political party whose candidate 89
for election to the office of governor at the most recent 90
regular state election at which a governor was elected received 91
more votes than any other person received for election to that 92
office in such precinct at such election. 93

(H) "Candidate" means any qualified person certified in 94
accordance with the provisions of the Revised Code for placement 95
on the official ballot of a primary, general, or special 96
election to be held in this state, or any qualified person who 97
claims to be a write-in candidate, or who knowingly assents to 98
being represented as a write-in candidate by another at either a 99
primary, general, or special election to be held in this state. 100

(I) "Independent candidate" means any candidate who ~~claims~~ 101
is not to be affiliated with a political party, and whose name 102
has been certified on the office-type ballot at a general or 103
special election through the filing of a statement of candidacy 104
and nominating petition, as prescribed in section 3513.257 of 105
the Revised Code. 106

(J) "Nonpartisan candidate" means any candidate whose name 107

is required, pursuant to section 3505.04 of the Revised Code, to 108
be listed on the nonpartisan ballot, including all candidates 109
for judge of a municipal court, county court, or court of common 110
pleas, for member of any board of education, for municipal or 111
township offices in which primary elections are not held for 112
nominating candidates by political parties, and for offices of 113
municipal corporations having charters that provide for separate 114
ballots for elections for these offices. 115

(K) "Party candidate" means any candidate who ~~claims to be~~ 116
~~a member of~~ is affiliated with a political party and who has 117
been certified to appear on the office-type ballot at a general 118
or special election as the nominee of a political party because 119
the candidate has won the primary election of the candidate's 120
party for the public office the candidate seeks, has been 121
nominated under section 3517.012, or is selected by party 122
committee in accordance with section 3513.31 of the Revised 123
Code. 124

(L) "Officer of a political party" includes, but is not 125
limited to, any member, elected or appointed, of a controlling 126
committee, whether representing the territory of the state, a 127
district therein, a county, township, a city, a ward, a 128
precinct, or other territory, of a major or minor political 129
party. 130

(M) "Question or issue" means any question or issue 131
certified in accordance with the Revised Code for placement on 132
an official ballot at a general or special election to be held 133
in this state. 134

(N) "Elector" or "qualified elector" means a person having 135
the qualifications provided by law to be entitled to vote. 136

(O) "Voter" means an elector who votes at an election.	137
(P) "Voting residence" means that place of residence of an elector which shall determine the precinct in which the elector may vote.	138 139 140
(Q) "Precinct" means a district within a county established by the board of elections of such county within which all qualified electors having a voting residence therein may vote at the same polling place.	141 142 143 144
(R) "Polling place" means that place provided for each precinct at which the electors having a voting residence in such precinct may vote.	145 146 147
(S) "Board" or "board of elections" means the board of elections appointed in a county pursuant to section 3501.06 of the Revised Code.	148 149 150
(T) "Political subdivision" means a county, township, city, village, or school district.	151 152
(U) "Election officer" or "election official" means any of the following:	153 154
(1) Secretary of state;	155
(2) Employees of the secretary of state serving the division of elections in the capacity of attorney, administrative officer, administrative assistant, elections administrator, office manager, or clerical supervisor;	156 157 158 159
(3) Director of a board of elections;	160
(4) Deputy director of a board of elections;	161
(5) Member of a board of elections;	162
(6) Employees of a board of elections;	163

(7) Precinct election officials; 164

(8) Employees appointed by the boards of elections on a 165
temporary or part-time basis. 166

(V) "Acknowledgment notice" means a notice sent by a board 167
of elections, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, 168
informing a voter registration applicant or an applicant who 169
wishes to change the applicant's residence or name of the status 170
of the application; the information necessary to complete or 171
update the application, if any; and if the application is 172
complete, the precinct in which the applicant is to vote. 173

(W) "Confirmation notice" means a notice sent by a board 174
of elections, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, to 175
a registered elector to confirm the registered elector's current 176
address. 177

(X) "Designated agency" means an office or agency in the 178
state that provides public assistance or that provides state- 179
funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to 180
persons with disabilities and that is required by the National 181
Voter Registration Act of 1993 to implement a program designed 182
and administered by the secretary of state for registering 183
voters, or any other public or government office or agency that 184
implements a program designed and administered by the secretary 185
of state for registering voters, including the department of job 186
and family services, the program administered under section 187
3701.132 of the Revised Code by the department of health, the 188
department of mental health and addiction services, the 189
department of developmental disabilities, the opportunities for 190
Ohioans with disabilities agency, and any other agency the 191
secretary of state designates. "Designated agency" does not 192
include public high schools and vocational schools, public 193

libraries, or the office of a county treasurer. 194

(Y) "National Voter Registration Act of 1993" means the 195
"National Voter Registration Act of 1993," 107 Stat. 77, 42 196
U.S.C.A. 1973gg. 197

(Z) "Voting Rights Act of 1965" means the "Voting Rights 198
Act of 1965," 79 Stat. 437, 42 U.S.C.A. 1973, as amended. 199

(AA) (1) "Photo identification" means one of the following 200
documents that includes the individual's name and photograph and 201
is not expired: 202

(a) An Ohio driver's license, state identification card, 203
or interim identification form issued by the registrar of motor 204
vehicles or a deputy registrar under Chapter 4506. or 4507. of 205
the Revised Code; 206

(b) A United States passport or passport card; 207

(c) A United States military identification card, Ohio 208
national guard identification card, or United States department 209
of veterans affairs identification card. 210

(2) A "copy" of an individual's photo identification means 211
images of both the front and back of a document described in 212
division (AA) (1) of this section, except that if the document is 213
a United States passport, a copy of the photo identification 214
means an image of the passport's identification page that 215
includes the individual's name, photograph, and other 216
identifying information and the passport's expiration date. 217

(BB) "Driver's license" means a license or permit issued 218
by the registrar or a deputy registrar under Chapter 4506. or 219
4507. of the Revised Code that authorizes an individual to 220
drive. "Driver's license" includes a driver's license, 221

commercial driver's license, probationary license, restricted 222
license, motorcycle operator's license, or temporary instruction 223
permit identification card. "Driver's license" does not include 224
a limited term license issued under section 4506.14 or 4507.09 225
of the Revised Code. 226

(CC) "State identification card" means a card issued by 227
the registrar or a deputy registrar under sections 4507.50 to 228
4507.52 of the Revised Code. 229

(DD) "Interim identification form" means the document 230
issued by the registrar or a deputy registrar to an applicant 231
for a driver's license or state identification card that 232
contains all of the information otherwise found on the license 233
or card and that an applicant may use as a form of 234
identification until the physical license or card arrives in the 235
mail. 236

Sec. 3503.071. (A) (1) An elector's political party 237
affiliation shall be determined based on the most recent of the 238
following: 239

(a) The elector's affiliation with a currently recognized 240
political party or the elector's unaffiliated status, as 241
indicated on the elector's most recent voter registration 242
application or voter registration update form as processed under 243
divisions (B) (2) and (3) of this section; 244

(b) The ballot the elector most recently cast at a primary 245
election in this state held on or after May 3, 2022. If the 246
elector cast the ballot of a currently recognized political 247
party, the elector is affiliated with that party. If the elector 248
cast an issues-only ballot, the elector is unaffiliated. 249

(2) If an elector has not indicated an affiliation with a 250

currently recognized political party on a voter registration 251
application or voter registration update form and has not cast 252
the ballot of a currently recognized political party at a 253
primary election in this state held on or after May 3, 2022, the 254
elector is unaffiliated. 255

(B) (1) Each voter registration application and voter 256
registration update form prescribed by the secretary of state 257
shall include all of the following: 258

(a) A list of the political parties that are recognized in 259
this state, accompanied by boxes for the applicant to check to 260
select a party with which the applicant wishes to be affiliated; 261

(b) A space for the applicant to write the name of a 262
recognized political party that is not listed on the form, if 263
the applicant wishes to be affiliated with that party; 264

(c) A box for the applicant to check to indicate that the 265
applicant does not wish to be affiliated with any political 266
party; 267

(d) A notice that the applicant may select or write the 268
name of only one recognized political party and that the 269
applicant is not required to select a political party. 270

(2) An applicant who submits a voter registration 271
application or update form shall be considered unaffiliated if 272
either of the following apply: 273

(a) The applicant indicates on the application or form 274
that the applicant does not wish to be affiliated with any 275
political party. 276

(b) The applicant is not currently affiliated with a 277
political party, does not select or write the name of a 278

recognized political party, and does not indicate that the 279
applicant does not wish to be affiliated with any political 280
party. 281

(3) An applicant who submits a voter registration update 282
form shall remain affiliated with the applicant's current 283
political party if the applicant currently is affiliated with a 284
political party, does not select or write the name of a 285
recognized political party, and does not indicate that the 286
applicant does not wish to be affiliated with any political 287
party. 288

Sec. 3503.09. (A) (1) The secretary of state shall adopt 289
rules for the electronic transmission by boards of elections, 290
designated agencies, public high schools and vocational schools, 291
public libraries, and offices of county treasurers, where 292
applicable, of ~~name and residence changes for~~ voter registration 293
~~records in the statewide voter registration database~~update 294
forms. 295

(2) The secretary of state shall adopt rules for the 296
purpose of improving the speed of processing new voter 297
registrations that permit information from a voter registration 298
application received by a designated agency to be made available 299
electronically, in addition to requiring the original voter 300
registration application to be transmitted to the applicable 301
board of elections under division (E) (2) of section 3503.10 of 302
the Revised Code. 303

(B) Rules adopted under division (A) of this section shall 304
do all of the following: 305

(1) Prohibit any direct electronic connection between a 306
designated agency, public high school or vocational school, 307

public library, or office of a county treasurer and the 308
statewide voter registration database; 309

(2) Require any updated voter registration information to 310
be verified by the secretary of state or a board of elections 311
before the information is added to the statewide voter 312
registration database for the purpose of modifying an existing 313
voter registration; 314

(3) Require each designated agency that transmits voter 315
registration information electronically to transmit an 316
identifier for data relating to each new voter registration that 317
shall be used by the secretary of state or a board of elections 318
to match the electronic data to the original voter registration 319
application. 320

Sec. 3503.10. (A) Each designated agency shall designate 321
one person within that agency to serve as coordinator for the 322
voter registration program within the agency and its 323
departments, divisions, and programs. The designated person 324
shall be trained under a program designed by the secretary of 325
state and shall be responsible for administering all aspects of 326
the voter registration program for that agency as prescribed by 327
the secretary of state. The designated person shall receive no 328
additional compensation for performing such duties. 329

(B) Every designated agency, public high school and 330
vocational school, public library, and office of a county 331
treasurer shall provide in each of its offices or locations 332
voter registration applications and assistance in the 333
registration of persons qualified to register to vote, in 334
accordance with this chapter. 335

(C) Every designated agency shall distribute to its 336

applicants, prior to or in conjunction with distributing a voter 337
registration application, a form prescribed by the secretary of 338
state that includes all of the following: 339

(1) The question, "Do you want to register to vote or 340
update your current voter registration?"--followed by boxes for 341
the applicant to indicate whether the applicant would like to 342
register or decline to register to vote, and the statement, 343
highlighted in bold print, "If you do not check either box, you 344
will be considered to have decided not to register to vote at 345
this time."; 346

(2) If the agency provides public assistance, the 347
statement, "Applying to register or declining to register to 348
vote will not affect the amount of assistance that you will be 349
provided by this agency."; 350

(3) The statement, "If you would like help in filling out 351
the voter registration application form, we will help you. The 352
decision whether to seek or accept help is yours. You may fill 353
out the application form in private."; 354

(4) The statement, "If you believe that someone has 355
interfered with your right to register or to decline to register 356
to vote, your right to privacy in deciding whether to register 357
or in applying to register to vote, or your right to choose your 358
own political party or other political preference, you may file 359
a complaint with the prosecuting attorney of your county or with 360
the secretary of state," with the address and telephone number 361
for each such official's office. 362

(D) Each designated agency shall distribute a voter 363
registration form prescribed by the secretary of state to each 364
applicant with each application for service or assistance, and 365

with each written application or form for recertification, 366
renewal, or change of address. 367

(E) Each designated agency shall do all of the following: 368

(1) Have employees trained to administer the voter 369
registration program in order to provide to each applicant who 370
wishes to register to vote and who accepts assistance, the same 371
degree of assistance with regard to completion of the voter 372
registration application as is provided by the agency with 373
regard to the completion of its own form; 374

(2) Accept completed voter registration applications, and 375
voter registration ~~change of residence forms, and voter~~ 376
~~registration change of name update~~ forms, regardless of whether 377
the application or form was distributed by the designated 378
agency, for transmittal to the office of the board of elections 379
in the county in which the agency is located. Each designated 380
agency and the appropriate board of elections shall establish a 381
method by which the voter registration applications and other 382
voter registration forms are transmitted to that board of 383
elections within five days after being accepted by the agency. 384

(3) If the designated agency is one that is primarily 385
engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities under 386
a state-funded program, and that agency provides services to a 387
person with disabilities at a person's home, provide the 388
services described in divisions (E)(1) and (2) of this section 389
at the person's home; 390

(4) Keep as confidential, except as required by the 391
secretary of state for record-keeping purposes, the identity of 392
an agency through which a person registered to vote or updated 393
the person's voter registration records, and information 394

relating to a declination to register to vote made in connection 395
with a voter registration application issued by a designated 396
agency. 397

(F) The secretary of state shall prepare and transmit 398
written instructions on the implementation of the voter 399
registration program within each designated agency, public high 400
school and vocational school, public library, and office of a 401
county treasurer. The instructions shall include directions as 402
follows: 403

(1) That each person designated to assist with voter 404
registration maintain strict neutrality with respect to a 405
person's political philosophies, a person's right to register or 406
decline to register, and any other matter that may influence a 407
person's decision to register or not register to vote; 408

(2) That each person designated to assist with voter 409
registration not seek to influence a person's decision to 410
register or not register to vote, not display or demonstrate any 411
political preference or party allegiance, and not make any 412
statement to a person or take any action the purpose or effect 413
of which is to lead a person to believe that a decision to 414
register or not register has any bearing on the availability of 415
services or benefits offered, on the grade in a particular class 416
in school, or on credit for a particular class in school; 417

(3) Regarding when and how to assist a person in 418
completing the voter registration application, what to do with 419
the completed voter registration application or voter 420
registration update form, and when the application must be 421
transmitted to the appropriate board of elections; 422

(4) Regarding what records must be kept by the agency and 423

where and when those records should be transmitted to satisfy 424
reporting requirements imposed on the secretary of state under 425
the National Voter Registration Act of 1993; 426

(5) Regarding whom to contact to obtain answers to 427
questions about voter registration forms and procedures. 428

(G) If the voter registration activity is part of an in- 429
class voter registration program in a public high school or 430
vocational school, whether prescribed by the secretary of state 431
or independent of the secretary of state, the board of education 432
shall do all of the following: 433

(1) Establish a schedule of school days and hours during 434
these days when the person designated to assist with voter 435
registration shall provide voter registration assistance; 436

(2) Designate a person to assist with voter registration 437
from the public high school's or vocational school's staff; 438

(3) Make voter registration applications and materials 439
available, as outlined in the voter registration program 440
established by the secretary of state pursuant to section 441
3501.05 of the Revised Code; 442

(4) Distribute the statement, "applying to register or 443
declining to register to vote, or registering as affiliated with 444
a particular political party or registering to vote and 445
remaining unaffiliated, will not affect or be a condition of 446
your receiving a particular grade in or credit for a school 447
course or class, participating in a curricular or 448
extracurricular activity, receiving a benefit or privilege, or 449
participating in a program or activity otherwise available to 450
pupils enrolled in this school district's schools."; 451

