

As Introduced

135th General Assembly

Regular Session

2023-2024

H. B. No. 208

Representative Hall

**Cosponsors: Representatives Schmidt, Miller, K., Stein, Demetriou, Mathews,
Click, Bird, John**

A BILL

To amend sections 3501.01, 3503.09, 3503.10, 1
3503.11, 3503.14, 3503.15, 3503.16, 3503.19, 2
3503.20, 3503.23, 3503.28, 3505.181, 3509.02, 3
3509.04, 3509.07, 3509.08, 3513.041, 3513.05, 4
3513.07, 3513.18, 3513.19, 3513.191, 3513.257, 5
3517.012, 3517.013, and 3599.12; to enact 6
section 3503.071; and to repeal sections 7
3513.192 and 3513.20 of the Revised Code to 8
require an elector to register as a member of a 9
political party in order to participate in that 10
party's primary election. 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, 3503.16, 3503.19, 3503.20, 3503.23, 13
3503.28, 3505.181, 3509.02, 3509.04, 3509.07, 3509.08, 3513.041, 14
3513.05, 3513.07, 3513.18, 3513.19, 3513.191, 3513.257, 15
3517.012, 3517.013, and 3599.12 be amended and section 3503.071 16
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 election as defined by division (E)(1) of this section at which an election is held for the purpose of choosing delegates and alternates to the national conventions of the major political parties pursuant to section 3513.12 of the Revised Code. Unless otherwise specified, presidential primary elections are included in references to primary elections. In years in which a presidential primary election is held, all primary elections shall be held on the third Tuesday after the first Monday in March except as otherwise authorized by a municipal or county charter.

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

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

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

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

(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 temporary or part-time basis.	165 166
(V) "Acknowledgment notice" means a notice sent by a board of elections, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, informing a voter registration applicant or an applicant who wishes to change the applicant's residence or name of the status of the application; the information necessary to complete or update the application, if any; and if the application is complete, the precinct in which the applicant is to vote.	167 168 169 170 171 172 173
(W) "Confirmation notice" means a notice sent by a board of elections, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, to a registered elector to confirm the registered elector's current address.	174 175 176 177
(X) "Designated agency" means an office or agency in the state that provides public assistance or that provides state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities and that is required by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to implement a program designed and administered by the secretary of state for registering voters, or any other public or government office or agency that implements a program designed and administered by the secretary of state for registering voters, including the department of job and family services, the program administered under section 3701.132 of the Revised Code by the department of health, the department of mental health and addiction services, the department of developmental disabilities, the opportunities for Ohioans with disabilities agency, and any other agency the secretary of state designates. "Designated agency" does not include public high schools and vocational schools, public	178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193

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 nonrenewable license issued under section 4507.09 of the 225
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) An elector's political party 237
affiliation shall be determined based on the most recent of the 238
following: 239

(1) The elector's affiliation, if any, with a currently 240
recognized political party as indicated on the elector's most 241
recent voter registration application or voter registration 242
update form; 243

(2) In the case of an elector who is registered to vote in 244
this state before the effective date of this section, the 245
currently recognized political party, if any, whose ballot the 246
elector most recently cast at a primary election held during the 247
calendar year of the effective date of this section or the 248
previous two calendar years. 249

(B) (1) Each voter registration application and voter 250

registration update form prescribed by the secretary of state 251
shall include all of the following: 252

(a) A list of the political parties that are recognized in 253
this state, accompanied by boxes for the applicant to check to 254
select a party with which the applicant wishes to be affiliated; 255

(b) A space for the applicant to write the name of a 256
recognized political party that is not listed on the form, if 257
the applicant wishes to be affiliated with that party; 258

(c) A box for the applicant to check to indicate that the 259
applicant does not wish to be affiliated with any political 260
party; 261

(d) A notice that the applicant may select or write the 262
name of only one recognized political party and that the 263
applicant is not required to select a political party. 264

(2) An applicant who submits a voter registration 265
application or update form shall be considered unaffiliated if 266
either of the following apply: 267

(a) The applicant indicates on the application or form 268
that the applicant does not wish to be affiliated with any 269
political party. 270

(b) The applicant is not currently registered as 271
affiliated with a political party, does not select or write the 272
name of a recognized political party, and does not indicate that 273
the applicant does not wish to be affiliated with any political 274
party. 275

(3) An applicant who submits a voter registration update 276
form shall remain registered as affiliated with the applicant's 277
current political party if the applicant currently is affiliated 278

with a political party, does not select or write the name of a 279
recognized political party, and does not indicate that the 280
applicant does not wish to be affiliated with any political 281
party. 282

Sec. 3503.09. (A) (1) The secretary of state shall adopt 283
rules for the electronic transmission by boards of elections, 284
designated agencies, offices of deputy registrars of motor 285
vehicles, public high schools and vocational schools, public 286
libraries, and offices of county treasurers, where applicable, 287
of ~~name and residence changes for voter registration records in~~ 288
~~the statewide voter registration database~~ update forms. 289

(2) The secretary of state shall adopt rules for the 290
purpose of improving the speed of processing new voter 291
registrations that permit information from a voter registration 292
application received by a designated agency or an office of 293
deputy registrar of motor vehicles to be made available 294
electronically, in addition to requiring the original voter 295
registration application to be transmitted to the applicable 296
board of elections under division (E) (2) of section 3503.10 or 297
section 3503.11 of the Revised Code. 298

(B) Rules adopted under division (A) of this section shall 299
do all of the following: 300

(1) Prohibit any direct electronic connection between a 301
designated agency, office of deputy registrar of motor vehicles, 302
public high school or vocational school, public library, or 303
office of a county treasurer and the statewide voter 304
registration database; 305

(2) Require any updated voter registration information to 306
be verified by the secretary of state or a board of elections 307

before the information is added to the statewide voter 308
registration database for the purpose of modifying an existing 309
voter registration; 310

(3) Require each designated agency or office of deputy 311
registrar of motor vehicles that transmits voter registration 312
information electronically to transmit an identifier for data 313
relating to each new voter registration that shall be used by 314
the secretary of state or a board of elections to match the 315
electronic data to the original voter registration application. 316

Sec. 3503.10. (A) Each designated agency shall designate 317
one person within that agency to serve as coordinator for the 318
voter registration program within the agency and its 319
departments, divisions, and programs. The designated person 320
shall be trained under a program designed by the secretary of 321
state and shall be responsible for administering all aspects of 322
the voter registration program for that agency as prescribed by 323
the secretary of state. The designated person shall receive no 324
additional compensation for performing such duties. 325

(B) Every designated agency, public high school and 326
vocational school, public library, and office of a county 327
treasurer shall provide in each of its offices or locations 328
voter registration applications and assistance in the 329
registration of persons qualified to register to vote, in 330
accordance with this chapter. 331

(C) Every designated agency shall distribute to its 332
applicants, prior to or in conjunction with distributing a voter 333
registration application, a form prescribed by the secretary of 334
state that includes all of the following: 335

(1) The question, "Do you want to register to vote or 336

update your current voter registration?"--followed by boxes for 337
the applicant to indicate whether the applicant would like to 338
register or decline to register to vote, and the statement, 339
highlighted in bold print, "If you do not check either box, you 340
will be considered to have decided not to register to vote at 341
this time."; 342

(2) If the agency provides public assistance, the 343
statement, "Applying to register or declining to register to 344
vote will not affect the amount of assistance that you will be 345
provided by this agency."; 346

(3) The statement, "If you would like help in filling out 347
the voter registration application form, we will help you. The 348
decision whether to seek or accept help is yours. You may fill 349
out the application form in private."; 350

(4) The statement, "If you believe that someone has 351
interfered with your right to register or to decline to register 352
to vote, your right to privacy in deciding whether to register 353
or in applying to register to vote, or your right to choose your 354
own political party or other political preference, you may file 355
a complaint with the prosecuting attorney of your county or with 356
the secretary of state," with the address and telephone number 357
for each such official's office. 358

(D) Each designated agency shall distribute a voter 359
registration form prescribed by the secretary of state to each 360
applicant with each application for service or assistance, and 361
with each written application or form for recertification, 362
renewal, or change of address. 363

(E) Each designated agency shall do all of the following: 364

(1) Have employees trained to administer the voter 365

registration program in order to provide to each applicant who 366
wishes to register to vote and who accepts assistance, the same 367
degree of assistance with regard to completion of the voter 368
registration application as is provided by the agency with 369
regard to the completion of its own form; 370

(2) Accept completed voter registration applications, and 371
voter registration ~~change of residence forms, and voter~~ 372
~~registration change of name update forms,~~ regardless of whether 373
the application or form was distributed by the designated 374
agency, for transmittal to the office of the board of elections 375
in the county in which the agency is located. Each designated 376
agency and the appropriate board of elections shall establish a 377
method by which the voter registration applications and other 378
voter registration forms are transmitted to that board of 379
elections within five days after being accepted by the agency. 380

(3) If the designated agency is one that is primarily 381
engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities under 382
a state-funded program, and that agency provides services to a 383
person with disabilities at a person's home, provide the 384
services described in divisions (E) (1) and (2) of this section 385
at the person's home; 386

(4) Keep as confidential, except as required by the 387
secretary of state for record-keeping purposes, the identity of 388
an agency through which a person registered to vote or updated 389
the person's voter registration records, and information 390
relating to a declination to register to vote made in connection 391
with a voter registration application issued by a designated 392
agency. 393

(F) The secretary of state shall prepare and transmit 394
written instructions on the implementation of the voter 395

registration program within each designated agency, public high 396
school and vocational school, public library, and office of a 397
county treasurer. The instructions shall include directions as 398
follows: 399

(1) That each person designated to assist with voter 400
registration maintain strict neutrality with respect to a 401
person's political philosophies, a person's right to register or 402
decline to register, and any other matter that may influence a 403
person's decision to register or not register to vote; 404

(2) That each person designated to assist with voter 405
registration not seek to influence a person's decision to 406
register or not register to vote, not display or demonstrate any 407
political preference or party allegiance, and not make any 408
statement to a person or take any action the purpose or effect 409
of which is to lead a person to believe that a decision to 410
register or not register has any bearing on the availability of 411
services or benefits offered, on the grade in a particular class 412
in school, or on credit for a particular class in school; 413

(3) Regarding when and how to assist a person in 414
completing the voter registration application, what to do with 415
the completed voter registration application or voter 416
registration update form, and when the application must be 417
transmitted to the appropriate board of elections; 418

(4) Regarding what records must be kept by the agency and 419
where and when those records should be transmitted to satisfy 420
reporting requirements imposed on the secretary of state under 421
the National Voter Registration Act of 1993; 422

(5) Regarding whom to contact to obtain answers to 423
questions about voter registration forms and procedures. 424

(G) If the voter registration activity is part of an in- 425
class voter registration program in a public high school or 426
vocational school, whether prescribed by the secretary of state 427
or independent of the secretary of state, the board of education 428
shall do all of the following: 429

(1) Establish a schedule of school days and hours during 430
these days when the person designated to assist with voter 431
registration shall provide voter registration assistance; 432

(2) Designate a person to assist with voter registration 433
from the public high school's or vocational school's staff; 434

(3) Make voter registration applications and materials 435
available, as outlined in the voter registration program 436
established by the secretary of state pursuant to section 437
3501.05 of the Revised Code; 438

(4) Distribute the statement, "applying to register or 439
declining to register to vote, or registering as affiliated with 440
a particular political party or registering to vote and 441
remaining unaffiliated, will not affect or be a condition of 442
your receiving a particular grade in or credit for a school 443
course or class, participating in a curricular or 444
extracurricular activity, receiving a benefit or privilege, or 445
participating in a program or activity otherwise available to 446
pupils enrolled in this school district's schools."; 447

(5) Establish a method by which the voter registration 448
application and other voter registration forms are transmitted 449
to the board of elections within five days after being accepted 450
by the public high school or vocational school. 451

(H) Any person employed by the designated agency, public 452
high school or vocational school, public library, or office of a 453

county treasurer may be designated to assist with voter 454
registration pursuant to this section. The designated agency, 455
public high school or vocational school, public library, or 456
office of a county treasurer shall provide the designated 457
person, and make available such space as may be necessary, 458
without charge to the county or state. 459

(I) The secretary of state shall prepare and cause to be 460
displayed in a prominent location in each designated agency a 461
notice that identifies the person designated to assist with 462
voter registration, the nature of that person's duties, and 463
where and when that person is available for assisting in the 464
registration of voters. 465

A designated agency may furnish additional supplies and 466
services to disseminate information to increase public awareness 467
of the existence of a person designated to assist with voter 468
registration in every designated agency. 469

(J) This section does not limit any authority a board of 470
education, superintendent, or principal has to allow, sponsor, 471
or promote voluntary election registration programs within a 472
high school or vocational school, including programs in which 473
pupils serve as persons designated to assist with voter 474
registration, provided that no pupil is required to participate. 475

(K) Each public library and office of the county treasurer 476
shall establish a method by which voter registration forms are 477
transmitted to the board of elections within five days after 478
being accepted by the public library or office of the county 479
treasurer. 480

(L) The department of job and family services and its 481
departments, divisions, and programs shall limit administration 482

of the aspects of the voter registration program for the 483
department to the requirements prescribed by the secretary of 484
state and the requirements of this section and the National 485
Voter Registration Act of 1993. 486

Sec. 3503.11. When any person applies for a driver's 487
license, commercial driver's license, a state of Ohio 488
identification card issued under section 4507.50 of the Revised 489
Code, or motorcycle operator's license or endorsement, or the 490
renewal or duplicate of any license or endorsement under Chapter 491
4506. or 4507. of the Revised Code, the registrar of motor 492
vehicles or deputy registrar shall offer the applicant the 493
opportunity to register to vote or to update the applicant's 494
voter registration. The registrar of motor vehicles or deputy 495
registrar also shall make available to all other customers voter 496
registration applications and ~~change of residence and change of~~ 497
~~name, voter registration update~~ forms, but is not required to 498
offer assistance to these customers in completing a voter 499
registration application or other form. 500

The deputy registrar shall send any registration 501
application or any ~~change of residence or change of name~~ voter 502
registration update form that was completed and submitted in 503
paper form to the deputy registrar to the board of elections of 504
the county in which the office of the deputy registrar is 505
located, within five days after accepting the application or 506
other form. The registrar shall send any completed registration 507
application received at the bureau of motor vehicles 508
headquarters location and any completed ~~change of residence or~~ 509
~~change of name~~ voter registration update form processed 510
electronically in systems or programs operated and maintained by 511
the bureau of motor vehicles to the secretary of state within 512
five days after accepting the application or other form. 513

