



OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE PRIORITIES FOR 2021

Staying Ahead Of The Curve By Innovating And Building On The Very Systems Which Have Made Ohio A National Example For Trustworthy Elections And A Great Place To Live, Work, & Raise A Family

A SECURE ONLINE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST SYSTEM

- Like our online voter registration system, it's within our capability to develop a secure online ballot request system for Ohio voters.
- The system will utilize similar requirements from registered voters and ensure only verified voters will receive a ballot.
- A recent court ruling said that Ohio law currently permits electronic absentee ballot requests in any form. An appeals court stayed that ruling for the 2020 election, but the case is still pending going forward. Now is the time for the General Assembly to create a secure online portal, rather than leaving it up to the courts to make laws.

PREVENTING FRAUD WITH VOTER VERIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

- Voter fraud and voter suppression are both extremely rare in Ohio, but neither is ever acceptable.
- The best tool to combat voter fraud and ensure access for eligible voters is accurate voter rolls. Technology exists today to both secure our registration system and improve the voter experience.
- By working with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, information sharing will better allow county voter registration systems to update voter information as it changes. Such a system will also facilitate citizenship verification before registrations are processed, further preventing voter registration fraud.

LESS BUREAUCRACY FOR MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES

- Currently, Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) must be certified separately in each jurisdiction where they are seeking to do business. This creates extraordinary levels of red tape for these businesses.
- As the front door to new businesses in Ohio, Secretary LaRose has met with minority business leaders across the state and seeks to work with the General Assembly to create a single, statewide standard to certify MBEs. This important step will continue bolstering Ohio's status as a business-friendly state and will help facilitate greater entrepreneurship and economic prosperity in the minority community.