(5) Establish a method by which the voter registration 452

application and other voter registration forms are transmitted 453
to the board of elections within five days after being accepted 454
by the public high school or vocational school. 455

(H) Any person employed by the designated agency, public 456
high school or vocational school, public library, or office of a 457
county treasurer may be designated to assist with voter 458
registration pursuant to this section. The designated agency, 459
public high school or vocational school, public library, or 460
office of a county treasurer shall provide the designated 461
person, and make available such space as may be necessary, 462
without charge to the county or state. 463

(I) The secretary of state shall prepare and cause to be 464
displayed in a prominent location in each designated agency a 465
notice that identifies the person designated to assist with 466
voter registration, the nature of that person's duties, and 467
where and when that person is available for assisting in the 468
registration of voters. 469

A designated agency may furnish additional supplies and 470
services to disseminate information to increase public awareness 471
of the existence of a person designated to assist with voter 472
registration in every designated agency. 473

(J) This section does not limit any authority a board of 474
education, superintendent, or principal has to allow, sponsor, 475
or promote voluntary election registration programs within a 476
high school or vocational school, including programs in which 477
pupils serve as persons designated to assist with voter 478
registration, provided that no pupil is required to participate. 479

(K) Each public library and office of the county treasurer 480
shall establish a method by which voter registration forms are 481

transmitted to the board of elections within five days after 482
being accepted by the public library or office of the county 483
treasurer. 484

(L) The department of job and family services and its 485
departments, divisions, and programs shall limit administration 486
of the aspects of the voter registration program for the 487
department to the requirements prescribed by the secretary of 488
state and the requirements of this section and the National 489
Voter Registration Act of 1993. 490

Sec. 3503.11. (A) (1) When any person applies for a 491
driver's license, commercial driver's license, a state of Ohio 492
identification card issued under section 4507.50 of the Revised 493
Code, or motorcycle operator's license or endorsement, or the 494
renewal or duplicate of any license or endorsement under Chapter 495
4506. or 4507. of the Revised Code, and the person presents 496
proof of United States citizenship to the registrar of motor 497
vehicles or the deputy registrar or has previously presented 498
proof of United States citizenship to the registrar or any 499
deputy registrar, the registrar or deputy registrar shall offer 500
the applicant the opportunity to register to vote or to update 501
the applicant's voter registration by electronic means in 502
conjunction with the person's transaction with the registrar or 503
deputy registrar, in a manner prescribed by the secretary of 504
state. 505

(2) When any person submits a notice of change of address 506
to the registrar under division (C) of section 4507.09 of the 507
Revised Code, the registrar shall offer the applicant the 508
opportunity to submit a ~~notice of change of address for voter~~ 509
~~registration purposes~~ update form by electronic means in 510
conjunction with the person's transaction with the registrar, in 511

a manner prescribed by the secretary of state. 512

(3) When a person registers to vote or updates the 513
person's voter registration under division (A) (1) or (2) of this 514
section, the registrar or deputy registrar shall electronically 515
transmit the person's signature that is on file with the bureau 516
of motor vehicles with the electronic record of the voter 517
registration or update, and that signature shall be considered 518
the person's signature on the voter registration or update and 519
for all other election and signature-matching purposes. 520

(B) Within twenty-four hours after a person registers to 521
vote or updates the person's voter registration under division 522
(A) of this section, the registrar or deputy registrar shall 523
transmit the electronic record of the voter registration or 524
update to the secretary of state by electronic means in a manner 525
prescribed by the secretary of state by rule. Rules adopted 526
under this division shall do all of the following: 527

(1) Prohibit any direct electronic connection between the 528
office of the registrar or a deputy registrar and the statewide 529
voter registration database; 530

(2) Require any voter registration information to be 531
verified by the secretary of state or a board of elections 532
before the information is added to the statewide voter 533
registration database; 534

(3) Require the registrar or deputy registrar to 535
electronically date stamp each electronic record in a manner 536
that does not disclose the identity of the office that receives 537
the voter registration or update. 538

(C) (1) The registrar of motor vehicles and each deputy 539
registrar also shall make available to all other customers paper 540

voter registration applications and update forms, but are not 541
required to offer assistance to customers in completing those 542
forms. The bureau of motor vehicles shall supply all of its 543
deputy registrars with a sufficient number of voter registration 544
applications and update forms. 545

(2) Within five days after a person submits a completed 546
paper voter registration application or update form to the 547
registrar or a deputy registrar, the registrar or deputy 548
registrar shall send the form to the board of elections of the 549
county in which the office of the registrar or deputy registrar 550
is located. 551

(D) The registrar shall collect from each deputy registrar 552
through the reports filed under division (J) of section 4503.03 553
of the Revised Code and transmit to the secretary of state 554
information on the number of voter registration applications and 555
~~change of residence or change of name~~ voter registration update 556
forms completed or declined, and any additional information 557
required by the secretary of state to comply with the National 558
Voter Registration Act of 1993. No information relating to an 559
applicant's decision to decline to register or update the 560
applicant's voter registration at the office of the registrar or 561
deputy registrar may be used for any purpose other than voter 562
registration record-keeping required by the secretary of state, 563
and all such information shall be kept confidential. 564

Sec. 3503.14. ~~(A)~~ (A) (1) The secretary of state shall 565
prescribe the form and content of the voter registration, ~~change~~ 566
~~of residence,~~ and ~~change of name~~ voter registration update forms 567
used in this state. The forms shall meet the requirements of the 568
National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and shall include spaces 569
for all of the following: 570

(1) <u>(a)</u> The voter's name;	571
(2) <u>(b)</u> The voter's address;	572
(3) <u>(c)</u> The current date;	573
(4) <u>(d)</u> The voter's date of birth;	574
(5) <u>(e)</u> The voter to provide at least one of the following forms of identification:	575 576
(a) <u>(i)</u> The voter's Ohio driver's license or state identification card number;	577 578
(b) <u>(ii)</u> The last four digits of the voter's social security number.	579 580
(6) <u>(f)</u> The voter's signature.	581
<u>(2) The form shall include the political party affiliation fields and notice described in division (B) (1) of section 3503.071 of the Revised Code.</u>	582 583 584
<u>(3) The registration form shall include a space on which the person registering an applicant shall sign the person's name and provide the person's address and a space on which the person registering an applicant shall name the employer who is employing that person to register the applicant.</u>	585 586 587 588 589
<u>(4) The forms shall include a box for the person filling out the form to check to indicate, if applicable, that the person has filled out all or part of the form on behalf of the applicant because the applicant declares that the applicant requires such assistance by reason of blindness, disability, or illiteracy.</u>	590 591 592 593 594 595
<u>(5) Except for forms prescribed by the secretary of state under section 3503.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of</u>	596 597

state shall permit boards of elections to produce forms that 598
have subdivided spaces for each individual alphanumeric 599
character of the information provided by the voter so as to 600
accommodate the electronic reading and conversion of the voter's 601
information to data and the subsequent electronic transfer of 602
that data to the statewide voter registration database 603
established under section 3503.15 of the Revised Code. 604

(B) None of the following persons who are registering an 605
applicant in the course of that official's or employee's normal 606
duties shall sign the person's name, provide the person's 607
address, or name the employer who is employing the person to 608
register an applicant on a form prepared under this section: 609

- (1) An election official; 610
- (2) A county treasurer; 611
- (3) A deputy registrar of motor vehicles; 612
- (4) An employee of a designated agency; 613
- (5) An employee of a public high school; 614
- (6) An employee of a public vocational school; 615
- (7) An employee of a public library; 616
- (8) An employee of the office of a county treasurer; 617
- (9) An employee of the bureau of motor vehicles; 618
- (10) An employee of a deputy registrar of motor vehicles; 619
- (11) An employee of an election official. 620

(C) Except as provided in section 3501.382 of the Revised 621
Code, any applicant who is unable to sign the applicant's own 622
name shall make an "X," if possible, which shall be certified by 623

the signing of the name of the applicant by the person filling 624
out the form, who shall add the person's own signature. If an 625
applicant is unable to make an "X," the applicant shall indicate 626
in some manner that the applicant desires to register to vote or 627
to ~~change-update~~ the applicant's ~~name-or-residence~~voter 628
registration. The person registering the applicant shall sign 629
the form and attest that the applicant indicated that the 630
applicant desired to register to vote or to ~~change-update~~ the 631
applicant's ~~name-or-residence~~voter registration. 632

(D) No registration, ~~change-of-residence~~, or ~~change-of-~~ 633
~~name-update~~ form shall be rejected solely on the basis that a 634
person registering an applicant failed to sign the person's name 635
or failed to name the employer who is employing that person to 636
register the applicant as required under division (A) of this 637
section. 638

(E) A voter registration application or voter registration 639
update form submitted electronically through the registrar of 640
motor vehicles or a deputy registrar pursuant to section 3503.11 641
or submitted online through the internet pursuant to section 642
3503.20 of the Revised Code is not required to contain a 643
signature to be considered valid. The signature obtained under 644
division (A) (3) of section 3503.11 or under division (B) of 645
section 3503.20 of the Revised Code, as applicable, shall be 646
considered the applicant's signature for all election and 647
signature-matching purposes. 648

(F) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (C) of 649
this section and in sections 3501.382 and 3505.24 of the Revised 650
Code, no person shall preprint or fill out any portion of a 651
voter registration, ~~change-of-residence~~, or ~~change-of-name-~~ 652
update form on behalf of an applicant. 653

(2) A completed voter registration, ~~change of residence,~~ 654
or ~~change of name~~ update form is not valid if any portion of it 655
has been completed by any person other than the applicant in 656
violation of division (F) (1) of this section. 657

(G) As used in this section, "registering an applicant" 658
includes any effort, for compensation, to provide voter 659
registration or voter registration update forms or to assist 660
persons in completing or returning those forms. 661

Sec. 3503.15. (A) The secretary of state shall establish 662
and maintain a statewide voter registration database that shall 663
be administered by the office of data analytics and archives in 664
the office of the secretary of state and made continuously 665
available to each board of elections and to other agencies as 666
authorized by law. 667

The statewide voter registration database shall be the 668
official list of registered electors for all elections conducted 669
in this state. 670

(B) The statewide voter registration database shall, at a 671
minimum, include all of the following: 672

(1) An electronic network that connects all board of 673
elections offices with the office of the secretary of state and 674
with the offices of all other boards of elections; 675

(2) A computer program that harmonizes the records 676
contained in the database with records maintained by each board 677
of elections; 678

(3) An interactive computer program that allows access to 679
the records contained in the database by each board of elections 680
and by any persons authorized by the secretary of state to add, 681
delete, modify, or print database records, and to conduct 682

updates of the database; 683

(4) A search program capable of verifying registered 684
electors and their registration information by name, driver's 685
license or state identification card number, birth date, social 686
security number, or current address; 687

(5) Safeguards and components to ensure that the 688
integrity, security, and confidentiality of the voter 689
registration information is maintained; 690

(6) Methods to retain canceled voter registration records 691
for not less than five years after they are canceled and to 692
record the reason for their cancellation. 693

(C) For each registered elector, the statewide voter 694
registration database shall include all of the following 695
information: 696

(1) The elector's name; 697

(2) The elector's birth date; 698

(3) The elector's current residence address; 699

(4) The elector's precinct number; 700

(5) The elector's Ohio driver's license or state 701
identification card number, if available; 702

(6) The last four digits of the elector's social security 703
number, if available; 704

(7) The elector's telephone number, if available; 705

(8) The elector's electronic mail address, if available; 706

(9) (a) The elector's voter registration date, which shall 707
be determined based on the elector's most recent application to 708

register to vote in this state, subject to division (C) (9) (b) of 709
this section, as follows: 710

(i) In the case of an application delivered in person to a 711
state or local office of a designated agency, the office of the 712
registrar or any deputy registrar of motor vehicles, a public 713
high school or vocational school, a public library, or the 714
office of a county treasurer, the date stamped on the 715
application upon receipt by the entity that transmits the 716
application to the board of elections or the secretary of state; 717

(ii) In the case of an application delivered in person to 718
a board of elections or the secretary of state, the date stamped 719
on the application upon receipt by the board of elections or the 720
secretary of state, as applicable; 721

(iii) In the case of an application delivered by mail to a 722
board of elections or the secretary of state, the date the 723
application is postmarked; 724

(iv) In the case of an application submitted through the 725
online voter registration system established under section 726
3503.20 of the Revised Code, the date of the online submission; 727

(v) In the case of an application submitted to a board of 728
elections by facsimile transmission or electronic mail under 729
Chapter 3511. of the Revised Code, the date of the receipt of 730
the transmission or electronic mail by the board of elections; 731

(vi) In the case of a provisional ballot affirmation that 732
serves as an application to register to vote in future elections 733
because the individual who cast the ballot is not registered to 734
vote, the date the board of elections determines that the 735
provisional ballot is invalid under section 3505.183 of the 736
Revised Code. 737

(b) For purposes of determining an elector's voter 738
registration date under division (C)(9)(a) of this section, all 739
of the following apply: 740

(i) An elector's voter registration date shall not be 741
during the period beginning on the day after the close of voter 742
registration before an election and ending on the day of the 743
election. If the date determined under division (C)(9)(a) of 744
this section would be during that period, the voter registration 745
date instead shall be the date on which the board of elections 746
processes the application to register to vote after the day of 747
the election. 748

(ii) A ~~change of address or change of name voter~~ 749
registration update form, including a provisional ballot 750
affirmation that serves as a ~~change of address or change of name~~ 751
voter registration update form, is not considered an application 752
to register to vote. 753

(iii) An application to register to vote that is submitted 754
by an individual who is already registered to vote in this state 755
is not considered an application to register to vote. 756

(10) The elector's political party affiliation, if any, as 757
determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code; 758

(11) The elector's voting history, including all of the 759
following, for each election in which the elector cast a ballot 760
that was counted:— 761

~~(a) The, the date of the election;—~~ 762

~~(b) If the election was a primary election, the political~~ 763
~~party whose ballot the elector cast at the primary election or~~ 764
~~an indication that the elector voted only on the questions and~~ 765
~~issues appearing on the ballot at a special election held on the~~ 766

~~day of the primary election;~~ 767

~~(c) The~~ and the type of ballot the elector cast. 768

~~(11)~~ (12) The elector's last activity date, which shall be 769
determined in accordance with rules adopted by the secretary of 770
state pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. 771

~~(12)~~ (13) Any other information the secretary of state 772
requires to be included by rule adopted pursuant to Chapter 119. 773
of the Revised Code. 774

(D) Every day during the period beginning on the forty- 775
sixth day before an election and ending on the eighty-first day 776
after the day of the election, a board of elections shall create 777
a daily record of its voter registration database as of four 778
p.m. and shall transmit the daily record to the secretary of 779
state in a secure manner prescribed by the secretary of state. 780
The secretary of state shall archive the daily record and retain 781
it for at least twenty-two months after the day of the election. 782

(E) The secretary of state shall adopt rules pursuant to 783
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to implement this section and 784
sections 3503.151 to 3503.153 of the Revised Code, including 785
rules doing all of the following: 786

(1) Specifying the manner in which any voter registration 787
records maintained by boards of elections in other data formats 788
shall be converted for inclusion in the statewide voter 789
registration database; 790

(2) Establishing a uniform method for entering voter 791
registration records into the statewide voter registration 792
database on an expedited basis, but not less than once per day, 793
if new registration information is received, and for 794
transmitting information securely to the secretary of state; 795

(3) Establishing a uniform method for purging canceled 796
voter registration records from the statewide voter registration 797
database in accordance with section 3503.21 of the Revised Code; 798

(4) Specifying the persons authorized to add, delete, 799
modify, or print records contained in the statewide voter 800
registration database and to make updates of that database; 801