The registrar shall collect from each deputy registrar 514
through the reports filed under division (J) of section 4503.03 515
of the Revised Code and transmit to the secretary of state 516
information on the number of voter registration applications and 517
~~change of residence or change of name~~ voter registration update 518
forms completed or declined, and any additional information 519
required by the secretary of state to comply with the National 520
Voter Registration Act of 1993. No information relating to an 521
applicant's decision to decline to register or update the 522
applicant's voter registration at the office of the registrar or 523
deputy registrar may be used for any purpose other than voter 524
registration record-keeping required by the secretary of state, 525
and all such information shall be kept confidential. 526

The secretary of state shall prescribe voter registration 527
applications and ~~change of residence and change of name~~ voter 528
registration update forms for use by the bureau of motor 529
vehicles. The bureau of motor vehicles shall supply all of its 530
deputy registrars with a sufficient number of voter registration 531
applications and ~~change of residence and change of name~~ voter 532
registration update forms. 533

Sec. 3503.14. ~~(A)~~ (A) (1) The secretary of state shall 534
prescribe the form and content of the voter registration, ~~change~~ 535
~~of residence~~, and ~~change of name~~ voter registration update forms 536
used in this state. The forms shall meet the requirements of the 537
National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and shall include spaces 538
for all of the following: 539

- ~~(1)~~ (a) The voter's name; 540
- ~~(2)~~ (b) The voter's address; 541
- ~~(3)~~ (c) The current date; 542

(4) <u>(d)</u> The voter's date of birth;	543
(5) <u>(e)</u> The voter to provide at least one of the following forms of identification:	544
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(a) <u>(i)</u> The voter's Ohio driver's license or state identification card number;	546
	547
(b) <u>(ii)</u> The last four digits of the voter's social security number.	548
	549
(6) <u>(f)</u> The voter's signature.	550
<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>	551
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<u>(3)</u> 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.	554
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<u>(4)</u> Except for forms prescribed by the secretary of state under section 3503.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of state shall permit boards of elections to produce forms that have subdivided spaces for each individual alphanumeric character of the information provided by the voter so as to accommodate the electronic reading and conversion of the voter's information to data and the subsequent electronic transfer of that data to the statewide voter registration database established under section 3503.15 of the Revised Code.	559
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(B) None of the following persons who are registering an applicant in the course of that official's or employee's normal duties shall sign the person's name, provide the person's	568
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address, or name the employer who is employing the person to	571
register an applicant on a form prepared under this section:	572
(1) An election official;	573
(2) A county treasurer;	574
(3) A deputy registrar of motor vehicles;	575
(4) An employee of a designated agency;	576
(5) An employee of a public high school;	577
(6) An employee of a public vocational school;	578
(7) An employee of a public library;	579
(8) An employee of the office of a county treasurer;	580
(9) An employee of the bureau of motor vehicles;	581
(10) An employee of a deputy registrar of motor vehicles;	582
(11) An employee of an election official.	583
(C) Except as provided in section 3501.382 of the Revised	584
Code, any applicant who is unable to sign the applicant's own	585
name shall make an "X," if possible, which shall be certified by	586
the signing of the name of the applicant by the person filling	587
out the form, who shall add the person's own signature. If an	588
applicant is unable to make an "X," the applicant shall indicate	589
in some manner that the applicant desires to register to vote or	590
to change <u>update</u> the applicant's name or residence <u>voter</u>	591
<u>registration</u> . The person registering the applicant shall sign	592
the form and attest that the applicant indicated that the	593
applicant desired to register to vote or to change the	594
applicant's name or residence <u>update the applicant's voter</u>	595
<u>registration</u> .	596

(D) No registration, ~~change of residence, or change of~~ 597
~~name update~~ form shall be rejected solely on the basis that a 598
person registering an applicant failed to sign the person's name 599
or failed to name the employer who is employing that person to 600
register the applicant as required under division (A) of this 601
section. 602

(E) A voter registration application or voter registration 603
update form submitted online through the internet pursuant to 604
section 3503.20 of the Revised Code is not required to contain a 605
signature to be considered valid. The signature obtained under 606
division (B) of that section shall be considered the applicant's 607
signature for all election and signature-matching purposes. 608

(F) As used in this section, "registering an applicant" 609
includes any effort, for compensation, to provide voter 610
registration forms or to assist persons in completing or 611
returning those forms. 612

Sec. 3503.15. (A) (1) The secretary of state shall 613
establish and maintain a statewide voter registration database 614
that shall be administered by the office of the secretary of 615
state and made continuously available to each board of elections 616
and to other agencies as authorized by law. 617

(2) (a) State agencies, including, but not limited to, the 618
department of health, the bureau of motor vehicles, the 619
department of job and family services, the department of 620
medicaid, and the department of rehabilitation and corrections, 621
shall provide any information and data to the secretary of state 622
that is collected in the course of normal business and that is 623
necessary to register to vote, to update an elector's 624
registration, or to maintain the statewide voter registration 625
database established pursuant to this section, except where 626

prohibited by federal law or regulation. The department of 627
health, the bureau of motor vehicles, the department of job and 628
family services, the department of medicaid, and the department 629
of rehabilitation and corrections shall provide that information 630
and data to the secretary of state not later than the last day 631
of each month. The secretary of state shall ensure that any 632
information or data provided to the secretary of state that is 633
confidential in the possession of the entity providing the data 634
remains confidential while in the possession of the secretary of 635
state. No public office, and no public official or employee, 636
shall sell that information or data or use that information or 637
data for profit. 638

(b) Information provided under this division for 639
maintenance of the statewide voter registration database shall 640
not be used to update ~~the name or address of a registered~~ 641
~~elector~~ an elector's registration. The name ~~or~~, address, or 642
political party affiliation of a registered elector shall only 643
be updated as a result of the elector's actions in filing a 644
~~notice of change of name, change of address, or both~~ voter 645
registration update form. 646

(c) A board of elections shall contact a registered 647
elector pursuant to the rules adopted under division (D) (7) of 648
this section to verify the accuracy of the information in the 649
statewide voter registration database regarding that elector if 650
that information does not conform with information provided 651
under division (A) (2) (a) of this section and the discrepancy 652
would affect the elector's eligibility to cast a regular ballot. 653

(3) (a) The secretary of state shall enter into agreements 654
to share information or data that is in the possession of the 655
secretary of state with other states or groups of states, as the 656

secretary of state considers necessary, in order to maintain the 657
statewide voter registration database established pursuant to 658
this section. Except as otherwise provided in division (A) (3) (b) 659
of this section, the secretary of state shall ensure that any 660
information or data provided to the secretary of state that is 661
confidential in the possession of the state providing the data 662
remains confidential while in the possession of the secretary of 663
state. 664

(b) The secretary of state may provide such otherwise 665
confidential information or data to persons or organizations 666
that are engaging in legitimate governmental purposes related to 667
the maintenance of the statewide voter registration database. 668
The secretary of state shall adopt rules pursuant to Chapter 669
119. of the Revised Code identifying the persons or 670
organizations who may receive that information or data. The 671
secretary of state shall not share that information or data with 672
a person or organization not identified in those rules. The 673
secretary of state shall ensure that a person or organization 674
that receives confidential information or data under this 675
division keeps the information or data confidential in the 676
person's or organization's possession by, at a minimum, entering 677
into a confidentiality agreement with the person or 678
organization. Any confidentiality agreement entered into under 679
this division shall include a requirement that the person or 680
organization submit to the jurisdiction of this state in the 681
event that the person or organization breaches the agreement. 682

(4) No person or entity that receives information or data 683
under division (A) (3) of this section shall sell the information 684
or data or use the information or data for profit. 685

(5) The secretary of state shall regularly transmit to the 686

boards of elections, to the extent permitted by state and 687
federal law, the information and data the secretary of state 688
receives under divisions (A) (2) and (3) of this section that is 689
necessary to do the following, in order to ensure that the 690
accuracy of the statewide voter registration database is 691
maintained on a regular basis in accordance with applicable 692
state and federal law: 693

(a) Require the boards of elections to maintain the 694
database in a manner that ensures that the name of each 695
registered elector appears in the database, that only 696
individuals who are not registered or eligible to vote are 697
removed from the database, and that duplicate registrations are 698
eliminated from the database; 699

(b) Require the boards of elections to make a reasonable 700
effort to remove individuals who are not eligible to vote from 701
the database; 702

(c) Establish safeguards to ensure that eligible electors 703
are not removed in error from the database. 704

(B) The statewide voter registration database established 705
under this section shall be the official list of registered 706
voters for all elections conducted in this state. 707

(C) The statewide voter registration database established 708
under this section shall, at a minimum, include all of the 709
following: 710

(1) An electronic network that connects all board of 711
elections offices with the office of the secretary of state and 712
with the offices of all other boards of elections; 713

(2) A computer program that harmonizes the records 714
contained in the database with records maintained by each board 715

of elections;	716
(3) An interactive computer program that allows access to the records contained in the database by each board of elections and by any persons authorized by the secretary of state to add, delete, modify, or print database records, and to conduct updates of the database;	717 718 719 720 721
(4) A search program capable of verifying registered voters and their registration information by name, driver's license or state identification card number, birth date, social security number, or current address;	722 723 724 725
(5) Safeguards and components to ensure that the integrity, security, and confidentiality of the voter registration information is maintained;	726 727 728
(6) Methods to retain canceled voter registration records for not less than five years after they are canceled and to record the reason for their cancellation.	729 730 731
(D) The secretary of state shall adopt rules pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code doing all of the following:	732 733
(1) Specifying the manner in which existing voter registration records maintained by boards of elections shall be converted to electronic files for inclusion in the statewide voter registration database;	734 735 736 737
(2) Establishing a uniform method for entering voter registration records into the statewide voter registration database on an expedited basis, but not less than once per day, if new registration information is received;	738 739 740 741
(3) Establishing a uniform method for purging canceled voter registration records from the statewide voter registration	742 743

database in accordance with section 3503.21 of the Revised Code; 744

(4) Specifying the persons authorized to add, delete, 745
modify, or print records contained in the statewide voter 746
registration database and to make updates of that database; 747

(5) Establishing a process for annually auditing the 748
information contained in the statewide voter registration 749
database; 750

(6) Establishing, by mutual agreement with the bureau of 751
motor vehicles, the content and format of the information and 752
data the bureau of motor vehicles shall provide to the secretary 753
of state under division (A) (2) (a) of this section and the 754
frequency with which the bureau shall provide that information 755
and data; 756

(7) Establishing a uniform method for addressing instances 757
in which records contained in the statewide voter registration 758
database do not conform with records maintained by an agency, 759
state, or group of states described in division (A) (2) (a) or (3) 760
(a) of this section. That method shall prohibit an elector's 761
voter registration from being canceled on the sole basis that 762
the information in the registration record does not conform to 763
records maintained by such an agency. 764

(E) A board of elections promptly shall purge a voter's 765
name and voter registration information from the statewide voter 766
registration database in accordance with the rules adopted by 767
the secretary of state under division (D) (3) of this section 768
after the cancellation of a voter's registration under section 769
3503.21 of the Revised Code. 770

(F) The secretary of state shall provide training in the 771
operation of the statewide voter registration database to each 772

board of elections and to any persons authorized by the 773
secretary of state to add, delete, modify, or print database 774
records, and to conduct updates of the database. 775

(G) (1) The statewide voter registration database 776
established under this section shall be made available on a web 777
site of the office of the secretary of state as follows: 778

(a) Except as otherwise provided in division (G) (1) (b) of 779
this section, the following information from the statewide voter 780
registration database regarding a registered voter shall be made 781
available on the web site: 782

(i) The voter's name; 783

(ii) The voter's address; 784

(iii) The voter's precinct number; 785

(iv) The voter's political party affiliation, if any, as 786
determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code; 787

(v) The voter's voting history. 788

(b) During the thirty days before the day of a primary or 789
general election, the web site interface of the statewide voter 790
registration database shall permit a voter to search for the 791
polling location at which that voter may cast a ballot. 792

(2) The secretary of state shall establish, by rule 793
adopted under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, a process for 794
boards of elections to notify the secretary of state of changes 795
in the locations of precinct polling places for the purpose of 796
updating the information made available on the secretary of 797
state's web site under division (G) (1) (b) of this section. Those 798
rules shall require a board of elections, during the thirty days 799
before the day of a primary or general election, to notify the 800

secretary of state within one business day of any change to the 801
location of a precinct polling place within the county. 802

(3) During the thirty days before the day of a primary or 803
general election, not later than one business day after 804
receiving a notification from a county pursuant to division (G) 805
(2) of this section that the location of a precinct polling 806
place has changed, the secretary of state shall update that 807
information on the secretary of state's web site for the purpose 808
of division (G) (1) (b) of this section. 809

(H) The secretary of state shall conduct an annual review 810
of the statewide voter registration database as follows: 811

(1) The secretary of state shall compare the information 812
in the statewide voter registration database with the 813
information the secretary of state obtains from the bureau of 814
motor vehicles under division (A) (2) of this section to identify 815
any person who does all of the following, in the following 816
order: 817

(a) Submits documentation to the bureau of motor vehicles 818
that indicates that the person is not a United States citizen; 819

(b) Registers to vote, ~~submits a~~ updates the person's 820
voter registration ~~change of residence or change of name form,~~ 821
or votes in this state; 822

(c) Submits documentation to the bureau of motor vehicles 823
that indicates that the person is not a United States citizen. 824

(2) The secretary of state shall send a written notice to 825
each person identified under division (H) (1) of this section, 826
instructing the person either to confirm that the person is a 827
United States citizen or to submit a completed voter 828
registration cancellation form to the secretary of state. The 829

secretary of state shall include a blank voter registration 830
cancellation form with the notice. If the person fails to 831
respond to the secretary of state in the manner described in 832
division (H) (3) or (4) of this section not later than thirty 833
days after the notice was sent, the secretary of state promptly 834
shall send the person a second notice and form. 835

(3) If, not later than sixty days after the first notice 836
was sent, a person who is sent a notice under division (H) (2) of 837
this section responds to the secretary of state, confirming that 838
the person is a United States citizen, the secretary of state 839
shall take no action concerning the person's voter registration. 840

(4) If, not later than sixty days after the first notice 841
was sent, a person who receives a notice under division (H) (2) 842
of this section sends a completed voter registration 843
cancellation form to the secretary of state, the secretary of 844
state shall instruct the board of elections of the county in 845
which the person is registered to cancel the person's 846
registration. 847

