



Jon Husted Ohio Secretary of State

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Senator Bill Coley, Chairman
Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

March 8, 2017

Chairman Coley and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee,

I am writing to express support for Senate Bill 10, a bill which would eliminate unnecessary special elections to fill a congressional vacancy. Eliminating such elections would save considerable taxpayer money.

Currently, Ohio Revised Code Section 3513.312 requires that a special primary election be conducted to fill a vacancy in a party nomination if the person nominated as a candidate for United States Congress withdraws from the race or dies more than 90 days before the general election. The special primary election is required even if only one candidate files and the race is uncontested.

Ohio law provides that the state pay all of the costs associated with conducting such an election and those costs are considerable. For instance, the cost for the special primary election on September 13, 2016 with one candidate on the ballot in the Eighth Congressional District was more than \$340,000.

I am grateful to Senator LaRose for ensuring this issue gets consideration. I support Senate Bill 10 and urge you and your colleagues on the Government Oversight and Reform Committee to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Jon Husted". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State