(5) Establishing a process for annually auditing the 802
information contained in the statewide voter registration 803
database. 804

(F) A board of elections promptly shall purge a voter's 805
name and voter registration information from the statewide voter 806
registration database in accordance with the rules adopted by 807
the secretary of state under division (E) (3) of this section 808
after the cancellation of a voter's registration under section 809
3503.21 of the Revised Code. 810

(G) The secretary of state shall provide training in the 811
operation of the statewide voter registration database to each 812
board of elections and to any persons authorized by the 813
secretary of state to add, delete, modify, or print database 814
records, and to conduct updates of the database. 815

(H) A board of elections and any vendor with which it 816
contracts to provide voter registration software or related 817
services shall ensure that the board's voter registration system 818
and practices comply with the requirements of this section and 819
any rules adopted under this section. 820

Sec. 3503.153. (A) The statewide voter registration 821
database shall be made available on a web site of the office of 822
the secretary of state as follows: 823

(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (A) (2) of 824

this section, the following information from the statewide voter 825
registration database regarding a registered elector shall be 826
made available on the web site: 827

(a) The elector's name; 828

(b) The elector's birth date; 829

(c) The elector's current residence address; 830

(d) The elector's precinct number; 831

(e) The elector's voter registration date, as described in 832
division (C) (9) of section 3503.15 of the Revised Code; 833

(f) The elector's voting history, as described in division 834
~~(C) (10)~~ (C) (11) of section 3503.15 of the Revised Code; 835

(g) The elector's last activity date, as described in 836
division ~~(C) (11)~~ (C) (12) of section 3503.15 of the Revised Code. 837

(2) During the thirty days before the day of a primary or 838
general election, the web site interface of the statewide voter 839
registration database shall permit an elector to search for the 840
polling location at which that elector may cast a ballot. 841

(3) No information in the statewide voter registration 842
database that is exempt from disclosure under division (A) (2) of 843
section 3503.13 of the Revised Code shall be made available on 844
the web site. 845

(B) (1) The secretary of state shall establish, by rule 846
adopted under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, a process for 847
boards of elections to notify the secretary of state of changes 848
in the locations of precinct polling places for the purpose of 849
updating the information made available on the secretary of 850
state's web site under division (A) (2) of this section. Those 851

rules shall require a board of elections, during the thirty days 852
before the day of a primary or general election, to notify the 853
secretary of state within one business day of any change to the 854
location of a precinct polling place within the county. 855

(2) During the thirty days before the day of a primary or 856
general election, not later than one business day after 857
receiving a notification from a county pursuant to division (B) 858
(1) of this section that the location of a precinct polling 859
place has changed, the secretary of state shall update that 860
information on the secretary of state's web site for the purpose 861
of division (A) (2) of this section. 862

Sec. 3503.16. ~~(A) Except as otherwise provided in division 863
(E) of section 111.44 of the Revised Code, whenever (A) (1) 864
Whenever a registered elector changes the place of residence of 865
that registered elector from one precinct to another within a 866
county or from one county to another this state, or has a change 867
of name, that registered elector shall report the change by 868
delivering a change of residence or change of name form, 869
whichever is appropriate, as prescribed by the secretary of 870
state under section 3503.14 of the Revised Code to the state or 871
local office of a designated agency, a public high school or 872
vocational school, a public library, the office of the county 873
treasurer, the office of the secretary of state, any office of 874
the registrar or deputy registrar of motor vehicles, or any 875
office of a board of elections in person or by a third person. 876
Any voter registration, change of address, or change of name 877
application, returned by mail, may be sent only to the secretary 878
of state or the board of elections. 879~~

~~A registered elector also may update the registration of 880
that registered elector by filing a change of residence or 881~~

~~change of name form on the day of a special, primary, or general~~ 882
~~election at the polling place in the precinct in which that~~ 883
~~registered elector resides or at the board of elections or at~~ 884
~~another site designated by the board~~ one of the methods 885
described in section 3503.19 of the Revised Code not later than 886
the thirtieth day before the day of an election, except as 887
otherwise permitted under this section. 888

(2) Whenever a registered elector has a change of 889
political party affiliation, the elector may report the change 890
by one of the methods described in section 3503.19 of the 891
Revised Code or the elector may change the elector's affiliation 892
at a primary election by requesting and casting the ballot of 893
the elector's new political party or by requesting and casting 894
an issues-only ballot. 895

(B) (1) (a) Any registered elector who moves within a 896
precinct on or prior to the day of a general, primary, or 897
special election and has not ~~filed a notice of~~ reported the 898
~~change of residence with the board of elections~~ under section 899
3503.19 of the Revised Code may vote in that election by going 900
to that registered elector's assigned polling place, completing 901
and signing a ~~notice of change of residence~~ voter registration 902
update form, showing photo identification, and casting a ballot. 903

(b) Any registered elector who changes the name of that 904
registered elector and remains within a precinct on or prior to 905
the day of a general, primary, or special election and has not 906
~~filed a notice of~~ reported the change of name ~~with the board of~~ 907
~~elections~~ under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code may vote in 908
that election by going to that registered elector's assigned 909
polling place, completing and signing a ~~notice of a change of~~ 910
~~name~~ voter registration update form, and casting a provisional 911

ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised Code. If the 912
registered elector provides to the precinct election officials 913
proof of a legal name change, such as a marriage license or 914
court order that includes the elector's current and prior names, 915
the elector may complete and sign a ~~notice of change of name~~ 916
voter registration update form and cast a regular ballot. 917

(2) Any registered elector who moves from one precinct to 918
another within a county or moves from one precinct to another 919
and changes the name of that registered elector on or prior to 920
the day of a general, primary, or special election and has not 921
~~filed a notice of reported the~~ change of residence or change of 922
name, whichever is appropriate, ~~with the board of elections~~ 923
under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code may vote in that 924
election if that registered elector complies with division (G) 925
of this section or does all of the following: 926

(a) Appears at anytime during regular business hours on or 927
after the twenty-eighth day prior to the election in which that 928
registered elector wishes to vote or, if the election is held on 929
the day of a presidential primary election, the twenty-fifth day 930
prior to the election, through noon of the Saturday prior to the 931
election at the office of the board of elections, appears at any 932
time during regular business hours on the Monday prior to the 933
election at the office of the board of elections, or appears on 934
the day of the election at either of the following locations: 935

(i) The polling place for the precinct in which that 936
registered elector resides; 937

(ii) The office of the board of elections or, if pursuant 938
to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board 939
has designated another location in the county at which 940
registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of 941

the office of the board of elections. 942

(b) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 943
falsification, the written affirmation on the provisional ballot 944
envelope, which shall serve as a ~~notice of change of residence~~ 945
~~or change of name, whichever is appropriate~~ voter registration 946
update form; 947

(c) Votes a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of 948
the Revised Code at the polling place, at the office of the 949
board of elections, or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 950
3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated another 951
location in the county at which registered electors may vote, at 952
that other location instead of the office of the board of 953
elections, whichever is appropriate, using the address to which 954
that registered elector has moved or the name of that registered 955
elector as changed, whichever is appropriate; 956

(d) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 957
falsification, a statement attesting that that registered 958
elector moved or had a change of name, whichever is appropriate, 959
on or prior to the day of the election, has voted a provisional 960
ballot at the polling place for the precinct in which that 961
registered elector resides, at the office of the board of 962
elections, or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of 963
the Revised Code the board has designated another location in 964
the county at which registered electors may vote, at that other 965
location instead of the office of the board of elections, 966
whichever is appropriate, and will not vote or attempt to vote 967
at any other location for that particular election. 968

(C) Any registered elector who moves from one county to 969
another county within the state on or prior to the day of a 970
general, primary, or special election and has not ~~registered to~~ 971

~~vote in the county to which that registered elector moved~~ 972
reported the change of residence under section 3503.19 of the 973
Revised Code may vote in that election if that registered 974
elector complies with division (G) of this section or does all 975
of the following: 976

(1) Appears at any time during regular business hours on 977
or after the twenty-eighth day prior to the election in which 978
that registered elector wishes to vote or, if the election is 979
held on the day of a presidential primary election, the twenty- 980
fifth day prior to the election, through noon of the Saturday 981
prior to the election at the office of the board of elections 982
or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the 983
Revised Code the board has designated another location in the 984
county at which registered electors may vote, at that other 985
location instead of the office of the board of elections, 986
appears during regular business hours on the Monday prior to the 987
election at the office of the board of elections or, if pursuant 988
to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board 989
has designated another location in the county at which 990
registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of 991
the office of the board of elections, or appears on the day of 992
the election at the office of the board of elections or, if 993
pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code 994
the board has designated another location in the county at which 995
registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of 996
the office of the board of elections; 997

(2) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 998
falsification, the written affirmation on the provisional ballot 999
envelope, which shall serve as a ~~notice of change of residence~~ 1000
voter registration update form; 1001

(3) Votes a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of 1002
the Revised Code at the office of the board of elections or, if 1003
pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code 1004
the board has designated another location in the county at which 1005
registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of 1006
the office of the board of elections, using the address to which 1007
that registered elector has moved; 1008

(4) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 1009
falsification, a statement attesting that that registered 1010
elector has moved from one county to another county within the 1011
state on or prior to the day of the election, has voted at the 1012
office of the board of elections or, if pursuant to division (C) 1013
of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated 1014
another location in the county at which registered electors may 1015
vote, at that other location instead of the office of the board 1016
of elections, and will not vote or attempt to vote at any other 1017
location for that particular election. 1018

(D) A person who votes by absent voter's ballots pursuant 1019
to division ~~(G)~~-(E) of this section shall not make written 1020
application for the ballots pursuant to Chapter 3509. of the 1021
Revised Code. Ballots cast pursuant to division ~~(G)~~-(E) of this 1022
section shall be set aside in a special envelope and counted 1023
during the official canvass of votes in the manner provided for 1024
in sections 3505.32 and 3509.06 of the Revised Code insofar as 1025
that manner is applicable. The board shall examine the pollbooks 1026
to verify that no ballot was cast at the polls or by absent 1027
voter's ballots under Chapter 3509. or 3511. of the Revised Code 1028
by an elector who has voted by absent voter's ballots pursuant 1029
to division ~~(G)~~-(E) of this section. Any ballot determined to be 1030
insufficient for any of the reasons stated above or stated in 1031
section 3509.07 of the Revised Code shall not be counted. 1032

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

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

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

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

~~(G) A registered elector who otherwise would qualify to vote under division (B) or (C) of this section but is unable to appear at the office of the board of elections or, if pursuant~~

to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board 1063
has designated another location in the county at which 1064
registered electors may vote, at that other location, on account 1065
of personal illness, physical disability, or infirmity, may vote 1066
on the day of the election if that registered elector does all 1067
of the following: 1068

(1) Makes a written application on a form prescribed by 1069
the secretary of state that includes all of the information 1070
required under section 3509.03 of the Revised Code to the 1071
appropriate board for an absent voter's ballot on or after the 1072
twenty-seventh day prior to the election in which the registered 1073
elector wishes to vote through the close of business on the 1074
seventh day prior to that election and requests that the absent 1075
voter's ballot be sent to the address to which the registered 1076
elector has moved if the registered elector has moved, or to the 1077
address of that registered elector who has not moved but has had 1078
a change of name; 1079

(2) Declares that the registered elector has moved or had 1080
a change of name, whichever is appropriate, and otherwise is 1081
qualified to vote under the circumstances described in division 1082
(B) or (C) of this section, whichever is appropriate, but that 1083
the registered elector is unable to appear at the board of 1084
elections because of personal illness, physical disability, or 1085
infirmity; 1086

(3) Completes and returns a voter registration update form 1087
along with the completed absent voter's ballot ~~a notice of~~ 1088
~~change of residence indicating the address to which the~~ 1089
~~registered elector has moved, or a notice of change of name,~~ 1090
~~whichever is appropriate;~~ 1091

(4) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 1092

falsification, a statement attesting that the registered elector 1093
has moved or had a change of name on or prior to the day before 1094
the election, has voted by absent voter's ballot because of 1095
personal illness, physical disability, or infirmity that 1096
prevented the registered elector from appearing at the board of 1097
elections, and will not vote or attempt to vote at any other 1098
location or by absent voter's ballot mailed to any other 1099
location or address for that particular election. 1100

Sec. 3503.19. ~~(A) Persons~~ (A) (1) Except as otherwise 1101
provided in division (E) of section 111.44 of the Revised Code, 1102
persons qualified to register or to ~~change~~ update their 1103
registration because of a change of address ~~or~~, change of name, 1104
or change of political party affiliation may register or ~~change~~ 1105
update their registration in by doing any of the following: 1106

(a) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1107
registration update form in person or through another person at 1108
any state or local office of a designated agency, at the office 1109
of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor vehicles, at a 1110
public high school or vocational school, at a public library, at 1111
the office of a county treasurer, or at a branch office 1112
established by the board of elections, ~~or~~; 1113

(b) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1114
registration update form in person or through another person at 1115
a probate court or a court of common pleas. The board of 1116
elections shall provide the forms to the courts, and the courts 1117
shall provide the forms to any person eighteen years of age or 1118
older who has a change of name by order of the court or who 1119
applies for a marriage license. 1120

(c) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1121
registration update form in person, through another person, or 1122

by mail at the office of the secretary of state or at the office 1123
of a any board of elections. ~~A registered elector may also~~ 1124
~~change the elector's registration;~~ 1125

(d) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1126
registration update form through the online voter registration 1127
system under section 3503.20 of the Revised Code; 1128

(e) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1129
registration update form in person to the election officials on 1130
election day at any polling place ~~where the elector is eligible~~ 1131
~~to vote, in the manner provided under section 3503.16 of the~~ 1132
~~Revised Code.~~ Voter registration applications and voter 1133
registration update forms shall be available at each polling 1134
place, and the election officials shall return all completed 1135
forms, together with the pollbooks and tally sheets, to the 1136
board of elections. 1137

(f) In the case of a person who is eligible to vote as a 1138
uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in accordance with 1139
52 U.S.C. 20310, returning the person's completed voter 1140
registration application or voter registration update form 1141
electronically to the office of the secretary of state or to the 1142
board of elections of the county in which the person's voting 1143
residence is located pursuant to Chapter 3511. of the Revised 1144
Code. 1145

(2) (a) Any state or local office of a designated agency, a 1146
public high school or vocational school, a public library, a 1147
probate court or court of common pleas, or the office of a 1148
county treasurer shall date stamp a voter registration 1149
application or voter registration update form it receives using 1150
a date stamp that does not disclose the identity of the state or 1151
local office that receives it and shall transmit any voter 1152

~~registration~~ the application or change of registration form that 1153
~~it receives~~ to the board of elections of the county in which the 1154
state or local office is located, within five days after 1155
receiving the ~~voter registration~~ application or ~~change of~~ 1156
~~registration~~ form. The office of the registrar or any deputy 1157
registrar of motor vehicles shall transmit any electronic voter 1158
registration application or ~~change of voter~~ registration update 1159
form that it receives to the secretary of state within twenty- 1160
four hours after receiving it, and shall transmit any paper 1161
voter registration application or ~~change of registration~~ form 1162
that it receives to the board of elections of the county in 1163
which the office of the registrar or deputy registrar is located 1164
within five days after receiving the voter registration 1165
application or ~~change of registration~~ form, as required under 1166
section 3503.11 of the Revised Code. 1167