(5) If a person who was sent a second notice under 848
division (H) (2) of this section fails to respond to the 849
secretary of state in the manner described in division (H) (3) or 850
(4) of this section not later than thirty days after the second 851
notice was sent, the secretary of state shall refer the matter 852
to the attorney general for further investigation and possible 853
prosecution under section 3599.11, 3599.12, 3599.13, or any 854
other applicable section of the Revised Code. If, after the 855
thirtieth day after the second notice was sent, the person sends 856
a completed voter registration cancellation form to the 857
secretary of state, the secretary of state shall instruct the 858
board of elections of the county in which the person is 859

registered to cancel the person's registration and shall notify 860
the attorney general of the cancellation. 861

(6) The secretary of state shall not conduct the review 862
described in division (H) of this section during the ninety days 863
immediately preceding a primary or general election for federal 864
office. 865

Sec. 3503.16. ~~(A) Except as otherwise provided in division~~ 866
~~(E) of section 111.44 of the Revised Code, whenever~~ (A) Whenever 867
a registered elector changes the place of residence of that 868
registered elector ~~from one precinct to another within a county~~ 869
~~or from one county to another~~ this state, or has a change of 870
name or a change of political party affiliation, that registered 871
elector shall report the change by ~~delivering a change of~~ 872
~~residence or change of name form, whichever is appropriate, as~~ 873
~~prescribed by the secretary of state under section 3503.14 of~~ 874
~~the Revised Code to the state or local office of a designated~~ 875
~~agency, a public high school or vocational school, a public~~ 876
~~library, the office of the county treasurer, the office of the~~ 877
~~secretary of state, any office of the registrar or deputy~~ 878
~~registrar of motor vehicles, or any office of a board of~~ 879
~~elections in person or by a third person. Any voter~~ 880
~~registration, change of address, or change of name application,~~ 881
~~returned by mail, may be sent only to the secretary of state or~~ 882
~~the board of elections.~~ 883

~~A registered elector also may update the registration of~~ 884
~~that registered elector by filing a change of residence or~~ 885
~~change of name form on the day of a special, primary, or general~~ 886
~~election at the polling place in the precinct in which that~~ 887
~~registered elector resides or at the board of elections or at~~ 888
~~another site designated by the board~~ one of the methods 889

described in section 3503.19 of the Revised Code not later than 890
the thirtieth day before the day of an election, except as 891
otherwise permitted under this section. 892

(B) (1) (a) Any registered elector who moves within a 893
precinct on or prior to the day of a general, primary, or 894
special election and has not ~~filed a notice of~~ reported the 895
change of residence ~~with the board of elections under section~~ 896
3503.19 of the Revised Code may vote in that election by going 897
to that registered elector's assigned polling place, completing 898
and signing a ~~notice of change of residence~~ voter registration 899
update form, showing photo identification, and casting a ballot. 900

(b) Any registered elector who changes the name of that 901
registered elector and remains within a precinct on or prior to 902
the day of a general, primary, or special election and has not 903
~~filed a notice of~~ reported the change of name ~~with the board of~~ 904
~~elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code~~ may vote in 905
that election by going to that registered elector's assigned 906
polling place, completing and signing a ~~notice of a change of~~ 907
~~name~~ voter registration update form, and casting a provisional 908
ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised Code. If the 909
registered elector provides to the precinct election officials 910
proof of a legal name change, such as a marriage license or 911
court order that includes the elector's current and prior names, 912
the elector may complete and sign a ~~notice of change of name~~ 913
voter registration update form and cast a regular ballot. 914

(2) Any registered elector who moves from one precinct to 915
another within a county or moves from one precinct to another 916
and changes the name of that registered elector on or prior to 917
the day of a general, primary, or special election and has not 918
~~filed a notice of~~ reported the change of residence or change of 919

name, whichever is appropriate, ~~with the board of elections~~ 920
under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code may vote in that 921
election if that registered elector complies with division (G) 922
of this section or does all of the following: 923

(a) Appears at anytime during regular business hours on or 924
after the twenty-eighth day prior to the election in which that 925
registered elector wishes to vote or, if the election is held on 926
the day of a presidential primary election, the twenty-fifth day 927
prior to the election, through noon of the Saturday prior to the 928
election at the office of the board of elections, appears at any 929
time during regular business hours on the Monday prior to the 930
election at the office of the board of elections, or appears on 931
the day of the election at either of the following locations: 932

(i) The polling place for the precinct in which that 933
registered elector resides; 934

(ii) The office of the board of elections or, if pursuant 935
to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board 936
has designated another location in the county at which 937
registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of 938
the office of the board of elections. 939

(b) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 940
falsification, the written affirmation on the provisional ballot 941
envelope, which shall serve as a ~~notice of change of residence~~ 942
~~or change of name, whichever is appropriate~~ voter registration 943
update form; 944

(c) Votes a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of 945
the Revised Code at the polling place, at the office of the 946
board of elections, or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 947
3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated another 948

location in the county at which registered electors may vote, at 949
that other location instead of the office of the board of 950
elections, whichever is appropriate, using the address to which 951
that registered elector has moved or the name of that registered 952
elector as changed, whichever is appropriate; 953

(d) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 954
falsification, a statement attesting that that registered 955
elector moved or had a change of name, whichever is appropriate, 956
on or prior to the day of the election, has voted a provisional 957
ballot at the polling place for the precinct in which that 958
registered elector resides, at the office of the board of 959
elections, or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of 960
the Revised Code the board has designated another location in 961
the county at which registered electors may vote, at that other 962
location instead of the office of the board of elections, 963
whichever is appropriate, and will not vote or attempt to vote 964
at any other location for that particular election. 965

(C) Any registered elector who moves from one county to 966
another county within the state on or prior to the day of a 967
general, primary, or special election and has not ~~registered to~~ 968
~~vote in the county to which that registered elector moved~~ 969
reported the change of residence under section 3503.19 of the 970
Revised Code may vote in that election if that registered 971
elector complies with division (G) of this section or does all 972
of the following: 973

(1) Appears at any time during regular business hours on 974
or after the twenty-eighth day prior to the election in which 975
that registered elector wishes to vote or, if the election is 976
held on the day of a presidential primary election, the twenty- 977
fifth day prior to the election, through noon of the Saturday 978

prior to the election at the office of the board of elections 979
or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the 980
Revised Code the board has designated another location in the 981
county at which registered electors may vote, at that other 982
location instead of the office of the board of elections, 983
appears during regular business hours on the Monday prior to the 984
election at the office of the board of elections or, if pursuant 985
to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board 986
has designated another location in the county at which 987
registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of 988
the office of the board of elections, or appears on the day of 989
the election at the office of the board of elections or, if 990
pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code 991
the board has designated another location in the county at which 992
registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of 993
the office of the board of elections; 994

(2) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 995
falsification, the written affirmation on the provisional ballot 996
envelope, which shall serve as a ~~notice of change of residence~~ 997
voter registration update form; 998

(3) Votes a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of 999
the Revised Code at the office of the board of elections or, if 1000
pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code 1001
the board has designated another location in the county at which 1002
registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of 1003
the office of the board of elections, using the address to which 1004
that registered elector has moved; 1005

(4) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 1006
falsification, a statement attesting that that registered 1007
elector has moved from one county to another county within the 1008

state on or prior to the day of the election, has voted at the 1009
office of the board of elections or, if pursuant to division (C) 1010
of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated 1011
another location in the county at which registered electors may 1012
vote, at that other location instead of the office of the board 1013
of elections, and will not vote or attempt to vote at any other 1014
location for that particular election. 1015

(D) A person who votes by absent voter's ballots pursuant 1016
to division ~~(C)~~ (E) of this section shall not make written 1017
application for the ballots pursuant to Chapter 3509. of the 1018
Revised Code. Ballots cast pursuant to division ~~(C)~~ (E) of this 1019
section shall be set aside in a special envelope and counted 1020
during the official canvass of votes in the manner provided for 1021
in sections 3505.32 and 3509.06 of the Revised Code insofar as 1022
that manner is applicable. The board shall examine the pollbooks 1023
to verify that no ballot was cast at the polls or by absent 1024
voter's ballots under Chapter 3509. or 3511. of the Revised Code 1025
by an elector who has voted by absent voter's ballots pursuant 1026
to division ~~(C)~~ (E) of this section. Any ballot determined to be 1027
insufficient for any of the reasons stated above or stated in 1028
section 3509.07 of the Revised Code shall not be counted. 1029

Subject to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised 1030
Code, a board of elections may lease or otherwise acquire a site 1031
different from the office of the board at which registered 1032
electors may vote pursuant to division (B) or (C) of this 1033
section. 1034

~~(E) Upon receiving a notice of change of residence or~~ 1035
~~change of name, the board of elections shall immediately send~~ 1036
~~the registrant an acknowledgment notice. If the change of~~ 1037
~~residence or change of name notice is valid, the board shall~~ 1038

~~update the voter's registration as appropriate. If that form is-~~ 1039
~~incomplete, the board shall inform the registrant in the-~~ 1040
~~acknowledgment notice specified in this division of the-~~ 1041
~~information necessary to complete or update that registrant's-~~ 1042
~~registration.~~ 1043

~~(F) Change of residence and change of name forms shall be-~~ 1044
~~available at each polling place, and when these forms are-~~ 1045
~~completed, noting changes of residence or name, as appropriate,-~~ 1046
~~they shall be filed with election officials at the polling-~~ 1047
~~place. Election officials shall return completed forms, together-~~ 1048
~~with the pollbooks and tally sheets, to the board of elections.~~ 1049

~~The board of elections shall provide change of residence-~~ 1050
~~and change of name forms to the probate court and court of-~~ 1051
~~common pleas. The court shall provide the forms to any person-~~ 1052
~~eighteen years of age or older who has a change of name by order-~~ 1053
~~of the court or who applies for a marriage license. The court-~~ 1054
~~shall forward all completed forms to the board of elections-~~ 1055
~~within five days after receiving them.~~ 1056

~~(G) A registered elector who otherwise would qualify to~~ 1057
~~vote under division (B) or (C) of this section but is unable to~~ 1058
~~appear at the office of the board of elections or, if pursuant~~ 1059
~~to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board~~ 1060
~~has designated another location in the county at which~~ 1061
~~registered electors may vote, at that other location, on account~~ 1062
~~of personal illness, physical disability, or infirmity, may vote~~ 1063
~~on the day of the election if that registered elector does all~~ 1064
~~of the following:~~ 1065

(1) Makes a written application on a form prescribed by 1066
the secretary of state that includes all of the information 1067
required under section 3509.03 of the Revised Code to the 1068

appropriate board for an absent voter's ballot on or after the 1069
twenty-seventh day prior to the election in which the registered 1070
elector wishes to vote through the close of business on the 1071
seventh day prior to that election and requests that the absent 1072
voter's ballot be sent to the address to which the registered 1073
elector has moved if the registered elector has moved, or to the 1074
address of that registered elector who has not moved but has had 1075
a change of name; 1076

(2) Declares that the registered elector has moved or had 1077
a change of name, whichever is appropriate, and otherwise is 1078
qualified to vote under the circumstances described in division 1079
(B) or (C) of this section, whichever is appropriate, but that 1080
the registered elector is unable to appear at the board of 1081
elections because of personal illness, physical disability, or 1082
infirmity; 1083

(3) Completes and returns a voter registration update form 1084
along with the completed absent voter's ballot ~~a notice of~~ 1085
~~change of residence indicating the address to which the~~ 1086
~~registered elector has moved, or a notice of change of name,~~ 1087
~~whichever is appropriate;~~ 1088

(4) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 1089
falsification, a statement attesting that the registered elector 1090
has moved or had a change of name on or prior to the day before 1091
the election, has voted by absent voter's ballot because of 1092
personal illness, physical disability, or infirmity that 1093
prevented the registered elector from appearing at the board of 1094
elections, and will not vote or attempt to vote at any other 1095
location or by absent voter's ballot mailed to any other 1096
location or address for that particular election. 1097

Sec. 3503.19. ~~(A) Persons~~ (A) (1) Except as otherwise 1098

provided in division (E) of section 111.44 of the Revised Code, 1099
persons qualified to register or to ~~change~~ update their 1100
registration because of a change of address ~~or~~, change of name, 1101
or change of political party affiliation may register or ~~change~~ 1102
update their registration ~~in~~ by doing any of the following: 1103

(a) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1104
registration update form in person or through another person at 1105
any state or local office of a designated agency, at the office 1106
of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor vehicles, at a 1107
public high school or vocational school, at a public library, at 1108
the office of a county treasurer, or at a branch office 1109
established by the board of elections, ~~or in~~; 1110

(b) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1111
registration update form in person or through another person at 1112
a probate court or a court of common pleas. The board of 1113
elections shall provide the forms to the courts, and the courts 1114
shall provide the forms to any person eighteen years of age or 1115
older who has a change of name by order of the court or who 1116
applies for a marriage license. 1117

(c) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1118
registration update form in person, through another person, or 1119
by mail at the office of the secretary of state or at the office 1120
of a ~~any~~ board of elections. A registered elector may also 1121
~~change the elector's registration on~~; 1122

(d) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1123
registration update form through the online voter registration 1124
system under section 3503.20 of the Revised Code; 1125

(e) Submitting a voter registration application or a voter 1126
registration update form in person to the election officials on 1127

election day at any polling place ~~where the elector is eligible~~ 1128
~~to vote, in the manner provided under section 3503.16 of the~~ 1129
~~Revised Code. Voter registration applications and voter~~ 1130
registration update forms shall be available at each polling 1131
place, and the election officials shall return all completed 1132
forms, together with the pollbooks and tally sheets, to the 1133
board of elections. 1134

(f) In the case of a person who is eligible to vote as a 1135
uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in accordance with 1136
52 U.S.C. 20310, returning the person's completed voter 1137
registration application or voter registration update form 1138
electronically to the office of the secretary of state or to the 1139
board of elections of the county in which the person's voting 1140
residence is located pursuant to Chapter 3511. of the Revised 1141
Code. 1142

(2) (a) Any state or local office of a designated agency, 1143
the office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor 1144
vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public 1145
library, a probate court or court of common pleas, or the office 1146
of a county treasurer shall date stamp a voter registration 1147
application or voter registration update form it receives using 1148
a date stamp that does not disclose the identity of the state or 1149
local office that receives it and shall transmit any voter 1150
~~registration the application or change of registration form that~~ 1151
~~it receives~~ to the board of elections of the county in which the 1152
state or local office is located, within five days after 1153
receiving the ~~voter registration application or change of~~ 1154
~~registration form.~~ 1155