(b) If a board of elections or the office of the secretary 1168
of state receives a voter registration application or voter 1169
registration update form before the thirtieth day before an 1170
election, the board or the office of the secretary of state, as 1171
applicable, shall forward the application or form to the board 1172
of elections of the county in which the applicant resides within 1173
ten days after receiving it. If a board of elections or the 1174
office of the secretary of state receives a voter registration 1175
application or voter registration update form on or after the 1176
thirtieth day before an election, the board or the office of the 1177
secretary of state, as applicable, shall forward the application 1178
or form to the board of elections of the county in which the 1179
applicant resides within thirty days after that election. 1180

(3) Except as otherwise provided in section 3503.16 of the 1181
Revised Code: 1182

(a) An otherwise valid voter registration application that 1183
is returned to the appropriate office other than by mail must be 1184
received by a state or local office of a designated agency, the 1185
office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor 1186
vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public 1187
library, a probate court or court of common pleas, the office of 1188
a county treasurer, the office of the secretary of state, or the 1189
office of a board of elections no later than the thirtieth day 1190
preceding a primary, special, or general election for the person 1191
to qualify as an elector eligible to vote at that election. An 1192
otherwise valid registration application received after that day 1193
entitles the elector to vote at all subsequent elections. 1194

~~Any state or local office of a designated agency, the 1195
office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor 1196
vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public 1197
library, or the office of a county treasurer shall date stamp a 1198
registration application or change of name or change of address 1199
form it receives using a date stamp that does not disclose the 1200
identity of the state or local office that receives the 1201
registration. 1202~~

(b) Voter registration applications, if otherwise valid, 1203
that are returned by mail to the office of the secretary of 1204
state or to the office of a board of elections must be 1205
postmarked no later than the thirtieth day preceding a primary, 1206
special, or general election in order for the person to qualify 1207
as an elector eligible to vote at that election. If an otherwise 1208
valid voter registration application that is returned by mail 1209
does not bear a postmark or a legible postmark, the registration 1210
shall be valid for that election if received by the office of 1211
the secretary of state or the office of a board of elections no 1212
later than twenty-five days preceding any special, primary, or 1213

general election. 1214

~~(B) (1)~~ (B) Any person may apply in person, by telephone, by 1215
mail, or through another person for voter registration forms to 1216
the office of the secretary of state or the office of a board of 1217
elections. An individual who is eligible to vote as a uniformed 1218
services voter or an overseas voter in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1219
1973ff-6 also may apply for voter registration forms by 1220
electronic means to the office of the secretary of state or to 1221
the board of elections of the county in which the person's 1222
voting residence is located pursuant to section 3503.191 of the 1223
Revised Code. 1224

~~(2) (a) An applicant may return the applicant's completed~~ 1225
~~registration form in person or by mail to any state or local~~ 1226
~~office of a designated agency, to a public high school or~~ 1227
~~vocational school, to a public library, to the office of a~~ 1228
~~county treasurer, to the office of the secretary of state, or to~~ 1229
~~the office of a board of elections. An applicant who is eligible~~ 1230
~~to vote as a uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in~~ 1231
~~accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6 also may return the~~ 1232
~~applicant's completed voter registration form electronically to~~ 1233
~~the office of the secretary of state or to the board of~~ 1234
~~elections of the county in which the person's voting residence~~ 1235
~~is located pursuant to section 3503.191 of the Revised Code.~~ 1236

~~(b) Subject to division (B) (2) (c) of this section, an~~ 1237
~~applicant may return the applicant's completed registration form~~ 1238
~~through another person to any board of elections or the office~~ 1239
~~of the secretary of state.~~ 1240

~~(c) A person who receives compensation for registering a~~ 1241
~~voter shall return any registration form entrusted to that~~ 1242
~~person by an applicant to any board of elections or to the~~ 1243

~~office of the secretary of state.~~

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

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

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(a) The ~~applicant's~~ fact that the person is registered to
vote or has had the person's registration updated;

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(b) The person's political party affiliation, if any, as
determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code;

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1272

(c) The precinct in which the ~~applicant-person~~ is to vote; 1273

~~(c)~~ (d) In bold type as follows: 1274

"Voters must bring photo identification to the polls in 1275
order to verify identity. Voters who do not provide photo 1276
identification will still be able to vote by casting a 1277
provisional ballot." 1278

The notification shall be by nonforwardable mail. If the 1279
mail is returned to the board, it shall investigate and cause 1280
the notification to be delivered to the correct address. 1281

(2) If, after investigating as required under division (C) 1282
(1) of this section, the board is unable to verify the voter's 1283
correct address, it shall cause the voter's name in the official 1284
registration list and in the poll list or signature pollbook to 1285
be marked to indicate that the voter's notification was returned 1286
to the board. 1287

At the first election at which a voter whose name has been 1288
so marked appears to vote, the voter shall be required to vote 1289
by provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised 1290
Code. If the provisional ballot is counted pursuant to division 1291
(B) (3) of section 3505.183 of the Revised Code, the board shall 1292
correct that voter's registration, if needed, and shall remove 1293
the indication that the voter's notification was returned from 1294
that voter's name on the official registration list and on the 1295
poll list or signature pollbook. If the provisional ballot is 1296
not counted pursuant to division (B) (4) (a) (i), (v), or (vi) of 1297
section 3505.183 of the Revised Code, the voter's registration 1298
shall be canceled. The board shall notify the voter by United 1299
States mail of the cancellation. 1300

(3) If a notice of the disposition of an otherwise valid 1301

registration application is sent by nonforwardable mail and is 1302
returned undelivered, the person shall be registered as provided 1303
in division (C) (2) of this section and sent a confirmation 1304
notice by forwardable mail. If the person fails to respond to 1305
the confirmation notice, update the person's registration, or 1306
vote by provisional ballot as provided in division (C) (2) of 1307
this section in any election during the period of two federal 1308
elections subsequent to the mailing of the confirmation notice, 1309
the person's registration shall be canceled. 1310

Sec. 3503.20. (A) The secretary of state shall establish a 1311
secure online voter registration system. The system shall 1312
provide for all of the following: 1313

(1) An applicant to submit a voter registration 1314
application to the secretary of state online through the 1315
internet; 1316

(2) The online applicant to be registered to vote, if all 1317
of the following apply: 1318

(a) The application contains all of the following 1319
information: 1320

(i) The applicant's name; 1321

(ii) The applicant's address; 1322

(iii) The applicant's date of birth; 1323

(iv) The last four digits of the applicant's social 1324
security number; 1325

(v) The applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the 1326
number of the applicant's state identification card issued under 1327
section 4507.50 of the Revised Code. 1328

(b) The applicant's name, address, and date of birth, the 1329
last four digits of the applicant's social security number, and 1330
the applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the number of 1331
the applicant's state identification card as they are provided 1332
in the application are not inconsistent with the information on 1333
file with the bureau of motor vehicles; 1334

(c) The applicant is a United States citizen, will have 1335
lived in this state for thirty days immediately preceding the 1336
next election, will be at least eighteen years of age on or 1337
before the day of the next general election, and is otherwise 1338
eligible to register to vote; 1339

(d) The applicant attests to the truth and accuracy of the 1340
information submitted in the online application under penalty of 1341
election falsification. 1342

(3) The application to include the political party 1343
affiliation fields and notice described in division (B)(1) of 1344
section 3503.071 of the Revised Code. 1345

(B) If an individual registers to vote or a registered 1346
elector updates the elector's ~~name, address, or both~~ 1347
registration under this section, the secretary of state shall 1348
obtain an electronic copy of the applicant's or elector's 1349
signature that is on file with the bureau of motor vehicles. 1350
That electronic signature shall be used as the applicant's or 1351
elector's signature on voter registration records, for all 1352
election and signature-matching purposes. 1353

(C) The secretary of state shall employ whatever security 1354
measures the secretary of state considers necessary to ensure 1355
the integrity and accuracy of voter registration information 1356
submitted electronically pursuant to this section. Errors in 1357

processing voter registration applications in the online system 1358
shall not prevent an applicant from becoming registered or from 1359
voting. 1360

(D) The online voter registration application established 1361
under division (A) of this section shall include the following 1362
language: 1363

"By clicking the box below, I affirm all of the following 1364
under penalty of election falsification, which is a felony of 1365
the fifth degree: 1366

(1) I am the person whose name and identifying information 1367
is provided on this form, and I desire to register to vote, or 1368
update my voter registration, in the State of Ohio. 1369

(2) All of the information I have provided on this form is 1370
true and correct as of the date I am submitting this form. 1371

(3) I am a United States citizen. 1372

(4) I will have lived in Ohio for thirty days immediately 1373
preceding the next election. 1374

(5) I will be at least eighteen years of age on or before 1375
the day of the next general election. 1376

(6) I authorize the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to transmit 1377
to the Ohio Secretary of State my signature that is on file with 1378
the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and I understand and agree that 1379
the signature transmitted by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will 1380
be used by the Secretary of State to validate this electronic 1381
voter registration application as if I had signed this form 1382
personally." 1383

In order to register to vote or update a voter 1384
registration under division (A) of this section, an applicant or 1385

elector shall be required to mark the box in the online voter 1386
registration application that appears in conjunction with the 1387
previous statement. 1388

(E) ~~The online voter registration process established~~ 1389
~~under division (A) of this section shall be in operation and~~ 1390
~~available for use by individuals who wish to register to vote or~~ 1391
~~update their voter registration information online not earlier~~ 1392
~~than January 1, 2017.~~ During the period beginning on the first 1393
day after the close of voter registration before an election and 1394
ending on the day of the election, the online voter registration 1395
system shall display a notice indicating that the applicant will 1396
not be registered to vote for the purposes of that election. 1397

(F) Notwithstanding section 1.50 of the Revised Code, if 1398
any provision of this section or of division (E) of section 1399
3503.14 of the Revised Code is held invalid, or if the 1400
application of any provision of this section or of that division 1401
to any person or circumstance is held invalid, then this section 1402
and that division cease to operate. 1403

Sec. 3503.23. (A) Fourteen days before an election, the 1404
board of elections shall cause to be prepared from the statewide 1405
voter registration database established under section 3503.15 of 1406
the Revised Code a complete and official registration list for 1407
each precinct, containing the names, addresses, and political 1408
party ~~whose ballot the elector voted in the most recent primary~~ 1409
~~election within the current year and the immediately preceding~~ 1410
~~two calendar years,~~ affiliations of all qualified registered 1411
voters in the precinct, except as otherwise provided in section 1412
111.44 of the Revised Code. All the names, insofar as 1413
practicable, shall be arranged in alphabetical order. The lists 1414
may be prepared either in sheet form on one side of the paper or 1415

in electronic form, at the discretion of the board. Each 1416
precinct list shall be headed "Register of Voters," and under 1417
the heading shall be indicated the district or ward and 1418
precinct. 1419

Appended to each precinct list shall be attached the names 1420
of the members of the board and the name of the director. A 1421
sufficient number of such lists shall be provided for 1422
distribution to the candidates, political parties, or organized 1423
groups that apply for them. The board shall have each precinct 1424
list available at the board for viewing by the public during 1425
normal business hours. The board shall ensure that, by the 1426
opening of the polls on the day of a general or primary 1427
election, each precinct has a paper copy of the registration 1428
list of voters in that precinct. 1429

(B) On the day of a general or primary election, precinct 1430
election officials shall do both of the following: 1431

(1) By the time the polls open, conspicuously post and 1432
display at the polling place one copy of the registration list 1433
of voters in that precinct in an area of the polling place that 1434
is easily accessible; 1435

(2) At 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. place a mark, on the official 1436
registration list posted at the polling place, before the name 1437
of those registered voters who have voted. 1438

(C) Notwithstanding division (B) of section 3501.35 of the 1439
Revised Code, any person may enter the polling place for the 1440
sole purpose of reviewing the official registration list posted 1441
in accordance with division (B) of this section, provided that 1442
the person does not engage in conduct that would constitute 1443
harassment in violation of the election law, as defined in 1444

section 3501.90 of the Revised Code. 1445

Sec. 3503.28. (A) The secretary of state shall develop an 1446
information brochure regarding voter registration. The brochure 1447
shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following 1448
information: 1449

(1) The applicable deadlines for registering to vote or 1450
for returning an applicant's completed registration form; 1451

(2) The applicable deadline for returning an applicant's 1452
completed registration form if the person returning the form is 1453
being compensated for registering voters; 1454

(3) The manner in which a person may establish or change 1455
the person's political party affiliation; 1456

(4) The locations to which a person may return an 1457
applicant's completed registration form; 1458

~~(4)~~ (5) The location to which a person who is compensated 1459
for registering voters may return an applicant's completed 1460
registration form; 1461

~~(5)~~ (6) The registration and affirmation requirements 1462
applicable to persons who are compensated for registering voters 1463
under section 3503.29 of the Revised Code; 1464

~~(6)~~ (7) A notice, which shall be written in bold type, 1465
stating as follows: 1466

"Voters must bring photo identification to the polls in 1467
order to verify identity. Voters who do not provide photo 1468
identification will still be able to vote by casting a 1469
provisional ballot." 1470

(B) Except as otherwise provided in division (D) of this 1471

section, a board of elections, designated agency, public high 1472
school, public vocational school, public library, office of a 1473
county treasurer, or deputy registrar of motor vehicles shall 1474
distribute a copy of the brochure developed under division (A) 1475
of this section to any person who requests more than two voter 1476
registration forms at one time. 1477

(C) (1) The secretary of state shall provide the 1478
information required to be included in the brochure developed 1479
under division (A) of this section to any person who prints a 1480
voter registration form that is made available on a web site of 1481
the office of the secretary of state. 1482

(2) If a board of elections operates and maintains a web 1483
site, the board shall provide the information required to be 1484
included in the brochure developed under division (A) of this 1485
section to any person who prints a voter registration form that 1486
is made available on that web site. 1487

(D) A board of elections shall not be required to 1488
distribute a copy of a brochure under division (B) of this 1489
section to any of the following officials or employees who are 1490
requesting more than two voter registration forms at one time in 1491
the course of the official's or employee's normal duties: 1492

(1) An election official; 1493

(2) A county treasurer; 1494

(3) A deputy registrar of motor vehicles; 1495

(4) An employee of a designated agency; 1496

(5) An employee of a public high school; 1497

(6) An employee of a public vocational school; 1498

(7) An employee of a public library;	1499
(8) An employee of the office of a county treasurer;	1500
(9) An employee of the bureau of motor vehicles;	1501
(10) An employee of a deputy registrar of motor vehicles;	1502
(11) An employee of an election official.	1503
(E) As used in this section, "registering voters" includes	1504
any effort, for compensation, to provide voter registration	1505
forms or to assist persons in completing or returning those	1506
forms.	1507
Sec. 3505.181. (A) All of the following individuals shall	1508
be permitted to cast a provisional ballot at an election:	1509
(1) An individual who declares that the individual is a	1510
registered voter in the precinct in which the individual desires	1511
to vote and that the individual is eligible to vote in an	1512
election, but the name of the individual does not appear on the	1513
official list of eligible voters for the precinct or an election	1514
official asserts that the individual is not eligible to vote;	1515
(2) An individual who does not have or is unable to	1516
provide photo identification to the election officials;	1517
(3) An individual whose name in the poll list or signature	1518
pollbook has been marked under section 3509.09 or 3511.13 of the	1519
Revised Code as having requested an absent voter's ballot or a	1520
uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot for that	1521
election and who appears to vote at the polling place;	1522
(4) An individual whose notification of registration has	1523
been returned undelivered to the board of elections and whose	1524
name in the official registration list and in the poll list or	1525

signature pollbook has been marked under division (C) (2) of 1526
section 3503.19 of the Revised Code; 1527

(5) An individual who has been successfully challenged 1528
under section 3505.20 or ~~3513.20~~ 3513.19 of the Revised Code; 1529

(6) An individual who changes the individual's name and 1530
remains within the precinct without providing proof of that name 1531
change under division (B) (1) (b) of section 3503.16 of the 1532
Revised Code, moves from one precinct to another within a 1533
county, moves from one precinct to another and changes the 1534
individual's name, or moves from one county to another within 1535
the state, and completes and signs the required forms and 1536
statements under division (B) or (C) of section 3503.16 of the 1537
Revised Code; 1538

(7) An individual whose signature, in the opinion of the 1539
precinct officers under section 3505.22 of the Revised Code, is 1540
not that of the person who signed that name in the registration 1541
forms. 1542

(B) An individual who is eligible to cast a provisional 1543
ballot under division (A) of this section shall be permitted to 1544
cast a provisional ballot as follows: 1545

(1) An election official at the polling place shall notify 1546
the individual that the individual may cast a provisional ballot 1547
in that election. 1548

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (F) of this 1549
section, the individual shall complete and execute a written 1550
affirmation before an election official at the polling place 1551
stating that the individual is both of the following: 1552

(a) A registered voter in the precinct in which the 1553
individual desires to vote; 1554

(b) Eligible to vote in that election. 1555

(3) An election official at the polling place shall 1556
transmit the ballot cast by the individual and the voter 1557
information contained in the written affirmation executed by the 1558
individual under division (B) (2) of this section to an 1559
appropriate local election official for verification under 1560
division (B) (4) of this section. 1561

(4) If the appropriate local election official to whom the 1562
ballot or voter or address information is transmitted under 1563
division (B) (3) of this section determines that the individual 1564
is eligible to vote, the individual's provisional ballot shall 1565
be counted as a vote in that election. 1566

(5) (a) At the time that an individual casts a provisional 1567
ballot, the appropriate local election official shall give the 1568
individual written information that states that any individual 1569
who casts a provisional ballot will be able to ascertain under 1570
the system established under division (B) (5) (b) of this section 1571
whether the vote was counted, and, if the vote was not counted, 1572
the reason that the vote was not counted. 1573

(b) The appropriate state or local election official shall 1574
establish a free access system, in the form of a toll-free 1575
telephone number, that any individual who casts a provisional 1576
ballot may access to discover whether the vote of that 1577
individual was counted, and, if the vote was not counted, the 1578
reason that the vote was not counted. The free access system 1579
established under this division also shall provide to an 1580
individual whose provisional ballot was not counted information 1581
explaining how that individual may contact the board of 1582
elections to register to vote or to resolve problems with the 1583
individual's voter registration. 1584

The appropriate state or local election official shall 1585
establish and maintain reasonable procedures necessary to 1586
protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of personal 1587
information collected, stored, or otherwise used by the free 1588
access system established under this division. The system shall 1589
permit an individual only to gain access to information about 1590
the individual's own provisional ballot. 1591

(6) If, at the time that an individual casts a provisional 1592
ballot, the individual provides photo identification, the 1593
individual shall record the type of identification provided on 1594
the provisional ballot affirmation and, if the individual 1595
provides an Ohio driver's license, state identification card, or 1596
interim identification document, the individual also shall write 1597
the individual's driver's license or state identification card 1598
number on the provisional ballot affirmation. 1599

(7) (a) For a provisional ballot to be eligible to be 1600
counted when it is cast by an individual who does not have photo 1601
identification because the individual has a religious objection 1602
to being photographed, the individual shall complete an 1603
affidavit of religious objection under section 3505.19 of the 1604
Revised Code. The election officials shall attach the affidavit 1605
to the individual's provisional ballot envelope. If the 1606
individual does not complete the affidavit at the time of 1607
casting the provisional ballot, the individual may appear at the 1608
office of the board of elections within four days after the day 1609
of the election and complete the affidavit. 1610

(b) For a provisional ballot to be eligible to be counted 1611
when it is cast by any other individual who does not have or is 1612
unable to provide photo identification to the election 1613
officials, the individual who cast that ballot, within four days 1614

after the day of the election, shall appear at the office of the 1615
board of elections and provide photo identification. 1616

(8) For a provisional ballot cast by an individual who has 1617
been successfully challenged under section 3505.20 of the 1618
Revised Code to be eligible to be counted, the individual who 1619
cast that ballot, within four days after the day of that 1620
election, shall provide to the board of elections any 1621
identification or other documentation required to be provided by 1622
the applicable challenge questions asked of that individual 1623
under section 3505.20 of the Revised Code. 1624

(C) (1) If an individual declares that the individual is 1625
eligible to vote in a precinct other than the precinct in which 1626
the individual desires to vote, or if, upon review of the 1627
precinct voting location guide using the residential street 1628
address provided by the individual, an election official at the 1629
precinct at which the individual desires to vote determines that 1630
the individual is not eligible to vote in that precinct, the 1631
election official shall direct the individual to the precinct 1632
and polling place in which the individual appears to be eligible 1633
to vote, explain that the individual may cast a provisional 1634
ballot at the current location but the ballot or a portion of 1635
the ballot will not be counted if it is cast in the wrong 1636
precinct, and provide the telephone number of the board of 1637
elections in case the individual has additional questions. 1638

(2) If the individual refuses to travel to the correct 1639
precinct or to the office of the board of elections to cast a 1640
ballot, the individual shall be permitted to vote a provisional 1641
ballot at that precinct in accordance with division (B) of this 1642
section. If the individual is in the correct polling location 1643
for the precinct in which the individual is registered and 1644

eligible to vote, the election official shall complete and sign, 1645
under penalty of election falsification, a form that includes 1646
all of the following, and attach the form to the individual's 1647
provisional ballot affirmation: 1648

(a) The name or number of the individual's correct 1649
precinct; 1650

(b) A statement that the election official instructed the 1651
individual to travel to the correct precinct to vote; 1652

(c) A statement that the election official informed the 1653
individual that casting a provisional ballot in the wrong 1654
precinct would result in all or a portion of the votes on the 1655
ballot being rejected; 1656

(d) The name or number of the precinct in which the 1657
individual is casting a provisional ballot; and 1658

(e) The name of the polling location in which the 1659
individual is casting a provisional ballot. 1660

(D) The appropriate local election official shall cause 1661
voting information to be publicly posted at each polling place 1662
on the day of each election. 1663

(E) As used in this section and sections 3505.182 and 1664
3505.183 of the Revised Code: 1665

(1) "Precinct voting location guide" means either of the 1666
following: 1667

(a) An electronic or paper record that lists the correct 1668
precinct and polling place for either each specific residential 1669
street address in the county or the range of residential street 1670
addresses located in each neighborhood block in the county; 1671

(b) Any other method that a board of elections creates 1672
that allows a precinct election official or any elector who is 1673
at a polling place in that county to determine the correct 1674
precinct and polling place of any qualified elector who resides 1675
in the county. 1676

(2) "Voting information" means all of the following: 1677

(a) A sample version of the ballot that will be used for 1678
that election; 1679

(b) Information regarding the date of the election and the 1680
hours during which polling places will be open; 1681

(c) Instructions on how to vote, including how to cast a 1682
vote and how to cast a provisional ballot; 1683

(d) Instructions for mail-in registrants and first-time 1684
voters under applicable federal and state laws; 1685

(e) General information on voting rights under applicable 1686
federal and state laws, including information on the right of an 1687
individual to cast a provisional ballot and instructions on how 1688
to contact the appropriate officials if these rights are alleged 1689
to have been violated; 1690

(f) General information on federal and state laws 1691
regarding prohibitions against acts of fraud and 1692
misrepresentation. 1693

(F) Nothing in this section or section 3505.183 of the 1694
Revised Code is in derogation of section 3505.24 of the Revised 1695
Code, which permits a blind, disabled, or illiterate elector to 1696
receive assistance in the marking of the elector's ballot by two 1697
precinct election officials of different political parties. A 1698
blind, disabled, or illiterate elector may receive assistance in 1699

marking that elector's provisional ballot and in completing the 1700
required affirmation in the same manner as an elector may 1701
receive assistance on the day of an election under that section. 1702

Sec. 3509.02. (A) Any qualified elector may vote by absent 1703
voter's ballots at an election. 1704

(B) Any qualified elector who is unable to appear at the 1705
office of the board of elections or, if pursuant to division (C) 1706
of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated 1707
another location in the county at which registered electors may 1708
vote, at that other location on account of personal illness, 1709
physical disability, or infirmity, and who moves from one 1710
precinct to another within a county, changes the elector's name 1711
and moves from one precinct to another within a county, or moves 1712
from one county to another county within the state, on or prior 1713
to the day of a general, primary, or special election and has 1714
not filed a ~~notice of change of residence or change of name~~ 1715
voter registration update form may vote by absent voter's 1716
ballots in that election as specified in division ~~(C)~~ (E) of 1717
section 3503.16 of the Revised Code. 1718

Sec. 3509.03. (A) Except as otherwise provided in sections 1719
3509.051, 3511.02, and 3511.021 of the Revised Code, any 1720
qualified elector desiring to vote absent voter's ballots at an 1721
election shall deliver a written application for those ballots, 1722
either in person or by mail, to the board of elections of the 1723
county in which the elector's voting residence is located. 1724

(B) Except as otherwise permitted under section 3511.02 of 1725
the Revised Code and under division (C) of this section, the 1726
application shall be on a form prescribed by the secretary of 1727
state and shall contain all of the following: 1728

(1) The elector's name;	1729
(2) The elector's signature;	1730
(3) The address at which the elector is registered to vote;	1731 1732
(4) The elector's date of birth;	1733
(5) One of the following:	1734
(a) The elector's Ohio driver's license or state identification card number;	1735 1736
(b) The last four digits of the elector's social security number;	1737 1738
(c) A copy of the elector's photo identification.	1739
(6) A statement identifying the election for which absent voter's ballots are requested;	1740 1741
(7) A statement that the person requesting the ballots is a qualified elector;	1742 1743
(8) If the request is for primary election ballots, the <u>elector's political party affiliation whose ballot the elector</u> <u>wishes to cast or an indication that the elector wishes to cast</u> <u>an issues-only ballot;</u>	1744 1745 1746 1747
(9) If the elector desires ballots to be mailed to the elector, the address to which those ballots shall be mailed.	1748 1749
(C) If the elector has a confidential voter registration record, as described in section 111.44 of the Revised Code, the elector may provide the elector's program participant identification number instead of the address at which the elector is registered to vote.	1750 1751 1752 1753 1754

(D) Except as otherwise provided in division (A) of 1755
section 3509.051 and in division (B) of section 3509.08 of the 1756
Revised Code, an application to receive absent voter's ballots 1757
shall be delivered to the office of the board not earlier than 1758
the first day of January of the year of the elections for which 1759
the absent voter's ballots are requested or not earlier than 1760
ninety days before the day of the election at which the ballots 1761
are to be voted, whichever is earlier, and not later than the 1762
close of business on the seventh day before the day of the 1763
election at which the ballots are to be voted. 1764

(E) Except as permitted under section 111.31 of the 1765
Revised Code, no public office, and no public official or 1766
employee who is acting in an official capacity, shall do either 1767
of the following: 1768

(1) Prepay the return postage for an application for 1769
absent voter's ballots; 1770

(2) Mail or otherwise deliver an unsolicited application 1771
for absent voter's ballots to any person. 1772

(F) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (F) (2) of 1773
this section and in sections 3505.24 and 3509.08 of the Revised 1774
Code, no person shall preprint or fill out any portion of an 1775
application for absent voter's ballots on behalf of an 1776
applicant. 1777

(2) The secretary of state or a board of elections may 1778
preprint only an applicant's name and address on an application 1779
for absent voter's ballots before mailing that application to 1780
the applicant, except that if the applicant has a confidential 1781
voter registration record, the secretary of state or a board of 1782
elections shall not preprint the applicant's address on the 1783

application. 1784

(3) A completed application for absent voter's ballots is 1785
not valid if any portion of it has been completed by any person 1786
other than the applicant in violation of division (F) of this 1787
section. 1788

Sec. 3509.04. (A) If a board of elections receives an 1789
application for absent voter's ballots that does not contain all 1790
of the required information or is not submitted on an 1791
appropriate form, the board promptly shall notify the applicant 1792
of the additional information required to be provided by the 1793
applicant to complete that application, direct the applicant to 1794
use an appropriate form, or both, as applicable. 1795

(B) Upon receipt by the board of elections of an 1796
application for absent voter's ballots that contains all of the 1797
required information and is submitted on an appropriate form, as 1798
provided by section 3509.03 and division ~~(G)~~(E) of section 1799
3503.16 of the Revised Code, the board, if the board finds that 1800
the applicant is a qualified elector, shall deliver to the 1801
applicant in person or mail directly to the applicant by special 1802
delivery mail, air mail, or regular mail, postage prepaid, 1803
proper absent voter's ballots. The board shall deliver or mail 1804
with the ballots an unsealed identification envelope upon the 1805
face of which shall be printed a form substantially as follows: 1806

"Identification Envelope Statement of Voter 1807

I, _____ (Name of voter), declare under 1808
penalty of election falsification that the within ballot or 1809
ballots contained no voting marks of any kind when I received 1810
them, and I caused the ballot or ballots to be marked, enclosed 1811
in the identification envelope, and sealed in that envelope. 1812

My voting residence in Ohio is 1813

1814

(Street and Number, if any, or Rural Route and Number) 1815

of _____ (City, Village, or Township) 1816

Ohio, which is in Ward _____ Precinct _____ 1817

in that city, village, or township. 1818

If I have a confidential voter registration record, I am 1819

providing my program participant identification number instead 1820

of my residence address: _____ 1821

~~The~~ If this election is a primary election ballots, if 1822

~~any, within this envelope are primary election ballots: (check~~ 1823

~~one)~~ 1824

 I have cast the ballot of the _____ Party; 1825

 I have cast an issues-only ballot. 1826

Ballots contained within this envelope are to be voted at 1827

the _____ (general, special, or primary) election to be 1828

held on the _____ day of 1829

_____, _____. 1830

My date of birth is _____ (Month and Day), 1831

_____ (Year). 1832

(Voter must provide one of the following:) 1833

My Ohio driver's license or state identification card 1834

number is _____ (Driver's license or state 1835

identification card number). 1836

The last four digits of my Social Security Number are 1837

_____ (Last four digits of Social Security Number). 1838

_____ In lieu of providing a driver's license or state 1839
identification card number or the last four digits of my Social 1840
Security Number, I am enclosing a copy of my photo 1841
identification in the return envelope in which this 1842
identification envelope will be mailed. 1843

I hereby declare, under penalty of election falsification, 1844
that the statements above are true, as I verily believe. 1845

_____ 1846

(Signature of Voter) 1847

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF 1848
THE FIFTH DEGREE." 1849

The board shall mail with the ballots and the unsealed 1850
identification envelope an unsealed return envelope upon the 1851
face of which shall be printed the post-office address of the 1852
board. In the upper left corner on the face of the return 1853
envelope, several blank lines shall be printed upon which the 1854
voter may write the voter's name and return address. The return 1855
envelope shall be of such size that the identification envelope 1856
can be conveniently placed within it for returning the 1857
identification envelope to the board. 1858

No public office, and no public official or employee who 1859
is acting in an official capacity, shall prepay the return 1860
postage for any absent voter's ballots. 1861

Except as otherwise provided in this section and in 1862
sections 3505.24 and 3509.08 of the Revised Code, an election 1863
official shall not fill out any portion of an identification 1864
envelope statement of voter or an absent voter's ballot on 1865
behalf of an elector. A board of elections may preprint only an 1866
elector's name and address on an identification envelope 1867

statement of voter before mailing absent voter's ballots to the 1868
elector, except that if the elector has a confidential voter 1869
registration record, as described in section 111.44 of the 1870
Revised Code, the board of elections shall not preprint the 1871
elector's address on the identification envelope statement of 1872
voter. 1873