(b) If a board of elections or the office of the secretary 1156
of state receives a voter registration application or voter 1157

registration update form before the thirtieth day before an 1158
election, the board or the office of the secretary of state, as 1159
applicable, shall forward the application or form to the board 1160
of elections of the county in which the applicant resides within 1161
ten days after receiving it. If a board of elections or the 1162
office of the secretary of state receives a voter registration 1163
application or voter registration update form on or after the 1164
thirtieth day before an election, the board or the office of the 1165
secretary of state, as applicable, shall forward the application 1166
or form to the board of elections of the county in which the 1167
applicant resides within thirty days after that election. 1168

(3) Except as otherwise provided in section 3503.16 of the 1169
Revised Code: 1170

(a) An otherwise valid voter registration application that 1171
is returned to the appropriate office other than by mail must be 1172
received by a state or local office of a designated agency, the 1173
office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor 1174
vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public 1175
library, a probate court or court of common pleas, the office of 1176
a county treasurer, the office of the secretary of state, or the 1177
office of a board of elections no later than the thirtieth day 1178
preceding a primary, special, or general election for the person 1179
to qualify as an elector eligible to vote at that election. An 1180
otherwise valid registration application received after that day 1181
entitles the elector to vote at all subsequent elections. 1182

~~Any state or local office of a designated agency, the~~ 1183
~~office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor~~ 1184
~~vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public~~ 1185
~~library, or the office of a county treasurer shall date stamp a~~ 1186
~~registration application or change of name or change of address~~ 1187

~~form it receives using a date stamp that does not disclose the~~ 1188
~~identity of the state or local office that receives the~~ 1189
~~registration.~~ 1190

(b) Voter registration applications, if otherwise valid, 1191
that are returned by mail to the office of the secretary of 1192
state or to the office of a board of elections must be 1193
postmarked no later than the thirtieth day preceding a primary, 1194
special, or general election in order for the person to qualify 1195
as an elector eligible to vote at that election. If an otherwise 1196
valid voter registration application that is returned by mail 1197
does not bear a postmark or a legible postmark, the registration 1198
shall be valid for that election if received by the office of 1199
the secretary of state or the office of a board of elections no 1200
later than twenty-five days preceding any special, primary, or 1201
general election. 1202

~~(B)(1)~~ (B) Any person may apply in person, by telephone, 1203
by mail, or through another person for voter registration forms 1204
to the office of the secretary of state or the office of a board 1205
of elections. An individual who is eligible to vote as a 1206
uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in accordance with 1207
42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6 also may apply for voter registration forms 1208
by electronic means to the office of the secretary of state or 1209
to the board of elections of the county in which the person's 1210
voting residence is located pursuant to section 3503.191 of the 1211
Revised Code. 1212

~~(2)(a) An applicant may return the applicant's completed~~ 1213
~~registration form in person or by mail to any state or local~~ 1214
~~office of a designated agency, to a public high school or~~ 1215
~~vocational school, to a public library, to the office of a~~ 1216
~~county treasurer, to the office of the secretary of state, or to~~ 1217

~~the office of a board of elections. An applicant who is eligible to vote as a uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6 also may return the applicant's completed voter registration form electronically to the office of the secretary of state or to the board of elections of the county in which the person's voting residence is located pursuant to section 3503.191 of the Revised Code.~~

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

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

~~(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.~~

(C) (1) A board of elections that receives a voter 1248
registration application or voter registration update form and 1249
is satisfied as to the truth of the statements made in the 1250
~~registration application or form~~ shall register the applicant or 1251
update the elector's registration not later than twenty business 1252
days after receiving the application, unless that application is 1253
received during the thirty days immediately preceding the day of 1254
an election. The board shall promptly notify the ~~applicant-~~ 1255
person in writing of each of the following: 1256

(a) The applicant's fact that the person is registered to 1257
vote or has had the person's registration updated; 1258

(b) The person's political party affiliation, if any, as 1259
determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code; 1260

(c) The precinct in which the applicant-person is to vote; 1261

~~(e)-~~(d) In bold type as follows: 1262

"Voters must bring photo identification to the polls in 1263
order to verify identity. Voters who do not provide photo 1264
identification will still be able to vote by casting a 1265
provisional ballot." 1266

The notification shall be by nonforwardable mail. If the 1267
mail is returned to the board, it shall investigate and cause 1268
the notification to be delivered to the correct address. 1269

(2) If, after investigating as required under division (C) 1270
(1) of this section, the board is unable to verify the voter's 1271
correct address, it shall cause the voter's name in the official 1272
registration list and in the poll list or signature pollbook to 1273
be marked to indicate that the voter's notification was returned 1274
to the board. 1275

At the first election at which a voter whose name has been 1276
so marked appears to vote, the voter shall be required to vote 1277
by provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised 1278
Code. If the provisional ballot is counted pursuant to division 1279
(B) (3) of section 3505.183 of the Revised Code, the board shall 1280
correct that voter's registration, if needed, and shall remove 1281
the indication that the voter's notification was returned from 1282
that voter's name on the official registration list and on the 1283
poll list or signature pollbook. If the provisional ballot is 1284
not counted pursuant to division (B) (4) (a) (i), (v), or (vi) of 1285
section 3505.183 of the Revised Code, the voter's registration 1286
shall be canceled. The board shall notify the voter by United 1287
States mail of the cancellation. 1288

(3) If a notice of the disposition of an otherwise valid 1289
registration application is sent by nonforwardable mail and is 1290
returned undelivered, the person shall be registered as provided 1291
in division (C) (2) of this section and sent a confirmation 1292
notice by forwardable mail. If the person fails to respond to 1293
the confirmation notice, update the person's registration, or 1294
vote by provisional ballot as provided in division (C) (2) of 1295
this section in any election during the period of two federal 1296
elections subsequent to the mailing of the confirmation notice, 1297
the person's registration shall be canceled. 1298

Sec. 3503.20. (A) The secretary of state shall establish a 1299
secure online voter registration system. The system shall 1300
provide for all of the following: 1301

(1) An applicant to submit a voter registration 1302
application to the secretary of state online through the 1303
internet; 1304

(2) The online applicant to be registered to vote, if all 1305

of the following apply:	1306
(a) The application contains all of the following information:	1307 1308
(i) The applicant's name;	1309
(ii) The applicant's address;	1310
(iii) The applicant's date of birth;	1311
(iv) The last four digits of the applicant's social security number;	1312 1313
(v) The applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the number of the applicant's state identification card issued under section 4507.50 of the Revised Code.	1314 1315 1316
(b) The applicant's name, address, and date of birth, the last four digits of the applicant's social security number, and the applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the number of the applicant's state identification card as they are provided in the application are not inconsistent with the information on file with the bureau of motor vehicles;	1317 1318 1319 1320 1321 1322
(c) The applicant is a United States citizen, will have lived in this state for thirty days immediately preceding the next election, will be at least eighteen years of age on or before the day of the next general election, and is otherwise eligible to register to vote;	1323 1324 1325 1326 1327
(d) The applicant attests to the truth and accuracy of the information submitted in the online application under penalty of election falsification.	1328 1329 1330
<u>(3) The application includes the political party affiliation fields and notice described in division (B) (1) of</u>	1331 1332

section 3503.071 of the Revised Code. 1333

(B) If an individual registers to vote or a registered 1334
elector updates the elector's ~~name, address, or both~~ 1335
registration under this section, the secretary of state shall 1336
obtain an electronic copy of the applicant's or elector's 1337
signature that is on file with the bureau of motor vehicles. 1338
That electronic signature shall be used as the applicant's or 1339
elector's signature on voter registration records, for all 1340
election and signature-matching purposes. 1341

(C) The secretary of state shall employ whatever security 1342
measures the secretary of state considers necessary to ensure 1343
the integrity and accuracy of voter registration information 1344
submitted electronically pursuant to this section. Errors in 1345
processing voter registration applications in the online system 1346
shall not prevent an applicant from becoming registered or from 1347
voting. 1348

(D) The online voter registration application established 1349
under division (A) of this section shall include the following 1350
language: 1351

"By clicking the box below, I affirm all of the following 1352
under penalty of election falsification, which is a felony of 1353
the fifth degree: 1354

(1) I am the person whose name and identifying information 1355
is provided on this form, and I desire to register to vote, or 1356
update my voter registration, in the State of Ohio. 1357

(2) All of the information I have provided on this form is 1358
true and correct as of the date I am submitting this form. 1359

(3) I am a United States citizen. 1360

(4) I will have lived in Ohio for thirty days immediately preceding the next election. 1361
1362

(5) I will be at least eighteen years of age on or before the day of the next general election. 1363
1364

(6) I authorize the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to transmit to the Ohio Secretary of State my signature that is on file with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and I understand and agree that the signature transmitted by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will be used by the Secretary of State to validate this electronic voter registration application as if I had signed this form personally." 1365
1366
1367
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1370
1371

In order to register to vote or update a voter registration under division (A) of this section, an applicant or elector shall be required to mark the box in the online voter registration application that appears in conjunction with the previous statement. 1372
1373
1374
1375
1376

~~(E) The online voter registration process established under division (A) of this section shall be in operation and available for use by individuals who wish to register to vote or update their voter registration information online not earlier than January 1, 2017. During the period beginning on the first day after the close of voter registration before an election and ending on the day of the election, the online voter registration system shall display a notice indicating that the applicant will not be registered to vote for the purposes of that election.~~ 1377
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(F) Notwithstanding section 1.50 of the Revised Code, if any provision of this section or of division (E) of section 3503.14 of the Revised Code is held invalid, or if the application of any provision of this section or of that division 1386
1387
1388
1389

to any person or circumstance is held invalid, then this section 1390
and that division cease to operate. 1391

Sec. 3503.23. (A) Fourteen days before an election, the 1392
board of elections shall cause to be prepared from the statewide 1393
voter registration database established under section 3503.15 of 1394
the Revised Code a complete and official registration list for 1395
each precinct, containing the names, addresses, and political 1396
party ~~whose ballot the elector voted in the most recent primary~~ 1397
~~election within the current year and the immediately preceding~~ 1398
~~two calendar years,~~ affiliations of all qualified registered 1399
voters in the precinct, except as otherwise provided in section 1400
111.44 of the Revised Code. All the names, insofar as 1401
practicable, shall be arranged in alphabetical order. The lists 1402
may be prepared either in sheet form on one side of the paper or 1403
in electronic form, at the discretion of the board. Each 1404
precinct list shall be headed "Register of Voters," and under 1405
the heading shall be indicated the district or ward and 1406
precinct. 1407

Appended to each precinct list shall be attached the names 1408
of the members of the board and the name of the director. A 1409
sufficient number of such lists shall be provided for 1410
distribution to the candidates, political parties, or organized 1411
groups that apply for them. The board shall have each precinct 1412
list available at the board for viewing by the public during 1413
normal business hours. The board shall ensure that, by the 1414
opening of the polls on the day of a general or primary 1415
election, each precinct has a paper copy of the registration 1416
list of voters in that precinct. 1417

(B) On the day of a general or primary election, precinct 1418
election officials shall do both of the following: 1419

(1) By the time the polls open, conspicuously post and 1420
display at the polling place one copy of the registration list 1421
of voters in that precinct in an area of the polling place that 1422
is easily accessible; 1423

(2) At 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. place a mark, on the official 1424
registration list posted at the polling place, before the name 1425
of those registered voters who have voted. 1426

(C) Notwithstanding division (B) of section 3501.35 of the 1427
Revised Code, any person may enter the polling place for the 1428
sole purpose of reviewing the official registration list posted 1429
in accordance with division (B) of this section, provided that 1430
the person does not engage in conduct that would constitute 1431
harassment in violation of the election law, as defined in 1432
section 3501.90 of the Revised Code. 1433

Sec. 3503.28. (A) The secretary of state shall develop an 1434
information brochure regarding voter registration. The brochure 1435
shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following 1436
information: 1437

(1) The applicable deadlines for registering to vote or 1438
for returning an applicant's completed registration form; 1439

(2) The applicable deadline for returning an applicant's 1440
completed registration form if the person returning the form is 1441
being compensated for registering voters; 1442

(3) The manner in which a person may establish or change 1443
the person's political party affiliation; 1444

(4) The locations to which a person may return an 1445
applicant's completed registration form; 1446

~~(4)~~ (5) The location to which a person who is compensated 1447

for registering voters may return an applicant's completed 1448
registration form; 1449

~~(5)~~ (6) The registration and affirmation requirements 1450
applicable to persons who are compensated for registering voters 1451
under section 3503.29 of the Revised Code; 1452

~~(6)~~ (7) A notice, which shall be written in bold type, 1453
stating as follows: 1454

"Voters must bring photo identification to the polls in 1455
order to verify identity. Voters who do not provide photo 1456
identification will still be able to vote by casting a 1457
provisional ballot." 1458

(B) Except as otherwise provided in division (D) of this 1459
section, a board of elections, designated agency, public high 1460
school, public vocational school, public library, office of a 1461
county treasurer, or deputy registrar of motor vehicles shall 1462
distribute a copy of the brochure developed under division (A) 1463
of this section to any person who requests more than two voter 1464
registration forms at one time. 1465

(C) (1) The secretary of state shall provide the 1466
information required to be included in the brochure developed 1467
under division (A) of this section to any person who prints a 1468
voter registration form that is made available on a web site of 1469
the office of the secretary of state. 1470

(2) If a board of elections operates and maintains a web 1471
site, the board shall provide the information required to be 1472
included in the brochure developed under division (A) of this 1473
section to any person who prints a voter registration form that 1474
is made available on that web site. 1475

(D) A board of elections shall not be required to 1476

distribute a copy of a brochure under division (B) of this 1477
section to any of the following officials or employees who are 1478
requesting more than two voter registration forms at one time in 1479
the course of the official's or employee's normal duties: 1480

(1) An election official; 1481

(2) A county treasurer; 1482

(3) A deputy registrar of motor vehicles; 1483

(4) An employee of a designated agency; 1484

(5) An employee of a public high school; 1485

(6) An employee of a public vocational school; 1486

(7) An employee of a public library; 1487

(8) An employee of the office of a county treasurer; 1488

(9) An employee of the bureau of motor vehicles; 1489

(10) An employee of a deputy registrar of motor vehicles; 1490

(11) An employee of an election official. 1491

(E) As used in this section, "registering voters" includes 1492
any effort, for compensation, to provide voter registration 1493
forms or to assist persons in completing or returning those 1494
forms. 1495

Sec. 3505.181. (A) All of the following individuals shall 1496
be permitted to cast a provisional ballot at an election: 1497

(1) An individual who declares that the individual is a 1498
registered voter in the precinct in which the individual desires 1499
to vote and that the individual is eligible to vote in an 1500
election, but the name of the individual does not appear on the 1501
official list of eligible voters for the precinct or an election 1502

official asserts that the individual is not eligible to vote; 1503

(2) An individual who does not have or is unable to 1504
provide photo identification to the election officials; 1505