Sec. 3509.08. (A) Any qualified elector, who, on account 1874
of the elector's own personal illness, physical disability, or 1875
infirmity, or on account of the elector's confinement in a jail 1876
or workhouse under sentence for a misdemeanor or awaiting trial 1877
on a felony or misdemeanor, will be unable to travel from the 1878
elector's home or place of confinement to the voting booth in 1879
the elector's precinct on the day of any general, special, or 1880
primary election may make application in writing for an absent 1881
voter's ballot to the board of elections of the elector's county 1882
in the manner described in section 3509.03 of the Revised Code. 1883
The application shall state the nature of the elector's illness, 1884
physical disability, or infirmity, or the fact that the elector 1885
is confined in a jail or workhouse and the elector's resultant 1886
inability to travel to the election booth in the elector's 1887
precinct on election day. 1888

The absent voter's ballot may be mailed directly to the 1889
applicant at the applicant's voting residence or place of 1890
confinement as stated in the applicant's application, or the 1891
board may designate two board employees belonging to the two 1892
major political parties for the purpose of delivering the ballot 1893
to the disabled or confined elector and returning it to the 1894
board, unless the applicant is confined to a public or private 1895
institution within the county, in which case the board shall 1896
designate two board employees belonging to the two major 1897
political parties for the purpose of delivering the ballot to 1898

the disabled or confined elector and returning it to the board. 1899
In all other instances, the ballot shall be returned to the 1900
office of the board in the manner prescribed in section 3509.05 1901
of the Revised Code. 1902

Any disabled or confined elector who declares to the two 1903
board employees belonging to the two major political parties 1904
that the elector is unable to mark the elector's ballot by 1905
reason of physical infirmity that is apparent to the employees 1906
to be sufficient to incapacitate the voter from marking the 1907
elector's ballot properly, may receive, upon request, the 1908
assistance of the employees in marking the elector's ballot, and 1909
they shall thereafter give no information in regard to this 1910
matter. Such assistance shall not be rendered for any other 1911
cause. 1912

When two board employees belonging to the two major 1913
political parties deliver a ballot to a disabled or confined 1914
elector, each of the employees shall be present when the ballot 1915
is delivered, when assistance is given, and when the ballot is 1916
returned to the office of the board, and shall subscribe to the 1917
declaration on the identification envelope. 1918

The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of 1919
application for absent voter's ballots under this division. 1920

This chapter applies to disabled and confined absent 1921
voter's ballots except as otherwise provided in this section. 1922

(B) (1) Any qualified elector who is unable to travel to 1923
the voting booth in the elector's precinct on the day of any 1924
general, special, or primary election may apply to the board of 1925
elections of the county where the elector is a qualified elector 1926
to vote in the election by absent voter's ballot if either of 1927

the following apply: 1928

(a) The elector is confined in a hospital as a result of 1929
an accident or unforeseeable medical emergency occurring before 1930
the election; 1931

(b) The elector's minor child is confined in a hospital as 1932
a result of an accident or unforeseeable medical emergency 1933
occurring before the election. 1934

(2) The application authorized under division (B) (1) of 1935
this section shall be made in writing in the manner described in 1936
section 3509.03 of the Revised Code, except that the application 1937
shall be delivered to the office of the board not later than 1938
three p.m. on the day of the election. The application shall 1939
indicate the hospital where the applicant or the applicant's 1940
child is confined, the date of the applicant's or the 1941
applicant's child's admission to the hospital, and the offices 1942
for which the applicant is qualified to vote. The applicant may 1943
also request that a member of the applicant's family, as listed 1944
in section 3509.05 of the Revised Code, deliver the absent 1945
voter's ballot to the applicant. The board, after establishing 1946
to the board's satisfaction the validity of the circumstances 1947
claimed by the applicant, shall supply an absent voter's ballot 1948
to be delivered to the applicant. When the applicant or the 1949
applicant's child is in a hospital in the county where the 1950
applicant is a qualified elector and no request is made for a 1951
member of the family to deliver the ballot, the board shall 1952
arrange for the delivery of an absent voter's ballot to the 1953
applicant, and for its return to the office of the board, by two 1954
board employees belonging to the two major political parties 1955
according to the procedures prescribed in division (A) of this 1956
section. When the applicant or the applicant's child is in a 1957

hospital outside the county where the applicant is a qualified 1958
elector and no request is made for a member of the family to 1959
deliver the ballot, the board shall arrange for the delivery of 1960
an absent voter's ballot to the applicant by mail, and the 1961
ballot shall be returned to the office of the board in the 1962
manner prescribed in section 3509.05 of the Revised Code. 1963

(3) Any qualified elector who is eligible to vote under 1964
division (B) or (C) of section 3503.16 of the Revised Code but 1965
is unable to do so because of the circumstances described in 1966
division (B)(2) of this section may vote in accordance with 1967
division (B)(1) of this section if that qualified elector states 1968
in the application for absent voter's ballots that that 1969
qualified elector moved or had a change of name under the 1970
circumstances described in division (B) or (C) of section 1971
3503.16 of the Revised Code and if that qualified elector 1972
complies with divisions ~~(G)(1)~~ (E)(1) to (4) of section 3503.16 1973
of the Revised Code. 1974

(C) Any qualified elector described in division (A) or (B) 1975
(1) of this section who needs no assistance to vote or to return 1976
absent voter's ballots to the board of elections may apply for 1977
absent voter's ballots under section 3509.03 of the Revised Code 1978
instead of applying for them under this section or may cast 1979
absent voter's ballots in person under section 3509.051 of the 1980
Revised Code. 1981

(D) Any qualified elector described in division (A) or (B) 1982
(1) of this section to whom ballots are delivered by two 1983
employees of the board of elections or who votes with the 1984
assistance of two employees of the board of elections shall be 1985
considered to have cast absent voter's ballots by mail, rather 1986
than in person, for the purpose of the laws governing voter 1987

identification. 1988

Sec. 3513.041. A write-in space shall be provided on the 1989
ballot for every office, except in an election for which the 1990
board of elections has received no valid declarations of intent 1991
to be a write-in candidate under this section. Write-in votes 1992
shall not be counted for any candidate who has not filed a 1993
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate pursuant to 1994
this section. A qualified person who has filed a declaration of 1995
intent may receive write-in votes at either a primary or general 1996
election. Any candidate shall file a declaration of intent to be 1997
a write-in candidate before four p.m. of the seventy-second day 1998
preceding the election at which such candidacy is to be 1999
considered. If the election is to be determined by electors of a 2000
county or a district or subdivision within the county, such 2001
declaration shall be filed with the board of elections of that 2002
county. If the election is to be determined by electors of a 2003
subdivision located in more than one county, such declaration 2004
shall be filed with the board of elections of the county in 2005
which the major portion of the population of such subdivision is 2006
located. If the election is to be determined by electors of a 2007
district comprised of more than one county but less than all of 2008
the counties of the state, such declaration shall be filed with 2009
the board of elections of the most populous county in such 2010
district. Any candidate for an office to be voted upon by 2011
electors throughout the entire state shall file a declaration of 2012
intent to be a write-in candidate with the secretary of state 2013
before four p.m. of the seventy-second day preceding the 2014
election at which such candidacy is to be considered. In 2015
addition, candidates for president and vice-president of the 2016
United States shall also file with the secretary of state by 2017
that seventy-second day a slate of presidential electors 2018

sufficient in number to satisfy the requirements of the United 2019
States constitution. 2020

A board of elections shall not accept for filing the 2021
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person 2022
seeking to become a candidate if that person, for the same 2023
election, has already filed a declaration of candidacy, a 2024
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or a 2025
nominating petition, or has become a candidate through party 2026
nomination at a primary election or by the filling of a vacancy 2027
under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code, for any 2028
federal, state, or county office, if the declaration of intent 2029
to be a write-in candidate is for a state or county office, or 2030
for any municipal or township office, for member of a city, 2031
local, or exempted village board of education, or for member of 2032
a governing board of an educational service center, if the 2033
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate is for a 2034
municipal or township office, or for member of a city, local, or 2035
exempted village board of education, or for member of a 2036
governing board of an educational service center. 2037

No person shall file a declaration of intent to be a 2038
write-in candidate for the office of governor unless the 2039
declaration also shows the intent of another person to be a 2040
write-in candidate for the office of lieutenant governor. No 2041
person shall file a declaration of intent to be a write-in 2042
candidate for the office of lieutenant governor unless the 2043
declaration also shows the intent of another person to be a 2044
write-in candidate for the office of governor. No person shall 2045
file a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate for the 2046
office of governor or lieutenant governor if the person has 2047
previously filed a declaration of intent to be a write-in 2048
candidate to the office of governor or lieutenant governor at 2049

the same primary or general election. A write-in vote for the 2050
two candidates who file such a declaration shall be counted as a 2051
vote for them as joint candidates for the offices of governor 2052
and lieutenant governor. 2053

The secretary of state shall not accept for filing the 2054
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person for 2055
the office of governor unless the declaration also shows the 2056
intent of another person to be a write-in candidate for the 2057
office of lieutenant governor, shall not accept for filing the 2058
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person for 2059
the office of lieutenant governor unless the declaration also 2060
shows the intent of another person to be a write-in candidate 2061
for the office of governor, and shall not accept for filing the 2062
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person to 2063
the office of governor or lieutenant governor if that person, 2064
for the same election, has already filed a declaration of 2065
candidacy, a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, 2066
or a nominating petition, or has become a candidate through 2067
party nomination at a primary election or by the filling of a 2068
vacancy under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code, 2069
for any other state office or any federal or county office. 2070

Protests against the candidacy of any person filing a 2071
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate may be filed by 2072
any qualified elector who is eligible to vote in the election at 2073
which the candidacy is to be considered. The protest shall be in 2074
writing and shall be filed not later than four p.m. of the 2075
sixty-seventh day before the day of the election. The protest 2076
shall be filed with the board of elections with which the 2077
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate was filed. Upon 2078
the filing of the protest, the board with which it is filed 2079
shall promptly fix the time for hearing it and shall proceed in 2080

regard to the hearing in the same manner as for hearings set for 2081
protests filed under section 3513.05 of the Revised Code. At the 2082
time fixed, the board shall hear the protest and determine the 2083
validity or invalidity of the declaration of intent to be a 2084
write-in candidate. If the board finds that the candidate is not 2085
an elector of the state, district, county, or political 2086
subdivision in which the candidate seeks election to office; is 2087
not affiliated with the political party whose nomination or 2088
office the candidate seeks at a primary election, if applicable; 2089
or has not fully complied with the requirements of Title XXXV of 2090
the Revised Code in regard to the candidate's candidacy, the 2091
candidate's declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate 2092
shall be determined to be invalid and shall be rejected; 2093
otherwise, it shall be determined to be valid. The determination 2094
of the board is final. 2095

The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of the 2096
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate. 2097

Sec. 3513.05. Each person desiring to become a candidate 2098
for a party nomination at a primary election or for election to 2099
an office or position to be voted for at a primary election, 2100
except persons desiring to become joint candidates for the 2101
offices of governor and lieutenant governor and except as 2102
otherwise provided in section 3513.051 of the Revised Code, 2103
shall, not later than four p.m. of the ninetieth day before the 2104
day of the primary election, file a declaration of candidacy and 2105
petition and pay the fees required under divisions (A) and (B) 2106
of section 3513.10 of the Revised Code. The declaration of 2107
candidacy and all separate petition papers shall be filed at the 2108
same time as one instrument. When the offices are to be voted 2109
for at a primary election, persons desiring to become joint 2110
candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor 2111

shall, not later than four p.m. of the ninetieth day before the 2112
day of the primary election, comply with section 3513.04 of the 2113
Revised Code. The prospective joint candidates' declaration of 2114
candidacy and all separate petition papers of candidacies shall 2115
be filed at the same time as one instrument. The secretary of 2116
state or a board of elections shall not accept for filing a 2117
declaration of candidacy and petition of a person seeking to 2118
become a candidate if that person, for the same election, has 2119
already filed a declaration of candidacy or a declaration of 2120
intent to be a write-in candidate, or has become a candidate by 2121
the filling of a vacancy under section 3513.30 of the Revised 2122
Code for any federal, state, or county office, if the 2123
declaration of candidacy is for a state or county office, or for 2124
any municipal or township office, if the declaration of 2125
candidacy is for a municipal or township office. 2126

If the declaration of candidacy declares a candidacy which 2127
is to be submitted to electors throughout the entire state, the 2128
petition, including a petition for joint candidates for the 2129
offices of governor and lieutenant governor, shall be signed by 2130
at least one thousand qualified electors who are ~~members of~~ 2131
affiliated with the same political party as the candidate or 2132
joint candidates, and the declaration of candidacy and petition 2133
shall be filed with the secretary of state; provided that the 2134
secretary of state shall not accept or file any such petition 2135
appearing on its face to contain signatures of more than three 2136
thousand electors. 2137

Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, if the 2138
declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be submitted only 2139
to electors within a district, political subdivision, or portion 2140
thereof, the petition shall be signed by not less than fifty 2141
qualified electors who are ~~members of~~ affiliated with the same 2142

political party as the ~~political party of which the candidate is~~ 2143
~~a member~~. If the declaration of candidacy is for party 2144
nomination as a candidate for member of the legislative 2145
authority of a municipal corporation elected by ward, the 2146
petition shall be signed by not less than twenty-five qualified 2147
electors who are ~~members of~~ affiliated with the same political 2148
party ~~of which as~~ the candidate ~~is a member~~. 2149

No such petition, except the petition for a candidacy that 2150
is to be submitted to electors throughout the entire state, 2151
shall be accepted for filing if it appears to contain on its 2152
face signatures of more than three times the minimum number of 2153
signatures. When a petition of a candidate has been accepted for 2154
filing by a board of elections, the petition shall not be deemed 2155
invalid if, upon verification of signatures contained in the 2156
petition, the board of elections finds the number of signatures 2157
accepted exceeds three times the minimum number of signatures 2158
required. A board of elections may discontinue verifying 2159
signatures on petitions when the number of verified signatures 2160
equals the minimum required number of qualified signatures. 2161

If the declaration of candidacy declares a candidacy for 2162
party nomination or for election as a candidate of a minor 2163
party, the minimum number of signatures on such petition is one- 2164
half the minimum number provided in this section, except that, 2165
when the candidacy is one for election as a member of the state 2166
central committee or the county central committee of a political 2167
party, the minimum number shall be the same for a minor party as 2168
for a major party. 2169

If a declaration of candidacy is one for election as a 2170
member of the state central committee or the county central 2171
committee of a political party, the petition shall be signed by 2172

five qualified electors of the district, county, ward, township, 2173
or precinct within which electors may vote for such candidate. 2174
The electors signing such petition shall be ~~members of~~ 2175
affiliated with the same political party as the ~~political party~~ 2176
~~of which the candidate is a member.~~ 2177

~~For purposes of signing or circulating a petition of~~ 2178
~~candidacy for party nomination or election, an elector is~~ 2179
~~considered to be a member of a political party if the elector~~ 2180
~~voted in that party's primary election within the preceding two~~ 2181
~~calendar years, or if the elector did not vote in any other~~ 2182
~~party's primary election within the preceding two calendar~~ 2183
~~years.~~ 2184

If the declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be 2185
submitted only to electors within a county, or within a district 2186
or subdivision or part thereof smaller than a county, the 2187
petition shall be filed with the board of elections of the 2188
county. If the declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be 2189
submitted only to electors of a district or subdivision or part 2190
thereof that is situated in more than one county, the petition 2191
shall be filed with the board of elections of the county within 2192
which the major portion of the population thereof, as 2193
ascertained by the next preceding federal census, is located. 2194