(3) An individual whose name in the poll list or signature 1506
pollbook has been marked under section 3509.09 or 3511.13 of the 1507
Revised Code as having requested an absent voter's ballot or a 1508
uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot for that 1509
election and who appears to vote at the polling place; 1510

(4) An individual whose notification of registration has 1511
been returned undelivered to the board of elections and whose 1512
name in the official registration list and in the poll list or 1513
signature pollbook has been marked under division (C) (2) of 1514
section 3503.19 of the Revised Code; 1515

(5) An individual who has been successfully challenged 1516
under section 3505.20 or ~~3513.20~~ 3513.19 of the Revised Code; 1517

(6) An individual who changes the individual's name and 1518
remains within the precinct without providing proof of that name 1519
change under division (B) (1) (b) of section 3503.16 of the 1520
Revised Code, moves from one precinct to another within a 1521
county, moves from one precinct to another and changes the 1522
individual's name, or moves from one county to another within 1523
the state, and completes and signs the required forms and 1524
statements under division (B) or (C) of section 3503.16 of the 1525
Revised Code; 1526

(7) An individual whose signature, in the opinion of the 1527
precinct officers under section 3505.22 of the Revised Code, is 1528
not that of the person who signed that name in the registration 1529
forms. 1530

(B) An individual who is eligible to cast a provisional 1531

ballot under division (A) of this section shall be permitted to 1532
cast a provisional ballot as follows: 1533

(1) An election official at the polling place shall notify 1534
the individual that the individual may cast a provisional ballot 1535
in that election. 1536

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (F) of this 1537
section, the individual shall complete and execute a written 1538
affirmation before an election official at the polling place 1539
stating that the individual is both of the following: 1540

(a) A registered voter in the precinct in which the 1541
individual desires to vote; 1542

(b) Eligible to vote in that election. 1543

(3) An election official at the polling place shall 1544
transmit the ballot cast by the individual and the voter 1545
information contained in the written affirmation executed by the 1546
individual under division (B)(2) of this section to an 1547
appropriate local election official for verification under 1548
division (B)(4) of this section. 1549

(4) If the appropriate local election official to whom the 1550
ballot or voter or address information is transmitted under 1551
division (B)(3) of this section determines that the individual 1552
is eligible to vote, the individual's provisional ballot shall 1553
be counted as a vote in that election. 1554

(5) (a) At the time that an individual casts a provisional 1555
ballot, the appropriate local election official shall give the 1556
individual written information that states that any individual 1557
who casts a provisional ballot will be able to ascertain under 1558
the system established under division (B)(5)(b) of this section 1559
whether the vote was counted, and, if the vote was not counted, 1560

the reason that the vote was not counted. 1561

(b) The appropriate state or local election official shall 1562
establish a free access system, in the form of a toll-free 1563
telephone number, that any individual who casts a provisional 1564
ballot may access to discover whether the vote of that 1565
individual was counted, and, if the vote was not counted, the 1566
reason that the vote was not counted. The free access system 1567
established under this division also shall provide to an 1568
individual whose provisional ballot was not counted information 1569
explaining how that individual may contact the board of 1570
elections to register to vote or to resolve problems with the 1571
individual's voter registration. 1572

The appropriate state or local election official shall 1573
establish and maintain reasonable procedures necessary to 1574
protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of personal 1575
information collected, stored, or otherwise used by the free 1576
access system established under this division. The system shall 1577
permit an individual only to gain access to information about 1578
the individual's own provisional ballot. 1579

(6) If, at the time that an individual casts a provisional 1580
ballot, the individual provides photo identification, the 1581
individual shall record the type of identification provided on 1582
the provisional ballot affirmation and, if the individual 1583
provides an Ohio driver's license, state identification card, or 1584
interim identification document, the individual also shall write 1585
the individual's driver's license or state identification card 1586
number on the provisional ballot affirmation. 1587

(7) (a) For a provisional ballot to be eligible to be 1588
counted when it is cast by an individual who does not have photo 1589
identification because the individual has a religious objection 1590

to being photographed, the individual shall complete an 1591
affidavit of religious objection under section 3505.19 of the 1592
Revised Code. The election officials shall attach the affidavit 1593
to the individual's provisional ballot envelope. If the 1594
individual does not complete the affidavit at the time of 1595
casting the provisional ballot, the individual may appear at the 1596
office of the board of elections within four days after the day 1597
of the election and complete the affidavit. 1598

(b) For a provisional ballot to be eligible to be counted 1599
when it is cast by any other individual who does not have or is 1600
unable to provide photo identification to the election 1601
officials, the individual who cast that ballot, within four days 1602
after the day of the election, shall appear at the office of the 1603
board of elections and provide photo identification. 1604

(8) For a provisional ballot cast by an individual who has 1605
been successfully challenged under section 3505.20 of the 1606
Revised Code to be eligible to be counted, the individual who 1607
cast that ballot, within four days after the day of that 1608
election, shall provide to the board of elections any 1609
identification or other documentation required to be provided by 1610
the applicable challenge questions asked of that individual 1611
under section 3505.20 of the Revised Code. 1612

(C) (1) If an individual declares that the individual is 1613
eligible to vote in a precinct other than the precinct in which 1614
the individual desires to vote, or if, upon review of the 1615
precinct voting location guide using the residential street 1616
address provided by the individual, an election official at the 1617
precinct at which the individual desires to vote determines that 1618
the individual is not eligible to vote in that precinct, the 1619
election official shall direct the individual to the precinct 1620

and polling place in which the individual appears to be eligible 1621
to vote, explain that the individual may cast a provisional 1622
ballot at the current location but the ballot or a portion of 1623
the ballot will not be counted if it is cast in the wrong 1624
precinct, and provide the telephone number of the board of 1625
elections in case the individual has additional questions. 1626

(2) If the individual refuses to travel to the correct 1627
precinct or to the office of the board of elections to cast a 1628
ballot, the individual shall be permitted to vote a provisional 1629
ballot at that precinct in accordance with division (B) of this 1630
section. If the individual is in the correct polling location 1631
for the precinct in which the individual is registered and 1632
eligible to vote, the election official shall complete and sign, 1633
under penalty of election falsification, a form that includes 1634
all of the following, and attach the form to the individual's 1635
provisional ballot affirmation: 1636

(a) The name or number of the individual's correct 1637
precinct; 1638

(b) A statement that the election official instructed the 1639
individual to travel to the correct precinct to vote; 1640

(c) A statement that the election official informed the 1641
individual that casting a provisional ballot in the wrong 1642
precinct would result in all or a portion of the votes on the 1643
ballot being rejected; 1644

(d) The name or number of the precinct in which the 1645
individual is casting a provisional ballot; and 1646

(e) The name of the polling location in which the 1647
individual is casting a provisional ballot. 1648

(D) The appropriate local election official shall cause 1649

voting information to be publicly posted at each polling place 1650
on the day of each election. 1651

(E) As used in this section and sections 3505.182 and 1652
3505.183 of the Revised Code: 1653

(1) "Precinct voting location guide" means either of the 1654
following: 1655

(a) An electronic or paper record that lists the correct 1656
precinct and polling place for either each specific residential 1657
street address in the county or the range of residential street 1658
addresses located in each neighborhood block in the county; 1659

(b) Any other method that a board of elections creates 1660
that allows a precinct election official or any elector who is 1661
at a polling place in that county to determine the correct 1662
precinct and polling place of any qualified elector who resides 1663
in the county. 1664

(2) "Voting information" means all of the following: 1665

(a) A sample version of the ballot that will be used for 1666
that election; 1667

(b) Information regarding the date of the election and the 1668
hours during which polling places will be open; 1669

(c) Instructions on how to vote, including how to cast a 1670
vote and how to cast a provisional ballot; 1671

(d) Instructions for mail-in registrants and first-time 1672
voters under applicable federal and state laws; 1673

(e) General information on voting rights under applicable 1674
federal and state laws, including information on the right of an 1675
individual to cast a provisional ballot and instructions on how 1676

to contact the appropriate officials if these rights are alleged 1677
to have been violated; 1678

(f) General information on federal and state laws 1679
regarding prohibitions against acts of fraud and 1680
misrepresentation. 1681

(F) Nothing in this section or section 3505.183 of the 1682
Revised Code is in derogation of section 3505.24 of the Revised 1683
Code, which permits a blind, disabled, or illiterate elector to 1684
receive assistance in the marking of the elector's ballot by two 1685
precinct election officials of different political parties. A 1686
blind, disabled, or illiterate elector may receive assistance in 1687
marking that elector's provisional ballot and in completing the 1688
required affirmation in the same manner as an elector may 1689
receive assistance on the day of an election under that section. 1690

Sec. 3509.02. (A) Any qualified elector may vote by absent 1691
voter's ballots at an election. 1692

(B) Any qualified elector who is unable to appear at the 1693
office of the board of elections or, if pursuant to division (C) 1694
of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated 1695
another location in the county at which registered electors may 1696
vote, at that other location on account of personal illness, 1697
physical disability, or infirmity, and who moves from one 1698
precinct to another within a county, changes the elector's name 1699
and moves from one precinct to another within a county, or moves 1700
from one county to another county within the state, on or prior 1701
to the day of a general, primary, or special election and has 1702
not filed a notice of change of residence or change of name may 1703
vote by absent voter's ballots in that election as specified in 1704
division ~~(G)~~ (E) of section 3503.16 of the Revised Code. 1705

Sec. 3509.04. (A) If a board of elections receives an 1706
application for absent voter's ballots that does not contain all 1707
of the required information or is not submitted on an 1708
appropriate form, the board promptly shall notify the applicant 1709
of the additional information required to be provided by the 1710
applicant to complete that application, direct the applicant to 1711
use an appropriate form, or both, as applicable. 1712

(B) Upon receipt by the board of elections of an 1713
application for absent voter's ballots that contains all of the 1714
required information and is submitted on an appropriate form, as 1715
provided by section 3509.03 and division ~~(G)~~ (E) of section 1716
3503.16 of the Revised Code, the board, if the board finds that 1717
the applicant is a qualified elector, shall deliver to the 1718
applicant in person or mail directly to the applicant by special 1719
delivery mail, air mail, or regular mail, postage prepaid, 1720
proper absent voter's ballots. The board shall deliver or mail 1721
with the ballots an unsealed identification envelope upon the 1722
face of which shall be printed a form substantially as follows: 1723

"Identification Envelope Statement of Voter 1724

I, _____ (Name of voter), declare under 1725
penalty of election falsification that the within ballot or 1726
ballots contained no voting marks of any kind when I received 1727
them, and I caused the ballot or ballots to be marked, enclosed 1728
in the identification envelope, and sealed in that envelope. 1729

My voting residence in Ohio is 1730

_____ 1731

(Street and Number, if any, or Rural Route and Number) 1732

of _____ (City, Village, or Township) 1733

Ohio, which is in Ward _____ Precinct _____ 1734

in that city, village, or township. 1735

If I have a confidential voter registration record, I am 1736
providing my program participant identification number instead 1737
of my residence address: _____ 1738

The primary election ballots, if any, within this envelope 1739
are primary election ballots of the _____ Party. 1740

Ballots contained within this envelope are to be voted at 1741
the _____ (general, special, or primary) election to be 1742
held on the _____ day of 1743
_____, _____. 1744

My date of birth is _____ (Month and Day), 1745
_____ (Year). 1746

(Voter must provide one of the following:) 1747

My Ohio driver's license or state identification card 1748
number is _____ (Driver's license or state 1749
identification card number). 1750

The last four digits of my Social Security Number are 1751
_____ (Last four digits of Social Security Number). 1752

_____ In lieu of providing a driver's license or state 1753
identification card number or the last four digits of my Social 1754
Security Number, I am enclosing a copy of my photo 1755
identification in the return envelope in which this 1756
identification envelope will be mailed. 1757

I hereby declare, under penalty of election falsification, 1758
that the statements above are true, as I verily believe. 1759

_____ 1760

(Signature of Voter) 1761

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF 1762
THE FIFTH DEGREE." 1763

The board shall mail with the ballots and the unsealed 1764
identification envelope an unsealed return envelope upon the 1765
face of which shall be printed the post-office address of the 1766
board. In the upper left corner on the face of the return 1767
envelope, several blank lines shall be printed upon which the 1768
voter may write the voter's name and return address. The return 1769
envelope shall be of such size that the identification envelope 1770
can be conveniently placed within it for returning the 1771
identification envelope to the board. 1772

No public office, and no public official or employee who 1773
is acting in an official capacity, shall prepay the return 1774
postage for any absent voter's ballots. 1775

Except as otherwise provided in this section and in 1776
sections 3505.24 and 3509.08 of the Revised Code, an election 1777
official shall not fill out any portion of an identification 1778
envelope statement of voter or an absent voter's ballot on 1779
behalf of an elector. A board of elections may preprint only an 1780
elector's name and address on an identification envelope 1781
statement of voter before mailing absent voter's ballots to the 1782
elector, except that if the elector has a confidential voter 1783
registration record, as described in section 111.44 of the 1784
Revised Code, the board of elections shall not preprint the 1785
elector's address on the identification envelope statement of 1786
voter. 1787

Sec. 3509.07. If election officials find that any of the 1788
following are true concerning an absent voter's ballot or absent 1789
voter's presidential ballot cast under section 3503.16, 3509.05, 1790
3509.08, or 3511.09 of the Revised Code and, if applicable, the 1791

person did not provide any required additional information to 1792
the board of elections not later than the fourth day after the 1793
day of the election, as permitted under division (D) (3) (b) or 1794
(E) (2) of section 3509.06 of the Revised Code, the ballot shall 1795
not be accepted or counted: 1796

(A) The statement accompanying the ballot is incomplete as 1797
described in division (D) (3) (a) of section 3509.06 of the 1798
Revised Code or is insufficient; 1799

(B) The signatures do not correspond with the person's 1800
registration signature; 1801

(C) The applicant is not a qualified elector in the 1802
precinct or for the election in which the elector cast the 1803
ballot; 1804

(D) The ballot envelope contains more than one ballot of 1805
any one kind, or any voted ballot that the elector is not 1806
entitled to vote; 1807

(E) Stub A is detached from the absent voter's ballot or 1808
absent voter's presidential ballot; ~~or~~ 1809

(F) The elector has not included with the elector's ballot 1810
any identification required under section 3509.05 or 3511.09 of 1811
the Revised Code. 1812

The vote of any absent voter may be challenged for cause 1813
in the same manner as other votes are challenged, and the 1814
election officials shall determine the legality of that ballot. 1815
Every ballot not counted shall be endorsed on its back "Not 1816
Counted" with the reasons the ballot was not counted, and shall 1817
be enclosed and returned to or retained by the board of 1818
elections along with the contested ballots. 1819