A petition shall consist of separate petition papers, each 2195
of which shall contain signatures of electors of only one 2196
county. Petitions or separate petition papers containing 2197
signatures of electors of more than one county shall not thereby 2198
be declared invalid. In case petitions or separate petition 2199
papers containing signatures of electors of more than one county 2200
are filed, the board shall determine the county from which the 2201
majority of signatures came, and only signatures from such 2202

county shall be counted. Signatures from any other county shall 2203
be invalid. 2204

Each separate petition paper shall be circulated by one 2205
person only, who shall be the candidate or a joint candidate or 2206
a ~~member of~~ person who is affiliated with the same political 2207
party as the candidate or joint candidates, and each separate 2208
petition paper shall be governed by the rules set forth in 2209
section 3501.38 of the Revised Code. 2210

The secretary of state shall promptly transmit to each 2211
board such separate petition papers of each petition 2212
accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with the secretary 2213
of state as purport to contain signatures of electors of the 2214
county of such board. The board of the most populous county of a 2215
district shall promptly transmit to each board within such 2216
district such separate petition papers of each petition 2217
accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with it as purport 2218
to contain signatures of electors of the county of each such 2219
board. The board of a county within which the major portion of 2220
the population of a subdivision, situated in more than one 2221
county, is located, shall promptly transmit to the board of each 2222
other county within which a portion of such subdivision is 2223
located such separate petition papers of each petition 2224
accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with it as purport 2225
to contain signatures of electors of the portion of such 2226
subdivision in the county of each such board. 2227

All petition papers so transmitted to a board and all 2228
petitions accompanying declarations of candidacy filed with a 2229
board shall, under proper regulations, be open to public 2230
inspection until four p.m. of the eightieth day before the day 2231
of the next primary election. Each board shall, not later than 2232

the seventy-eighth day before the day of that primary election, 2233
examine and determine the validity or invalidity of the 2234
signatures on the petition papers so transmitted to or filed 2235
with it and shall return to the secretary of state all petition 2236
papers transmitted to it by the secretary of state, together 2237
with its certification of its determination as to the validity 2238
or invalidity of signatures thereon, and shall return to each 2239
other board all petition papers transmitted to it by such board, 2240
together with its certification of its determination as to the 2241
validity or invalidity of the signatures thereon. All other 2242
matters affecting the validity or invalidity of such petition 2243
papers shall be determined by the secretary of state or the 2244
board with whom such petition papers were filed. 2245

For purposes of being eligible to sign or circulate a 2246
petition of candidacy for party nomination or election, an 2247
elector is considered to be affiliated with a political party 2248
if, at the time the petition is verified, the elector is 2249
affiliated with that party as determined under section 3503.071 2250
of the Revised Code. 2251

Protests against the candidacy of any person filing a 2252
declaration of candidacy for party nomination or for election to 2253
an office or position, as provided in this section, may be filed 2254
by any qualified elector who is ~~a member of~~ affiliated with the 2255
same political party as the candidate and who is eligible to 2256
vote at the primary election for the candidate whose declaration 2257
of candidacy the elector objects to, or by the controlling 2258
committee of that political party. The protest shall be in 2259
writing, and shall be filed not later than four p.m. of the 2260
seventy-fourth day before the day of the primary election. The 2261
protest shall be filed with the election officials with whom the 2262
declaration of candidacy and petition was filed. Upon the filing 2263

of the protest, the election officials with whom it is filed 2264
shall promptly fix the time for hearing it, and shall forthwith 2265
mail notice of the filing of the protest and the time fixed for 2266
hearing to the person whose candidacy is so protested. They 2267
shall also forthwith mail notice of the time fixed for such 2268
hearing to the person who filed the protest. At the time fixed, 2269
such election officials shall hear the protest and determine the 2270
validity or invalidity of the declaration of candidacy and 2271
petition. If they find that such candidate is not an elector of 2272
the state, district, county, or political subdivision in which 2273
the candidate seeks a party nomination or election to an office 2274
or position, is not affiliated with the political party, or has 2275
not fully complied with this chapter, the candidate's 2276
declaration of candidacy and petition shall be determined to be 2277
invalid and shall be rejected; otherwise, it shall be determined 2278
to be valid. That determination shall be final. 2279

A protest against the candidacy of any persons filing a 2280
declaration of candidacy for joint party nomination to the 2281
offices of governor and lieutenant governor shall be filed, 2282
heard, and determined in the same manner as a protest against 2283
the candidacy of any person filing a declaration of candidacy 2284
singly. 2285

The secretary of state shall, on the seventieth day before 2286
the day of a primary election, certify to each board in the 2287
state the forms of the official ballots to be used at the 2288
primary election, together with the names of the candidates to 2289
be printed on the ballots whose nomination or election is to be 2290
determined by electors throughout the entire state and who filed 2291
valid declarations of candidacy and petitions. 2292

The board of the most populous county in a district 2293

comprised of more than one county but less than all of the 2294
counties of the state shall, on the seventieth day before the 2295
day of a primary election, certify to the board of each county 2296
in the district the names of the candidates to be printed on the 2297
official ballots to be used at the primary election, whose 2298
nomination or election is to be determined only by electors 2299
within the district and who filed valid declarations of 2300
candidacy and petitions. 2301

The board of a county within which the major portion of 2302
the population of a subdivision smaller than the county and 2303
situated in more than one county is located shall, on the 2304
seventieth day before the day of a primary election, certify to 2305
the board of each county in which a portion of that subdivision 2306
is located the names of the candidates to be printed on the 2307
official ballots to be used at the primary election, whose 2308
nomination or election is to be determined only by electors 2309
within that subdivision and who filed valid declarations of 2310
candidacy and petitions. 2311

Sec. 3513.07. The form of declaration of candidacy and 2312
petition of a person desiring to be a candidate for a party 2313
nomination or a candidate for election to an office or position 2314
to be voted for at a primary election shall be substantially as 2315
follows: 2316

"DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION 2317

I, _____ (Name of Candidate), the 2318
undersigned, hereby declare under penalty of election 2319
falsification that my voting residence is in _____ 2320
precinct of the _____ (Township) or 2321
(Ward and City or Village) in the county of _____, 2322
Ohio; that my voting residence is _____ (Street and 2323

Number, if any, or Rural Route and Number) of the 2324
_____ (City or Village) of 2325
_____, Ohio; and that I am a qualified elector in 2326
the precinct in which my voting residence is located. I am a- 2327
~~member of~~ affiliated with the _____ Party. I hereby declare 2328
that I desire to be _____ (a candidate for 2329
nomination as a candidate of the Party for election to the 2330
office of _____) (a candidate for election to the office 2331
or position of _____) for the _____ in the 2332
state, district, (Full term or unexpired term ending 2333
_____) county, city, or village of 2334
_____, at the primary election to be held on the 2335
_____ day of _____, _____, and I hereby request that 2336
my name be printed upon the official primary election ballot of 2337
the said _____ Party as a candidate for _____ (such 2338
nomination) or (such election) as provided by law. 2339

I further declare that, if elected to said office or 2340
position, I will qualify therefor, and that I will support and 2341
abide by the principles enunciated by the _____ Party. 2342

Dated this _____ day of _____, _____ 2343

(Signature of candidate) 2344 2345

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A 2346
FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE. 2347

PETITION OF CANDIDATE 2348

We, the undersigned, qualified electors of the state of 2349
Ohio, whose voting residence is in the county, city, village, 2350
ward, township, or school district, and precinct set opposite 2351
our names, and ~~members of~~ affiliated with the 2352

_____ Party, hereby certify 2353
that _____ (Name of candidate) whose 2354
declaration of candidacy is filed herewith, is ~~a member of~~ 2355
affiliated with the _____ Party, and is, in our opinion, 2356
well qualified to perform the duties of the office or position 2357
to which that candidate desires to be elected. 2358

Street City, 2359

and Village or 2360

Signature Number Township Ward Precinct County Date 2361

(Must use address on file with the board of elections) 2362

_____ 2363

_____ 2364

_____ 2365

_____ (Name of circulator 2366

of petition), declares under penalty of election falsification 2367

that the circulator of the petition is a qualified elector of 2368

the state of Ohio and resides at the address appearing below the 2369

signature of that circulator; that the circulator is ~~a member of~~ 2370

affiliated with the _____ Party; that the circulator is 2371

the circulator of the foregoing petition paper containing 2372

_____ (Number) signatures; that the circulator witnessed 2373

the affixing of every signature; that all signers were to the 2374

best of the circulator's knowledge and belief qualified to sign; 2375

and that every signature is to the best of the circulator's 2376

knowledge and belief the signature of the person whose signature 2377

it purports to be or of an attorney in fact acting pursuant to 2378

section 3501.382 of the Revised Code. 2379

_____ 2380

(Signature of circulator) 2381

_____ 2382

(Address of circulator's 2383

permanent residence in this 2384

state) 2385

_____ 2386

(If petition is for a 2387

statewide candidate, the 2388

name and address of person 2389

employing to circulate 2390

petition, if any) 2391

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A 2392

FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE." 2393

The secretary of state shall prescribe a form of 2394

declaration of candidacy and petition, and the form shall be 2395

substantially similar to the declaration of candidacy and 2396

petition set forth in this section, that will be suitable for 2397

joint candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant 2398

governor. 2399

The petition provided for in this section shall be 2400

circulated only by ~~a member of~~ an elector who is affiliated with 2401

the same political party as the candidate. 2402

Sec. 3513.18. (A) Party primaries shall be held at the 2403

same place and time, but there shall be separate pollbooks and 2404

tally sheets provided at each polling place for each party 2405

participating in the election. The pollbooks shall include each 2406

elector's political party affiliation, if any, as of the 2407

thirtieth day before the day of the primary election. Except as 2408
otherwise provided in section 3513.19 of the Revised Code, an 2409
elector may change affiliation to a different political party 2410
or, being previously unaffiliated, become affiliated with a 2411
political party by requesting and casting the ballot of that 2412
political party at a primary election. 2413

(B) If a special election on a question or issue is held 2414
on the day of a primary election, ~~there~~ an elector who does not 2415
wish to be affiliated with any political party may cast an 2416
issues-only ballot that contains only such questions or issues. 2417
If the elector is affiliated with a political party before 2418
casting an issues-only ballot, the elector becomes unaffiliated. 2419
There shall be provided in the pollbooks pages on which shall be 2420
recorded the names of all electors ~~voting on said question or~~ 2421
~~issue and not voting in such primary~~ who cast an issues-only 2422
~~ballot.~~ It shall not be necessary for electors desiring to vote 2423
~~only on the question or issue to declare their political~~ 2424
~~affiliation.~~ 2425

Sec. 3513.19. (A) It is the duty of any precinct election 2426
official, whenever any such official doubts that a person 2427
attempting to vote at a primary election is legally entitled to 2428
vote at that election, to challenge the right of that person to 2429
vote. The right of a person to vote at a primary election may be 2430
challenged ~~upon the following grounds:~~ 2431

~~(1) That the person whose right to vote is challenged is~~ 2432
~~not a legally qualified elector;~~ 2433

~~(2) That the person has received or has been promised some~~ 2434
~~valuable reward or consideration for the person's vote;~~ 2435

~~(3) That the person is not affiliated with or is not a~~ 2436

~~member of the political party whose ballot the person desires to~~ 2437
~~vote. Such party affiliation shall be determined by examining~~ 2438
~~the elector's voting record for the current year and the~~ 2439
~~immediately preceding two calendar years as shown on the voter's~~ 2440
~~registration card, using the standards of affiliation specified~~ 2441
~~in the seventh paragraph of section 3513.05 of the Revised Code.~~ 2442
~~Division (A) (3) of this section and the seventh paragraph of~~ 2443
~~section 3513.05 of the Revised Code do not prohibit a person who~~ 2444
~~holds an elective office for which candidates are nominated at a~~ 2445
~~party primary election from doing any of the following:~~ 2446

~~(a) If the person voted as a member of a different~~ 2447
~~political party at any primary election within the current year~~ 2448
~~and the immediately preceding two calendar years, being a~~ 2449
~~candidate for nomination at a party primary held during the~~ 2450
~~times specified in division (C) (2) of section 3513.191 of the~~ 2451
~~Revised Code provided that the person complies with the~~ 2452
~~requirements of that section;~~ 2453

~~(b) Circulating the person's own petition of candidacy for~~ 2454
~~party nomination in the primary election as described in section~~ 2455
~~3505.20 of the Revised Code. If a majority of the precinct~~ 2456
~~officials finds that, based on that section, the person is not~~ 2457
~~entitled to vote at the primary election, the person shall be~~ 2458
~~permitted to vote a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of~~ 2459
~~the Revised Code.~~ 2460

~~(B) When the right of a person to vote is challenged upon~~ 2461
~~the ground set forth in division (A) (3) of this section,~~ 2462
~~membership in or political affiliation with a political party~~ 2463
~~shall be determined by the person's~~ 2464
~~If an elector requests the~~ 2464
~~ballot of a political party with which the elector is not~~ 2465
~~affiliated, as indicated in the pollbook, and a precinct~~ 2466

election official has personal knowledge that the elector does 2467
not desire to be affiliated with that party or does not support 2468
the principles of that party, the precinct election official may 2469
challenge the right of the elector to cast that party's ballot 2470
on that ground. The elector shall be permitted to cast that 2471
party's ballot if the elector signs a statement,~~made~~ under 2472
penalty of election falsification,~~that the person-elector~~ 2473
desires to be affiliated with and supports the principles of the 2474
political party whose primary ballot the person-elector desires 2475
to vote. If the elector refuses to sign such a statement, the 2476
elector shall be permitted to vote a provisional ballot under 2477
section 3505.181 of the Revised Code. 2478

Sec. 3513.191. (A) No person shall be a candidate for 2479
nomination or election at a party primary if the person ~~voted as~~ 2480
~~a member of a different~~ is not affiliated with that political 2481
~~party at any primary election within the current year and the~~ 2482
~~immediately preceding two calendar years,~~ as determined under 2483
section 3503.071 of the Revised Code. 2484

~~(B) Notwithstanding division (A) of this section, either~~ 2485
~~of the following persons may be candidates for nomination of any~~ 2486
~~political party at a party primary:~~ 2487

~~(1) A person who does not hold an elective office;~~ 2488

~~(2) A person who holds an elective office other than one~~ 2489
~~for which candidates are nominated at a party primary.~~ 2490

~~(C) (1) Notwithstanding division (A) of this section, a~~ A 2491
person who holds an elective office for which candidates are 2492
nominated at a party primary may be a candidate at a primary 2493
~~election held during the times specified in division (C) (2) of~~ 2494
~~this section for nomination as a candidate of a political party-~~ 2495

~~of which the person is prohibited from being a candidate for~~ 2496
~~nomination under division (A) of this section, other than the~~ 2497
party that most recently nominated the person as a candidate for 2498
the office the person currently holds, only if all of the 2499
following are true: 2500

(1) The person submits a voter registration update form 2501
reflecting the change of political party affiliation not later 2502
than four p.m. of the thirtieth day before a declaration of 2503
candidacy and petition is required to be filed under section 2504
3513.05 of the Revised Code. 2505

(2) The person files a declaration of intent to seek the 2506
~~nomination of that the person's new party and if, by filing the~~ 2507
~~declaration, the person has not violated division (C) (3) of this~~ 2508
~~section.~~ The declaration of intent shall: 2509

(a) Be filed not later than four p.m. of the thirtieth day 2510
before a declaration of candidacy and petition is required to be 2511
filed under section 3513.05 of the Revised Code; 2512

(b) Be filed with the same official with whom the person 2513
filing the declaration of intent is required to file a 2514
declaration of candidacy and petition; 2515