Sec. 3509.08. (A) Any qualified elector, who, on account 1820
of the elector's own personal illness, physical disability, or 1821
infirmity, or on account of the elector's confinement in a jail 1822
or workhouse under sentence for a misdemeanor or awaiting trial 1823
on a felony or misdemeanor, will be unable to travel from the 1824
elector's home or place of confinement to the voting booth in 1825
the elector's precinct on the day of any general, special, or 1826
primary election may make application in writing for an absent 1827
voter's ballot to the board of elections of the elector's county 1828
in the manner described in section 3509.03 of the Revised Code. 1829
The application shall state the nature of the elector's illness, 1830
physical disability, or infirmity, or the fact that the elector 1831
is confined in a jail or workhouse and the elector's resultant 1832
inability to travel to the election booth in the elector's 1833
precinct on election day. 1834

The absent voter's ballot may be mailed directly to the 1835
applicant at the applicant's voting residence or place of 1836
confinement as stated in the applicant's application, or the 1837
board may designate two board employees belonging to the two 1838
major political parties for the purpose of delivering the ballot 1839
to the disabled or confined elector and returning it to the 1840
board, unless the applicant is confined to a public or private 1841
institution within the county, in which case the board shall 1842
designate two board employees belonging to the two major 1843
political parties for the purpose of delivering the ballot to 1844
the disabled or confined elector and returning it to the board. 1845
In all other instances, the ballot shall be returned to the 1846
office of the board in the manner prescribed in section 3509.05 1847
of the Revised Code. 1848

Any disabled or confined elector who declares to the two 1849
board employees belonging to the two major political parties 1850

that the elector is unable to mark the elector's ballot by 1851
reason of physical infirmity that is apparent to the employees 1852
to be sufficient to incapacitate the voter from marking the 1853
elector's ballot properly, may receive, upon request, the 1854
assistance of the employees in marking the elector's ballot, and 1855
they shall thereafter give no information in regard to this 1856
matter. Such assistance shall not be rendered for any other 1857
cause. 1858

When two board employees belonging to the two major 1859
political parties deliver a ballot to a disabled or confined 1860
elector, each of the employees shall be present when the ballot 1861
is delivered, when assistance is given, and when the ballot is 1862
returned to the office of the board, and shall subscribe to the 1863
declaration on the identification envelope. 1864

The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of 1865
application for absent voter's ballots under this division. 1866

This chapter applies to disabled and confined absent 1867
voter's ballots except as otherwise provided in this section. 1868

(B) (1) Any qualified elector who is unable to travel to 1869
the voting booth in the elector's precinct on the day of any 1870
general, special, or primary election may apply to the board of 1871
elections of the county where the elector is a qualified elector 1872
to vote in the election by absent voter's ballot if either of 1873
the following apply: 1874

(a) The elector is confined in a hospital as a result of 1875
an accident or unforeseeable medical emergency occurring before 1876
the election; 1877

(b) The elector's minor child is confined in a hospital as 1878
a result of an accident or unforeseeable medical emergency 1879

occurring before the election. 1880

(2) The application authorized under division (B)(1) of 1881
this section shall be made in writing in the manner described in 1882
section 3509.03 of the Revised Code, except that the application 1883
shall be delivered to the office of the board not later than 1884
three p.m. on the day of the election. The application shall 1885
indicate the hospital where the applicant or the applicant's 1886
child is confined, the date of the applicant's or the 1887
applicant's child's admission to the hospital, and the offices 1888
for which the applicant is qualified to vote. The applicant may 1889
also request that a member of the applicant's family, as listed 1890
in section 3509.05 of the Revised Code, deliver the absent 1891
voter's ballot to the applicant. The board, after establishing 1892
to the board's satisfaction the validity of the circumstances 1893
claimed by the applicant, shall supply an absent voter's ballot 1894
to be delivered to the applicant. When the applicant or the 1895
applicant's child is in a hospital in the county where the 1896
applicant is a qualified elector and no request is made for a 1897
member of the family to deliver the ballot, the board shall 1898
arrange for the delivery of an absent voter's ballot to the 1899
applicant, and for its return to the office of the board, by two 1900
board employees belonging to the two major political parties 1901
according to the procedures prescribed in division (A) of this 1902
section. When the applicant or the applicant's child is in a 1903
hospital outside the county where the applicant is a qualified 1904
elector and no request is made for a member of the family to 1905
deliver the ballot, the board shall arrange for the delivery of 1906
an absent voter's ballot to the applicant by mail, and the 1907
ballot shall be returned to the office of the board in the 1908
manner prescribed in section 3509.05 of the Revised Code. 1909

(3) Any qualified elector who is eligible to vote under 1910

division (B) or (C) of section 3503.16 of the Revised Code but 1911
is unable to do so because of the circumstances described in 1912
division (B) (2) of this section may vote in accordance with 1913
division (B) (1) of this section if that qualified elector states 1914
in the application for absent voter's ballots that that 1915
qualified elector moved or had a change of name under the 1916
circumstances described in division (B) or (C) of section 1917
3503.16 of the Revised Code and if that qualified elector 1918
complies with divisions ~~(G) (1)~~ (E) (1) to (4) of section 3503.16 1919
of the Revised Code. 1920

(C) Any qualified elector described in division (A) or (B) 1921
(1) of this section who needs no assistance to vote or to return 1922
absent voter's ballots to the board of elections may apply for 1923
absent voter's ballots under section 3509.03 of the Revised Code 1924
instead of applying for them under this section or may cast 1925
absent voter's ballots in person under section 3509.051 of the 1926
Revised Code. 1927

(D) Any qualified elector described in division (A) or (B) 1928
(1) of this section to whom ballots are delivered by two 1929
employees of the board of elections or who votes with the 1930
assistance of two employees of the board of elections shall be 1931
considered to have cast absent voter's ballots by mail, rather 1932
than in person, for the purpose of the laws governing voter 1933
identification. 1934

Sec. 3513.041. A write-in space shall be provided on the 1935
ballot for every office, except in an election for which the 1936
board of elections has received no valid declarations of intent 1937
to be a write-in candidate under this section. Write-in votes 1938
shall not be counted for any candidate who has not filed a 1939
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate pursuant to 1940

this section. A qualified person who has filed a declaration of
intent may receive write-in votes at either a primary or general
election. Any candidate shall file a declaration of intent to be
a write-in candidate before four p.m. of the seventy-second day
preceding the election at which such candidacy is to be
considered. If the election is to be determined by electors of a
county or a district or subdivision within the county, such
declaration shall be filed with the board of elections of that
county. If the election is to be determined by electors of a
subdivision located in more than one county, such declaration
shall be filed with the board of elections of the county in
which the major portion of the population of such subdivision is
located. If the election is to be determined by electors of a
district comprised of more than one county but less than all of
the counties of the state, such declaration shall be filed with
the board of elections of the most populous county in such
district. Any candidate for an office to be voted upon by
electors throughout the entire state shall file a declaration of
intent to be a write-in candidate with the secretary of state
before four p.m. of the seventy-second day preceding the
election at which such candidacy is to be considered. In
addition, candidates for president and vice-president of the
United States shall also file with the secretary of state by
that seventy-second day a slate of presidential electors
sufficient in number to satisfy the requirements of the United
States constitution.

A board of elections shall not accept for filing the
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person
seeking to become a candidate if that person, for the same
election, has already filed a declaration of candidacy, a
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or a

nominating petition, or has become a candidate through party 1972
nomination at a primary election or by the filling of a vacancy 1973
under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code, for any 1974
federal, state, or county office, if the declaration of intent 1975
to be a write-in candidate is for a state or county office, or 1976
for any municipal or township office, for member of a city, 1977
local, or exempted village board of education, or for member of 1978
a governing board of an educational service center, if the 1979
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate is for a 1980
municipal or township office, or for member of a city, local, or 1981
exempted village board of education, or for member of a 1982
governing board of an educational service center. 1983

No person shall file a declaration of intent to be a 1984
write-in candidate for the office of governor unless the 1985
declaration also shows the intent of another person to be a 1986
write-in candidate for the office of lieutenant governor. No 1987
person shall file a declaration of intent to be a write-in 1988
candidate for the office of lieutenant governor unless the 1989
declaration also shows the intent of another person to be a 1990
write-in candidate for the office of governor. No person shall 1991
file a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate for the 1992
office of governor or lieutenant governor if the person has 1993
previously filed a declaration of intent to be a write-in 1994
candidate to the office of governor or lieutenant governor at 1995
the same primary or general election. A write-in vote for the 1996
two candidates who file such a declaration shall be counted as a 1997
vote for them as joint candidates for the offices of governor 1998
and lieutenant governor. 1999

The secretary of state shall not accept for filing the 2000
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person for 2001
the office of governor unless the declaration also shows the 2002

intent of another person to be a write-in candidate for the 2003
office of lieutenant governor, shall not accept for filing the 2004
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person for 2005
the office of lieutenant governor unless the declaration also 2006
shows the intent of another person to be a write-in candidate 2007
for the office of governor, and shall not accept for filing the 2008
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person to 2009
the office of governor or lieutenant governor if that person, 2010
for the same election, has already filed a declaration of 2011
candidacy, a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, 2012
or a nominating petition, or has become a candidate through 2013
party nomination at a primary election or by the filling of a 2014
vacancy under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code, 2015
for any other state office or any federal or county office. 2016

Protests against the candidacy of any person filing a 2017
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate may be filed by 2018
any qualified elector who is eligible to vote in the election at 2019
which the candidacy is to be considered. The protest shall be in 2020
writing and shall be filed not later than four p.m. of the 2021
sixty-seventh day before the day of the election. The protest 2022
shall be filed with the board of elections with which the 2023
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate was filed. Upon 2024
the filing of the protest, the board with which it is filed 2025
shall promptly fix the time for hearing it and shall proceed in 2026
regard to the hearing in the same manner as for hearings set for 2027
protests filed under section 3513.05 of the Revised Code. At the 2028
time fixed, the board shall hear the protest and determine the 2029
validity or invalidity of the declaration of intent to be a 2030
write-in candidate. If the board finds that the candidate is not 2031
an elector of the state, district, county, or political 2032
subdivision in which the candidate seeks election to office; is 2033

not affiliated with the political party whose nomination or 2034
office the candidate seeks at a primary election, if applicable; 2035
or has not fully complied with the requirements of Title XXXV of 2036
the Revised Code in regard to the candidate's candidacy, the 2037
candidate's declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate 2038
shall be determined to be invalid and shall be rejected; 2039
otherwise, it shall be determined to be valid. The determination 2040
of the board is final. 2041

The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of the 2042
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate. 2043

Sec. 3513.05. Each person desiring to become a candidate 2044
for a party nomination at a primary election or for election to 2045
an office or position to be voted for at a primary election, 2046
except persons desiring to become joint candidates for the 2047
offices of governor and lieutenant governor and except as 2048
otherwise provided in section 3513.051 of the Revised Code, 2049
shall, not later than four p.m. of the ninetieth day before the 2050
day of the primary election, file a declaration of candidacy and 2051
petition and pay the fees required under divisions (A) and (B) 2052
of section 3513.10 of the Revised Code. The declaration of 2053
candidacy and all separate petition papers shall be filed at the 2054
same time as one instrument. When the offices are to be voted 2055
for at a primary election, persons desiring to become joint 2056
candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor 2057
shall, not later than four p.m. of the ninetieth day before the 2058
day of the primary election, comply with section 3513.04 of the 2059
Revised Code. The prospective joint candidates' declaration of 2060
candidacy and all separate petition papers of candidacies shall 2061
be filed at the same time as one instrument. The secretary of 2062
state or a board of elections shall not accept for filing a 2063
declaration of candidacy and petition of a person seeking to 2064

become a candidate if that person, for the same election, has
already filed a declaration of candidacy or a declaration of
intent to be a write-in candidate, or has become a candidate by
the filling of a vacancy under section 3513.30 of the Revised
Code for any federal, state, or county office, if the
declaration of candidacy is for a state or county office, or for
any municipal or township office, if the declaration of
candidacy is for a municipal or township office.

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

Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, if the
declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be submitted only
to electors within a district, political subdivision, or portion
thereof, the petition shall be signed by not less than fifty
qualified electors who are ~~members of~~ affiliated with the same
political party as ~~the political party of which the candidate is~~
~~a member~~. If the declaration of candidacy is for party
nomination as a candidate for member of the legislative
authority of a municipal corporation elected by ward, the
petition shall be signed by not less than twenty-five qualified
electors who are ~~members of~~ affiliated with the same political
party ~~of which as~~ the candidate ~~is a member~~.

No such petition, except the petition for a candidacy that 2096
is to be submitted to electors throughout the entire state, 2097
shall be accepted for filing if it appears to contain on its 2098
face signatures of more than three times the minimum number of 2099
signatures. When a petition of a candidate has been accepted for 2100
filing by a board of elections, the petition shall not be deemed 2101
invalid if, upon verification of signatures contained in the 2102
petition, the board of elections finds the number of signatures 2103
accepted exceeds three times the minimum number of signatures 2104
required. A board of elections may discontinue verifying 2105
signatures on petitions when the number of verified signatures 2106
equals the minimum required number of qualified signatures. 2107

If the declaration of candidacy declares a candidacy for 2108
party nomination or for election as a candidate of a minor 2109
party, the minimum number of signatures on such petition is one- 2110
half the minimum number provided in this section, except that, 2111
when the candidacy is one for election as a member of the state 2112
central committee or the county central committee of a political 2113
party, the minimum number shall be the same for a minor party as 2114
for a major party. 2115

If a declaration of candidacy is one for election as a 2116
member of the state central committee or the county central 2117
committee of a political party, the petition shall be signed by 2118
five qualified electors of the district, county, ward, township, 2119
or precinct within which electors may vote for such candidate. 2120
The electors signing such petition shall be ~~members of~~ 2121
affiliated with the same political party as the ~~political party~~ 2122
~~of which the candidate is a member.~~ 2123

~~For purposes of signing or circulating a petition of~~ 2124
~~candidacy for party nomination or election, an elector is~~ 2125

~~considered to be a member of a political party if the elector-~~ 2126
~~voted in that party's primary election within the preceding two-~~ 2127
~~calendar years, or if the elector did not vote in any other-~~ 2128
~~party's primary election within the preceding two calendar-~~ 2129
~~years.~~ 2130

If the declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be 2131
submitted only to electors within a county, or within a district 2132
or subdivision or part thereof smaller than a county, the 2133
petition shall be filed with the board of elections of the 2134
county. If the declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be 2135
submitted only to electors of a district or subdivision or part 2136
thereof that is situated in more than one county, the petition 2137
shall be filed with the board of elections of the county within 2138
which the major portion of the population thereof, as 2139
ascertained by the next preceding federal census, is located. 2140

A petition shall consist of separate petition papers, each 2141
of which shall contain signatures of electors of only one 2142
county. Petitions or separate petition papers containing 2143
signatures of electors of more than one county shall not thereby 2144
be declared invalid. In case petitions or separate petition 2145
papers containing signatures of electors of more than one county 2146
are filed, the board shall determine the county from which the 2147
majority of signatures came, and only signatures from such 2148
county shall be counted. Signatures from any other county shall 2149
be invalid. 2150

Each separate petition paper shall be circulated by one 2151
person only, who shall be the candidate or a joint candidate or 2152
a ~~member of person who is affiliated with~~ the same political 2153
party as the candidate or joint candidates, and each separate 2154
petition paper shall be governed by the rules set forth in 2155

section 3501.38 of the Revised Code. 2156

The secretary of state shall promptly transmit to each 2157
board such separate petition papers of each petition 2158
accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with the secretary 2159
of state as purport to contain signatures of electors of the 2160
county of such board. The board of the most populous county of a 2161
district shall promptly transmit to each board within such 2162
district such separate petition papers of each petition 2163
accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with it as purport 2164
to contain signatures of electors of the county of each such 2165
board. The board of a county within which the major portion of 2166
the population of a subdivision, situated in more than one 2167
county, is located, shall promptly transmit to the board of each 2168
other county within which a portion of such subdivision is 2169
located such separate petition papers of each petition 2170
accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with it as purport 2171
to contain signatures of electors of the portion of such 2172
subdivision in the county of each such board. 2173

All petition papers so transmitted to a board and all 2174
petitions accompanying declarations of candidacy filed with a 2175
board shall, under proper regulations, be open to public 2176
inspection until four p.m. of the eightieth day before the day 2177
of the next primary election. Each board shall, not later than 2178
the seventy-eighth day before the day of that primary election, 2179
examine and determine the validity or invalidity of the 2180
signatures on the petition papers so transmitted to or filed 2181
with it and shall return to the secretary of state all petition 2182
papers transmitted to it by the secretary of state, together 2183
with its certification of its determination as to the validity 2184
or invalidity of signatures thereon, and shall return to each 2185
other board all petition papers transmitted to it by such board, 2186

together with its certification of its determination as to the 2187
validity or invalidity of the signatures thereon. All other 2188
matters affecting the validity or invalidity of such petition 2189
papers shall be determined by the secretary of state or the 2190
board with whom such petition papers were filed. 2191

For purposes of being eligible to sign or circulate a 2192
petition of candidacy for party nomination or election, an 2193
elector is considered to be affiliated with a political party 2194
if, at the time the petition is verified, the elector is 2195
affiliated with that party as determined under section 3503.071 2196
of the Revised Code. 2197

Protests against the candidacy of any person filing a 2198
declaration of candidacy for party nomination or for election to 2199
an office or position, as provided in this section, may be filed 2200
by any qualified elector who is ~~a member of~~ affiliated with the 2201
same political party as the candidate and who is eligible to 2202
vote at the primary election for the candidate whose declaration 2203
of candidacy the elector objects to, or by the controlling 2204
committee of that political party. The protest shall be in 2205
writing, and shall be filed not later than four p.m. of the 2206
seventy-fourth day before the day of the primary election. The 2207
protest shall be filed with the election officials with whom the 2208
declaration of candidacy and petition was filed. Upon the filing 2209
of the protest, the election officials with whom it is filed 2210
shall promptly fix the time for hearing it, and shall forthwith 2211
mail notice of the filing of the protest and the time fixed for 2212
hearing to the person whose candidacy is so protested. They 2213
shall also forthwith mail notice of the time fixed for such 2214
hearing to the person who filed the protest. At the time fixed, 2215
such election officials shall hear the protest and determine the 2216
validity or invalidity of the declaration of candidacy and 2217

petition. If they find that such candidate is not an elector of 2218
the state, district, county, or political subdivision in which 2219
the candidate seeks a party nomination or election to an office 2220
or position, is not affiliated with the political party, or has 2221
not fully complied with this chapter, the candidate's 2222
declaration of candidacy and petition shall be determined to be 2223
invalid and shall be rejected; otherwise, it shall be determined 2224
to be valid. That determination shall be final. 2225

A protest against the candidacy of any persons filing a 2226
declaration of candidacy for joint party nomination to the 2227
offices of governor and lieutenant governor shall be filed, 2228
heard, and determined in the same manner as a protest against 2229
the candidacy of any person filing a declaration of candidacy 2230
singly. 2231

The secretary of state shall, on the seventieth day before 2232
the day of a primary election, certify to each board in the 2233
state the forms of the official ballots to be used at the 2234
primary election, together with the names of the candidates to 2235
be printed on the ballots whose nomination or election is to be 2236
determined by electors throughout the entire state and who filed 2237
valid declarations of candidacy and petitions. 2238

The board of the most populous county in a district 2239
comprised of more than one county but less than all of the 2240
counties of the state shall, on the seventieth day before the 2241
day of a primary election, certify to the board of each county 2242
in the district the names of the candidates to be printed on the 2243
official ballots to be used at the primary election, whose 2244
nomination or election is to be determined only by electors 2245
within the district and who filed valid declarations of 2246
candidacy and petitions. 2247

The board of a county within which the major portion of 2248
the population of a subdivision smaller than the county and 2249
situated in more than one county is located shall, on the 2250
seventieth day before the day of a primary election, certify to 2251
the board of each county in which a portion of that subdivision 2252
is located the names of the candidates to be printed on the 2253
official ballots to be used at the primary election, whose 2254
nomination or election is to be determined only by electors 2255
within that subdivision and who filed valid declarations of 2256
candidacy and petitions. 2257

Sec. 3513.07. The form of declaration of candidacy and 2258
petition of a person desiring to be a candidate for a party 2259
nomination or a candidate for election to an office or position 2260
to be voted for at a primary election shall be substantially as 2261
follows: 2262

"DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION 2263

I, _____ (Name of Candidate), the 2264
undersigned, hereby declare under penalty of election 2265
falsification that my voting residence is in _____ 2266
precinct of the _____ (Township) or 2267
(Ward and City or Village) in the county of _____, 2268
Ohio; that my voting residence is _____ (Street and 2269
Number, if any, or Rural Route and Number) of the 2270
_____ (City or Village) of 2271
_____, Ohio; and that I am a qualified elector in 2272
the precinct in which my voting residence is located. I am a 2273
~~member of~~ affiliated with the _____ Party. I hereby declare 2274
that I desire to be _____ (a candidate for 2275
nomination as a candidate of the Party for election to the 2276
office of _____) (a candidate for election to the office 2277

or position of _____) for the _____ in the 2278
state, district, (Full term or unexpired term ending 2279
_____) county, city, or village of 2280
_____, at the primary election to be held on the 2281
_____ day of _____, _____, and I hereby request that 2282
my name be printed upon the official primary election ballot of 2283
the said _____ Party as a candidate for _____ (such 2284
nomination) or (such election) as provided by law. 2285

I further declare that, if elected to said office or 2286
position, I will qualify therefor, and that I will support and 2287
abide by the principles enunciated by the _____ Party. 2288

Dated this _____ day of _____, _____ 2289

_____ 2290

(Signature of candidate) 2291

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A 2292
FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE. 2293

PETITION OF CANDIDATE 2294

We, the undersigned, qualified electors of the state of 2295
Ohio, whose voting residence is in the county, city, village, 2296
ward, township, or school district, and precinct set opposite 2297
our names, and ~~members of~~ affiliated with the 2298
_____ Party, hereby certify 2299
that _____ (Name of candidate) whose 2300
declaration of candidacy is filed herewith, is ~~a member of~~ 2301
affiliated with the _____ Party, and is, in our opinion, 2302
well qualified to perform the duties of the office or position 2303
to which that candidate desires to be elected. 2304

Street City, 2305

and	Village or				2306
Signature Number	Township	Ward Precinct	County	Date	2307
(Must use address on file with the board of elections)					2308
_____					2309
_____					2310
_____					2311
_____ (Name of circulator					2312
of petition), declares under penalty of election falsification					2313
that the circulator of the petition is a qualified elector of					2314
the state of Ohio and resides at the address appearing below the					2315
signature of that circulator; that the circulator is a member of					2316
<u>affiliated with</u> the _____ Party; that the circulator is					2317
the circulator of the foregoing petition paper containing					2318
_____ (Number) signatures; that the circulator witnessed					2319
the affixing of every signature; that all signers were to the					2320
best of the circulator's knowledge and belief qualified to sign;					2321
and that every signature is to the best of the circulator's					2322
knowledge and belief the signature of the person whose signature					2323
it purports to be or of an attorney in fact acting pursuant to					2324
section 3501.382 of the Revised Code.					2325
_____					2326
(Signature of circulator)					2327
_____					2328
(Address of circulator's					2329
permanent residence in this					2330
state)					2331
_____					2332

(If petition is for a 2333
statewide candidate, the 2334
name and address of person 2335
employing to circulate 2336
petition, if any) 2337

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A 2338
FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE." 2339

The secretary of state shall prescribe a form of 2340
declaration of candidacy and petition, and the form shall be 2341
substantially similar to the declaration of candidacy and 2342
petition set forth in this section, that will be suitable for 2343
joint candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant 2344
governor. 2345

The petition provided for in this section shall be 2346
circulated only by ~~a member of an~~ an elector who is affiliated with 2347
the same political party as the candidate. 2348

Sec. 3513.18. (A) Party primaries shall be held at the 2349
same place and time, but there shall be separate pollbooks and 2350
tally sheets provided at each polling place for each party 2351
participating in the election. The pollbooks shall include each 2352
elector's political party affiliation, if any. An elector may 2353
vote a political party's ballot at a primary election only if 2354
the elector is affiliated with that political party as of the 2355
thirtieth day before the day of the primary election. 2356

(B) If a special election on a question or issue is held 2357
on the day of a primary election, there shall be provided in the 2358
pollbooks pages on which shall be recorded the names of all 2359
electors voting on said question or issue and not voting in such 2360

~~primary. It shall not be necessary for electors desiring Any 2361
elector may choose to vote only on the question or issue to 2362
declare their political affiliation questions or issues 2363
appearing on the ballot. An elector who is not affiliated with 2364
any political party shall vote only on the questions or issues 2365
appearing on the ballot. 2366~~

Sec. 3513.19. (A) It is the duty of any precinct election 2367
official, whenever any such official doubts that a person 2368
attempting to vote at a primary election is legally entitled to 2369
vote at that election, to challenge the right of that person to 2370
vote. The right of a person to vote at a primary election may be 2371
challenged as described in section 3505.20 of the Revised Code 2372
or upon the following grounds: 2373

~~(1) That the person whose right to vote is challenged is 2374
not a legally qualified elector;~~ 2375

~~(2) That the person has received or has been promised some 2376
valuable reward or consideration for the person's vote;~~ 2377

~~(3) That ground that the person is not affiliated with ~~or~~ 2378
~~is not a member of~~ the political party whose ballot the person 2379
desires to vote. ~~Such party affiliation shall be~~, as determined 2380
~~by examining the elector's voting record for the current year~~ 2381
~~and the immediately preceding two calendar years as shown on the~~ 2382
~~voter's registration card, using the standards of affiliation~~ 2383
~~specified in the seventh paragraph of under section 3513.05~~ 2384
3503.071 of the Revised Code, as of the thirtieth day before the 2385
day of the primary election. ~~Division (A) (3) of this section and~~ 2386
~~the seventh paragraph of section 3513.05 of the Revised Code do~~ 2387
~~not prohibit a person who holds an elective office for which~~ 2388
~~candidates are nominated at a party primary election from doing~~ 2389
~~any of the following:~~ 2390~~

~~(a) If the person voted as a member of a different political party at any primary election within the current year and the immediately preceding two calendar years, being a candidate for nomination at a party primary held during the times specified in division (C) (2) of section 3513.191 of the Revised Code provided that the person complies with the requirements of that section;~~ 2391-2397

~~(b) Circulating the person's own petition of candidacy for party nomination in the primary election.~~ 2398-2399

~~(B) When the right of a person to vote is challenged upon the ground set forth in division (A) (3) of this section, membership in or political affiliation with a political party shall be determined by the person's statement, made under penalty of election falsification, that the person desires to be affiliated with and supports the principles of the political party whose primary ballot the person desires to vote.~~ 2400-2406

(B) If a majority of the precinct officials finds that the person is not entitled to vote at the primary election, the person shall be permitted to vote a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised Code. 2407-2410

Sec. 3513.191. (A) No person shall be a candidate for nomination or election at a party primary if the person ~~voted as a member of a different~~ is not affiliated with that political party at any primary election within the current year and the immediately preceding two calendar years, as determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code. 2411-2416

~~(B) Notwithstanding division (A) of this section, either of the following persons may be candidates for nomination of any political party at a party primary:~~ 2417-2419

- ~~(1) A person who does not hold an elective office;~~ 2420
- ~~(2) A person who holds an elective office other than one
for which candidates are nominated at a party primary.~~ 2421
2422
- ~~(C) (1) Notwithstanding division (A) of this section, a A~~ 2423
person who holds an elective office for which candidates are 2424
nominated at a party primary may be a candidate at a primary 2425
election held during the times specified in division (C) (2) of 2426
this section for nomination as a candidate of a political party 2427
of which the person is prohibited from being a candidate for 2428
nomination under division (A) of this section, other than the 2429
party that most recently nominated the person as a candidate for 2430
the office the person currently holds, only if all of the 2431
following are true: 2432
- (1) The person submits a voter registration update form 2433
reflecting the change of political party affiliation not later 2434
than four p.m. of the thirtieth day before a declaration of 2435
candidacy and petition is required to be filed under section 2436
3513.05 of the Revised Code. 2437
- (2) The person files a declaration of intent to seek the 2438
nomination of ~~that the person's new party and if, by filing the~~ 2439
~~declaration, the person has not violated division (C) (3) of this~~ 2440
section. The declaration of intent shall: 2441
- (a) Be filed not later than four p.m. of the thirtieth day 2442
before a declaration of candidacy and petition is required to be 2443
filed under section 3513.05 of the Revised Code; 2444
- (b) Be filed with the same official with whom the person 2445
filing the declaration of intent is required to file a 2446
declaration of candidacy and petition; 2447
- (c) Indicate the political party whose nomination in the 2448

primary election the person seeks; 2449

(d) Be on a form prescribed by the secretary of state. 2450

(3) The person has not violated division (C) of this 2451
section. 2452

~~(2)~~ (C) (1) No person filing a declaration of intent under 2453
division ~~(C) (1)~~ (B) of this section shall be a candidate at any 2454
primary election for nomination for an elective office for which 2455
candidates are nominated at a party primary during the calendar 2456
year in which the person files the declaration or during the 2457
next calendar year except as a candidate of the party indicated 2458
under division ~~(C) (1) (e)~~ (B) (2) (c) of this section. 2459