(c) Indicate the political party whose nomination in the 2516
primary election the person seeks; 2517

(d) Be on a form prescribed by the secretary of state. 2518

(3) The person has not violated division (C) of this 2519
section. 2520

~~(2) (C) (1)~~ (B) No person filing a declaration of intent under 2521
division ~~(C) (1)~~ (B) of this section shall be a candidate at any 2522
primary election for nomination for an elective office for which 2523

candidates are nominated at a party primary during the calendar 2524
year in which the person files the declaration or during the 2525
next calendar year except as a candidate of the party indicated 2526
under division ~~(C) (1) (e)~~ (B) (2) (c) of this section. 2527

~~(3)~~ (2) No person who files a declaration of intent under 2528
division ~~(C) (1)~~ (B) (2) of this section shall file another such 2529
declaration for a period of ten years after the declaration is 2530
filed. 2531

~~(4) Notwithstanding the seventh paragraph of section~~ 2532
~~3513.05 of the Revised Code, a person who complies with this~~ 2533
~~section may circulate that person's own petition of candidacy~~ 2534
~~for party nomination at the party primary at which the person~~ 2535
~~seeks nomination under this section.~~ 2536

Sec. 3513.257. Each person ~~desiring~~ who is not affiliated 2537
with a political party, as determined under section 3503.071 of 2538
the Revised Code, and who desires to become an independent 2539
candidate for an office for which candidates may be nominated at 2540
a primary election, except persons desiring to become 2541
independent joint candidates for the offices of governor and 2542
lieutenant governor and for the offices of president and vice- 2543
president of the United States, shall file no later than four 2544
p.m. of the day before the day of the primary election 2545
immediately preceding the general election at which such 2546
candidacy is to be voted for by the voters, a statement of 2547
candidacy and nominating petition as provided in section 2548
3513.261 of the Revised Code. Persons desiring to become 2549
independent joint candidates for the offices of governor and 2550
lieutenant governor shall file, not later than four p.m. of the 2551
day before the day of the primary election, one statement of 2552
candidacy and one nominating petition for the two of them. 2553

Persons desiring to become independent joint candidates for the 2554
offices of president and vice-president of the United States 2555
shall file, not later than four p.m. of the ninetieth day before 2556
the day of the general election at which the president and vice- 2557
president are to be elected, one statement of candidacy and one 2558
nominating petition for the two of them. The prospective 2559
independent joint candidates' statement of candidacy shall be 2560
filed with the nominating petition as one instrument. 2561

The statement of candidacy and separate petition papers of 2562
each candidate or pair of joint candidates shall be filed at the 2563
same time as one instrument. 2564

The nominating petition shall contain signatures of 2565
qualified electors of the district, political subdivision, or 2566
portion of a political subdivision in which the candidacy is to 2567
be voted on in an amount to be determined as follows: 2568

(A) If the candidacy is to be voted on by electors 2569
throughout the entire state, the nominating petition, including 2570
the nominating petition of independent joint candidates for the 2571
offices of governor and lieutenant governor, shall be signed by 2572
no less than five thousand qualified electors, provided that no 2573
petition shall be accepted for filing if it purports to contain 2574
more than fifteen thousand signatures. 2575

(B) If the candidacy is to be voted on by electors in any 2576
district, political subdivision, or part thereof in which less 2577
than five thousand electors voted for the office of governor at 2578
the most recent election for that office, the nominating 2579
petition shall contain signatures of not less than twenty-five 2580
qualified electors of the district, political subdivision, or 2581
part thereof, or a number of qualified signatures equal to at 2582
least five per cent of that vote, if this number is less than 2583

twenty-five. 2584

(C) If the candidacy is to be voted on by electors in any 2585
district, political subdivision, or part thereof in which five 2586
thousand or more electors voted for the office of governor at 2587
the most recent election for that office, the nominating 2588
petition shall contain a number of signatures equal to at least 2589
one per cent of those electors. 2590

All nominating petitions of candidates for offices to be 2591
voted on by electors throughout the entire state shall be filed 2592
in the office of the secretary of state. No nominating petition 2593
for the offices of president and vice-president of the United 2594
States shall be accepted for filing unless there is submitted to 2595
the secretary of state, at the time of filing the petition, a 2596
slate of presidential electors sufficient in number to satisfy 2597
the requirement of the United States Constitution. The secretary 2598
of state shall not accept for filing the statement of candidacy 2599
of a person who desires to be an independent candidate for the 2600
office of governor unless it also shows the joint candidacy of a 2601
person who desires to be an independent candidate for the office 2602
of lieutenant governor, shall not accept for filing the 2603
statement of candidacy of a person who desires to be an 2604
independent candidate for the office of lieutenant governor 2605
unless it also shows the joint candidacy of a person who desires 2606
to be an independent candidate for the office of governor, and 2607
shall not accept for filing the statement of candidacy of a 2608
person who desires to be an independent candidate to the office 2609
of governor or lieutenant governor who, for the same election, 2610
has already filed a declaration of candidacy, a declaration of 2611
intent to be a write-in candidate, or a statement of candidacy, 2612
or has become a candidate by the filling of a vacancy under 2613
section 3513.30 of the Revised Code for any other state office 2614

or any federal or county office. 2615

Nominating petitions of candidates for offices to be voted 2616
on by electors within a district or political subdivision 2617
comprised of more than one county but less than all counties of 2618
the state shall be filed with the boards of elections of that 2619
county or part of a county within the district or political 2620
subdivision which had a population greater than that of any 2621
other county or part of a county within the district or 2622
political subdivision according to the last federal decennial 2623
census. 2624

Nominating petitions for offices to be voted on by 2625
electors within a county or district smaller than a county shall 2626
be filed with the board of elections for such county. 2627

No petition other than the petition of a candidate whose 2628
candidacy is to be considered by electors throughout the entire 2629
state shall be accepted for filing if it appears on its face to 2630
contain more than three times the minimum required number of 2631
signatures. A board of elections shall not accept for filing a 2632
nominating petition of a person seeking to become a candidate if 2633
that person, for the same election, has already filed a 2634
declaration of candidacy, a declaration of intent to be a write- 2635
in candidate, or a nominating petition, or has become a 2636
candidate by the filling of a vacancy under section 3513.30 of 2637
the Revised Code for any federal, state, or county office, if 2638
the nominating petition is for a state or county office, or for 2639
any municipal or township office, for member of a city, local, 2640
or exempted village board of education, or for member of a 2641
governing board of an educational service center, if the 2642
nominating petition is for a municipal or township office, or 2643
for member of a city, local, or exempted village board of 2644

education, or for member of a governing board of an educational 2645
service center. When a petition of a candidate has been accepted 2646
for filing by a board of elections, the petition shall not be 2647
deemed invalid if, upon verification of signatures contained in 2648
the petition, the board of elections finds the number of 2649
signatures accepted exceeds three times the minimum number of 2650
signatures required. A board of elections may discontinue 2651
verifying signatures when the number of verified signatures on a 2652
petition equals the minimum required number of qualified 2653
signatures. 2654

Any candidate, other than a candidate for judge of a 2655
municipal court, county court, or court of common pleas, who 2656
files a nominating petition may request, at the time of filing, 2657
that the candidate be designated on the ballot as a nonparty 2658
candidate or as an other-party candidate, or may request that 2659
the candidate's name be placed on the ballot without any 2660
designation. Any such candidate who fails to request a 2661
designation either as a nonparty candidate or as an other-party 2662
candidate shall have the candidate's name placed on the ballot 2663
without any designation. 2664

The purpose of establishing a filing deadline for 2665
independent candidates prior to the primary election immediately 2666
preceding the general election at which the candidacy is to be 2667
voted on by the voters is to recognize that the state has a 2668
substantial and compelling interest in protecting its electoral 2669
process by encouraging political stability, ensuring that the 2670
winner of the election will represent a majority of the 2671
community, providing the electorate with an understandable 2672
ballot, and enhancing voter education, thus fostering informed 2673
and educated expressions of the popular will in a general 2674
election. The filing deadline for independent candidates 2675

required in this section prevents splintered parties and 2676
unrestrained factionalism, avoids political fragmentation, and 2677
maintains the integrity of the ballot. The deadline, one day 2678
prior to the primary election, is the least drastic or 2679
restrictive means of protecting these state interests. The 2680
general assembly finds that the filing deadline for independent 2681
candidates in primary elections required in this section is 2682
reasonably related to the state's purpose of ensuring fair and 2683
honest elections while leaving unimpaired the political, voting, 2684
and associational rights secured by the first and fourteenth 2685
amendments to the United States Constitution. 2686

Sec. 3517.012. (A) (1) When a party formation petition 2687
meeting the requirements of section 3517.01 of the Revised Code 2688
declaring the intention to organize a political party is filed 2689
with the secretary of state, the new party comes into legal 2690
existence on the date of filing and is entitled to nominate 2691
candidates to appear on the ballot at the general election held 2692
in even-numbered years that occurs more than one hundred twenty- 2693
five days after the date of filing. 2694

(2) (a) Upon receiving a party formation petition filed 2695
under division (A) (1) of this section, the secretary of state 2696
shall promptly transmit to each board of elections the separate 2697
petition papers that purport to contain signatures of electors 2698
of that board's county. 2699

(b) Not later than the one hundred eighteenth day before 2700
the day of the general election, each board shall examine and 2701
determine the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition 2702
papers and shall return them to the secretary of state, together 2703
with the board's certification of its determination as to the 2704
validity or invalidity of the signatures on the petition. 2705

(c) Any qualified elector may file a written protest 2706
against the petition with the secretary of state not later than 2707
the one hundred fourteenth day before the day of the general 2708
election. Any such protest shall be resolved in the manner 2709
specified under section 3501.39 of the Revised Code. 2710

(d) Not later than the ninety-fifth day before the day of 2711
the general election, the secretary of state shall determine 2712
whether the party formation petition is sufficient and shall 2713
notify the committee designated in the petition of that 2714
determination. 2715

(B) (1) Not later than one hundred ten days before the day 2716
of that general election and not earlier than the day the 2717
applicable party formation petition is filed, each candidate or 2718
pair of joint candidates wishing to appear on the ballot at the 2719
general election as the nominee or nominees of the party that 2720
filed the party formation petition shall file a nominating 2721
petition, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, that 2722
includes the name of the political party that submitted the 2723
party formation petition. Except as otherwise provided in this 2724
section and sections 3505.03, 3505.08, 3506.11, 3513.31, 2725
3513.311, and 3513.312 of the Revised Code, the provisions of 2726
the Revised Code concerning independent candidates who file 2727
nominating petitions apply to candidates who file nominating 2728
petitions under this section. 2729

(2) (a) If the candidacy is to be submitted to electors 2730
throughout the entire state, the nominating petition, including 2731
a petition for joint candidates for the offices of governor and 2732
lieutenant governor, shall be signed by at least fifty qualified 2733
electors who ~~have not voted as a member of~~ are not affiliated 2734
with a different political party at any primary election within 2735

~~the current year or the immediately preceding two calendar~~ 2736
~~years,~~ as determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code. 2737

(b) ~~Except as otherwise provided in this division, if~~ 2738
the candidacy is to be submitted only to electors within a 2739
district, political subdivision, or portion thereof, the 2740
nominating petition shall be signed by not less than five 2741
qualified electors who ~~have not voted as a member of~~ are not 2742
affiliated with a different political party at any primary 2743
~~election within the current year or the immediately preceding~~ 2744
~~two calendar years,~~ as determined under section 3503.071 of the 2745
Revised Code. 2746

(3) (a) Each board of elections that is responsible to 2747
verify signatures on the nominating petition shall examine and 2748
determine the sufficiency of those signatures not later than the 2749
one hundred fifth day before the day of the general election ~~and~~ 2750
~~shall be resolved as specified in that section.~~ 2751

(b) Written protests against the petition may be filed in 2752
the manner specified under section 3513.263 of the Revised Code 2753
not later than the one hundredth day before the general election 2754
and shall be resolved as specified in that section. 2755

(c) Not later than the ninety-fifth day before the day of 2756
the general election, the secretary of state or the board of 2757
elections, as applicable, shall determine whether the nominating 2758
petition is sufficient and shall notify the candidate and the 2759
committee designated in the party formation petition of that 2760
determination. 2761

(C) (1) After being notified that the political party has 2762
submitted a sufficient party formation petition under division 2763
(A) of this section, the committee designated in a party 2764

formation petition shall, not later than the seventy-fifth day 2765
before the day of the general election, certify to the secretary 2766
of state a slate of candidates consisting of candidates or joint 2767
candidates who submitted sufficient nominating petitions under 2768
division (B) of this section. The slate certifying the 2769
candidates shall be on a form prescribed by the secretary of 2770
state and signed by all of the individuals of the committee 2771
designated in the party formation petition. In no event shall 2772
the slate of candidates include more than one candidate for any 2773
public office or more than one set of joint candidates for the 2774
offices of governor and lieutenant governor. The names of the 2775
candidates or joint candidates so certified shall appear on the 2776
ballot at the general election as that party's nominees for 2777
those offices. For purposes of this division, "joint candidates" 2778
means the joint candidates for the offices of governor and 2779
lieutenant governor. 2780

(2) If a candidate's nominating petition is insufficient 2781
or if the committee does not certify the candidate's name under 2782
division (C)(1) of this section, the candidate shall not appear 2783
on the ballot in the general election. 2784

(3) If a party formation petition is insufficient, no 2785
candidate shall appear on the ballot in the general election as 2786
that political party's nominee, regardless of whether any 2787
candidate's nominating petition is sufficient. 2788

Sec. 3517.013. ~~Section~~ Division (B) of section 3513.191 of 2789
the Revised Code does not apply to persons desiring to become 2790
candidates for party nomination of a newly formed political 2791
party meeting the requirements of sections 3517.011 and 3517.012 2792
of the Revised Code for a period of four calendar years from the 2793
date of the party formation. 2794

Sec. 3599.12. (A) No person shall do any of the following:	2795
(1) Vote or attempt to vote in any primary, special, or	2796
general election in a precinct in which that person is not a	2797
legally qualified elector;	2798
(2) Vote or attempt to vote more than once at the same	2799
election by any means, including voting or attempting to vote	2800
both by absent voter's ballots under division (G) <u>(E)</u> of section	2801
3503.16 of the Revised Code and by regular ballot at the polls	2802
at the same election, or voting or attempting to vote both by	2803
absent voter's ballots under division (G) <u>(E)</u> of section 3503.16	2804
of the Revised Code and by absent voter's ballots under Chapter	2805
3509. or armed service absent voter's ballots under Chapter	2806
3511. of the Revised Code at the same election;	2807
(3) Impersonate or sign the name of another person, real	2808
or fictitious, living or dead, and vote or attempt to vote as	2809
that other person in any such election;	2810
(4) Cast a ballot at any such election after objection has	2811
been made and sustained to that person's vote;	2812
(5) Knowingly vote or attempt to vote a ballot other than	2813
the official ballot.	2814
(B) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is	2815
guilty of a felony of the fourth degree.	2816
Section 2. That existing sections 3501.01, 3503.09,	2817
3503.10, 3503.11, 3503.14, 3503.15, 3503.153, 3503.16, 3503.19,	2818
3503.20, 3503.23, 3503.28, 3505.181, 3509.02, 3509.03, 3509.04,	2819
3509.08, 3513.041, 3513.05, 3513.07, 3513.18, 3513.19, 3513.191,	2820
3513.257, 3517.012, 3517.013, and 3599.12 of the Revised Code	2821
are hereby repealed.	2822

Section 3. That section 3513.20 of the Revised Code is	2823
hereby repealed.	2824
Section 4. This act shall be known as the Voter	2825
Registration Modernization Act.	2826