~~(3)~~ (2) No person who files a declaration of intent under 2460
division ~~(C) (1)~~ (B) (2) of this section shall file another such 2461
declaration for a period of ten years after the declaration is 2462
filed. 2463

~~(4) Notwithstanding the seventh paragraph of section~~ 2464
~~3513.05 of the Revised Code, a person who complies with this~~ 2465
~~section may circulate that person's own petition of candidacy~~ 2466
~~for party nomination at the party primary at which the person~~ 2467
~~seeks nomination under this section.~~ 2468

Sec. 3513.257. Each person desiring who is not affiliated 2469
with a political party, as determined under section 3503.071 of 2470
the Revised Code, and who desires to become an independent 2471
candidate for an office for which candidates may be nominated at 2472
a primary election, except persons desiring to become 2473
independent joint candidates for the offices of governor and 2474
lieutenant governor and for the offices of president and vice- 2475
president of the United States, shall file no later than four 2476
p.m. of the day before the day of the primary election 2477

immediately preceding the general election at which such 2478
candidacy is to be voted for by the voters, a statement of 2479
candidacy and nominating petition as provided in section 2480
3513.261 of the Revised Code. Persons desiring to become 2481
independent joint candidates for the offices of governor and 2482
lieutenant governor shall file, not later than four p.m. of the 2483
day before the day of the primary election, one statement of 2484
candidacy and one nominating petition for the two of them. 2485
Persons desiring to become independent joint candidates for the 2486
offices of president and vice-president of the United States 2487
shall file, not later than four p.m. of the ninetieth day before 2488
the day of the general election at which the president and vice- 2489
president are to be elected, one statement of candidacy and one 2490
nominating petition for the two of them. The prospective 2491
independent joint candidates' statement of candidacy shall be 2492
filed with the nominating petition as one instrument. 2493

The statement of candidacy and separate petition papers of 2494
each candidate or pair of joint candidates shall be filed at the 2495
same time as one instrument. 2496

The nominating petition shall contain signatures of 2497
qualified electors of the district, political subdivision, or 2498
portion of a political subdivision in which the candidacy is to 2499
be voted on in an amount to be determined as follows: 2500

(A) If the candidacy is to be voted on by electors 2501
throughout the entire state, the nominating petition, including 2502
the nominating petition of independent joint candidates for the 2503
offices of governor and lieutenant governor, shall be signed by 2504
no less than five thousand qualified electors, provided that no 2505
petition shall be accepted for filing if it purports to contain 2506
more than fifteen thousand signatures. 2507

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

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

All nominating petitions of candidates for offices to be voted on by electors throughout the entire state shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state. No nominating petition for the offices of president and vice-president of the United States shall be accepted for filing unless there is submitted to the secretary of state, at the time of filing the petition, a slate of presidential electors sufficient in number to satisfy the requirement of the United States Constitution. The secretary of state shall not accept for filing the statement of candidacy of a person who desires to be an independent candidate for the office of governor unless it also shows the joint candidacy of a person who desires to be an independent candidate for the office of lieutenant governor, shall not accept for filing the statement of candidacy of a person who desires to be an independent candidate for the office of lieutenant governor unless it also shows the joint candidacy of a person who desires

to be an independent candidate for the office of governor, and 2539
shall not accept for filing the statement of candidacy of a 2540
person who desires to be an independent candidate to the office 2541
of governor or lieutenant governor who, for the same election, 2542
has already filed a declaration of candidacy, a declaration of 2543
intent to be a write-in candidate, or a statement of candidacy, 2544
or has become a candidate by the filling of a vacancy under 2545
section 3513.30 of the Revised Code for any other state office 2546
or any federal or county office. 2547

Nominating petitions of candidates for offices to be voted 2548
on by electors within a district or political subdivision 2549
comprised of more than one county but less than all counties of 2550
the state shall be filed with the boards of elections of that 2551
county or part of a county within the district or political 2552
subdivision which had a population greater than that of any 2553
other county or part of a county within the district or 2554
political subdivision according to the last federal decennial 2555
census. 2556

Nominating petitions for offices to be voted on by 2557
electors within a county or district smaller than a county shall 2558
be filed with the board of elections for such county. 2559

No petition other than the petition of a candidate whose 2560
candidacy is to be considered by electors throughout the entire 2561
state shall be accepted for filing if it appears on its face to 2562
contain more than three times the minimum required number of 2563
signatures. A board of elections shall not accept for filing a 2564
nominating petition of a person seeking to become a candidate if 2565
that person, for the same election, has already filed a 2566
declaration of candidacy, a declaration of intent to be a write- 2567
in candidate, or a nominating petition, or has become a 2568

candidate by the filling of a vacancy under section 3513.30 of 2569
the Revised Code for any federal, state, or county office, if 2570
the nominating petition is for a state or county office, or for 2571
any municipal or township office, for member of a city, local, 2572
or exempted village board of education, or for member of a 2573
governing board of an educational service center, if the 2574
nominating petition is for a municipal or township office, or 2575
for member of a city, local, or exempted village board of 2576
education, or for member of a governing board of an educational 2577
service center. When a petition of a candidate has been accepted 2578
for filing by a board of elections, the petition shall not be 2579
deemed invalid if, upon verification of signatures contained in 2580
the petition, the board of elections finds the number of 2581
signatures accepted exceeds three times the minimum number of 2582
signatures required. A board of elections may discontinue 2583
verifying signatures when the number of verified signatures on a 2584
petition equals the minimum required number of qualified 2585
signatures. 2586

Any candidate, other than a candidate for judge of a 2587
municipal court, county court, or court of common pleas, who 2588
files a nominating petition may request, at the time of filing, 2589
that the candidate be designated on the ballot as a nonparty 2590
candidate or as an other-party candidate, or may request that 2591
the candidate's name be placed on the ballot without any 2592
designation. Any such candidate who fails to request a 2593
designation either as a nonparty candidate or as an other-party 2594
candidate shall have the candidate's name placed on the ballot 2595
without any designation. 2596

The purpose of establishing a filing deadline for 2597
independent candidates prior to the primary election immediately 2598
preceding the general election at which the candidacy is to be 2599

voted on by the voters is to recognize that the state has a 2600
substantial and compelling interest in protecting its electoral 2601
process by encouraging political stability, ensuring that the 2602
winner of the election will represent a majority of the 2603
community, providing the electorate with an understandable 2604
ballot, and enhancing voter education, thus fostering informed 2605
and educated expressions of the popular will in a general 2606
election. The filing deadline for independent candidates 2607
required in this section prevents splintered parties and 2608
unrestrained factionalism, avoids political fragmentation, and 2609
maintains the integrity of the ballot. The deadline, one day 2610
prior to the primary election, is the least drastic or 2611
restrictive means of protecting these state interests. The 2612
general assembly finds that the filing deadline for independent 2613
candidates in primary elections required in this section is 2614
reasonably related to the state's purpose of ensuring fair and 2615
honest elections while leaving unimpaired the political, voting, 2616
and associational rights secured by the first and fourteenth 2617
amendments to the United States Constitution. 2618

Sec. 3517.012. (A) (1) When a party formation petition 2619
meeting the requirements of section 3517.01 of the Revised Code 2620
declaring the intention to organize a political party is filed 2621
with the secretary of state, the new party comes into legal 2622
existence on the date of filing and is entitled to nominate 2623
candidates to appear on the ballot at the general election held 2624
in even-numbered years that occurs more than one hundred twenty- 2625
five days after the date of filing. 2626

(2) (a) Upon receiving a party formation petition filed 2627
under division (A) (1) of this section, the secretary of state 2628
shall promptly transmit to each board of elections the separate 2629
petition papers that purport to contain signatures of electors 2630

of that board's county. 2631

(b) Not later than the one hundred eighteenth day before 2632
the day of the general election, each board shall examine and 2633
determine the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition 2634
papers and shall return them to the secretary of state, together 2635
with the board's certification of its determination as to the 2636
validity or invalidity of the signatures on the petition. 2637

(c) Any qualified elector may file a written protest 2638
against the petition with the secretary of state not later than 2639
the one hundred fourteenth day before the day of the general 2640
election. Any such protest shall be resolved in the manner 2641
specified under section 3501.39 of the Revised Code. 2642

(d) Not later than the ninety-fifth day before the day of 2643
the general election, the secretary of state shall determine 2644
whether the party formation petition is sufficient and shall 2645
notify the committee designated in the petition of that 2646
determination. 2647

(B) (1) Not later than one hundred ten days before the day 2648
of that general election and not earlier than the day the 2649
applicable party formation petition is filed, each candidate or 2650
pair of joint candidates wishing to appear on the ballot at the 2651
general election as the nominee or nominees of the party that 2652
filed the party formation petition shall file a nominating 2653
petition, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, that 2654
includes the name of the political party that submitted the 2655
party formation petition. Except as otherwise provided in this 2656
section and sections 3505.03, 3505.08, 3506.11, 3513.31, 2657
3513.311, and 3513.312 of the Revised Code, the provisions of 2658
the Revised Code concerning independent candidates who file 2659
nominating petitions apply to candidates who file nominating 2660

petitions under this section. 2661

(2) (a) If the candidacy is to be submitted to electors 2662
throughout the entire state, the nominating petition, including 2663
a petition for joint candidates for the offices of governor and 2664
lieutenant governor, shall be signed by at least fifty qualified 2665
electors who ~~have not voted as a member of~~ are not affiliated 2666
with a different political party at any primary election within 2667
the current year or the immediately preceding two calendar 2668
years, as determined under section 3503.071 of the Revised Code. 2669

(b) ~~Except as otherwise provided in this division, if~~ If 2670
the candidacy is to be submitted only to electors within a 2671
district, political subdivision, or portion thereof, the 2672
nominating petition shall be signed by not less than five 2673
qualified electors who ~~have not voted as a member of~~ are not 2674
affiliated with a different political party at any primary 2675
election within the current year or the immediately preceding 2676
two calendar years, as determined under section 3503.071 of the 2677
Revised Code. 2678

(3) (a) Each board of elections that is responsible to 2679
verify signatures on the nominating petition shall examine and 2680
determine the sufficiency of those signatures not later than the 2681
one hundred fifth day before the day of the general election ~~and~~ 2682
~~shall be resolved as specified in that section.~~ 2683

(b) Written protests against the petition may be filed in 2684
the manner specified under section 3513.263 of the Revised Code 2685
not later than the one hundredth day before the general election 2686
and shall be resolved as specified in that section. 2687

(c) Not later than the ninety-fifth day before the day of 2688
the general election, the secretary of state or the board of 2689

elections, as applicable, shall determine whether the nominating 2690
petition is sufficient and shall notify the candidate and the 2691
committee designated in the party formation petition of that 2692
determination. 2693

(C) (1) After being notified that the political party has 2694
submitted a sufficient party formation petition under division 2695
(A) of this section, the committee designated in a party 2696
formation petition shall, not later than the seventy-fifth day 2697
before the day of the general election, certify to the secretary 2698
of state a slate of candidates consisting of candidates or joint 2699
candidates who submitted sufficient nominating petitions under 2700
division (B) of this section. The slate certifying the 2701
candidates shall be on a form prescribed by the secretary of 2702
state and signed by all of the individuals of the committee 2703
designated in the party formation petition. In no event shall 2704
the slate of candidates include more than one candidate for any 2705
public office or more than one set of joint candidates for the 2706
offices of governor and lieutenant governor. The names of the 2707
candidates or joint candidates so certified shall appear on the 2708
ballot at the general election as that party's nominees for 2709
those offices. For purposes of this division, "joint candidates" 2710
means the joint candidates for the offices of governor and 2711
lieutenant governor. 2712

(2) If a candidate's nominating petition is insufficient 2713
or if the committee does not certify the candidate's name under 2714
division (C) (1) of this section, the candidate shall not appear 2715
on the ballot in the general election. 2716

(3) If a party formation petition is insufficient, no 2717
candidate shall appear on the ballot in the general election as 2718
that political party's nominee, regardless of whether any 2719

candidate's nominating petition is sufficient. 2720

Sec. 3517.013. ~~Section~~ Division (B) of section 3513.191 of 2721
the Revised Code does not apply to persons desiring to become 2722
candidates for party nomination of a newly formed political 2723
party meeting the requirements of sections 3517.011 and 3517.012 2724
of the Revised Code for a period of four calendar years from the 2725
date of the party formation. 2726

Sec. 3599.12. (A) No person shall do any of the following: 2727

(1) Vote or attempt to vote in any primary, special, or 2728
general election in a precinct in which that person is not a 2729
legally qualified elector; 2730

(2) Vote or attempt to vote more than once at the same 2731
election by any means, including voting or attempting to vote 2732
both by absent voter's ballots under division ~~(G)~~ (E) of section 2733
3503.16 of the Revised Code and by regular ballot at the polls 2734
at the same election, or voting or attempting to vote both by 2735
absent voter's ballots under division ~~(G)~~ (E) of section 3503.16 2736
of the Revised Code and by absent voter's ballots under Chapter 2737
3509. or armed service absent voter's ballots under Chapter 2738
3511. of the Revised Code at the same election; 2739

(3) Impersonate or sign the name of another person, real 2740
or fictitious, living or dead, and vote or attempt to vote as 2741
that other person in any such election; 2742

(4) Cast a ballot at any such election after objection has 2743
been made and sustained to that person's vote; 2744

(5) Knowingly vote or attempt to vote a ballot other than 2745
the official ballot. 2746

(B) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is 2747

guilty of a felony of the fourth degree. 2748

Section 2. That existing sections 3501.01, 3503.09, 2749
3503.10, 3503.11, 3503.14, 3503.15, 3503.16, 3503.19, 3503.20, 2750
3503.23, 3503.28, 3505.181, 3509.02, 3509.04, 3509.07, 3509.08, 2751
3513.041, 3513.05, 3513.07, 3513.18, 3513.19, 3513.191, 2752
3513.257, 3517.012, 3517.013, and 3599.12 of the Revised Code 2753
are hereby repealed. 2754

Section 3. That sections 3513.192 and 3513.20 of the 2755
Revised Code are hereby repealed. 2756