

**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**

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**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 48  
election as defined by division (E)(1) of this section at which 49  
an election is held for the purpose of choosing delegates and 50  
alternates to the national conventions of the major political 51  
parties pursuant to section 3513.12 of the Revised Code. Unless 52  
otherwise specified, presidential primary elections are included 53  
in references to primary elections. In years in which a 54  
presidential primary election is held, all primary elections 55  
shall be held on the third Tuesday after the first Monday in 56  
March except as otherwise authorized by a municipal or county 57  
charter. 58

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

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

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

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

(b) The political party has filed with the secretary of 78  
state, subsequent to its failure to meet the requirements of 79  
division (F) (2) (a) of this section, a petition that meets the 80  
requirements of section 3517.01 of the Revised Code. 81

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

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

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

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

(J) "Nonpartisan candidate" means any candidate whose name  
is required, pursuant to section 3505.04 of the Revised Code, to  
be listed on the nonpartisan ballot, including all candidates  
for judge of a municipal court, county court, or court of common  
pleas, for member of any board of education, for municipal or  
township offices in which primary elections are not held for  
nominating candidates by political parties, and for offices of  
municipal corporations having charters that provide for separate  
ballots for elections for these offices.

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

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

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

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

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|---|--------------------------|
| (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<br>139<br>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<br>142<br>143<br>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<br>146<br>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<br>149<br>150        |
| (T) "Political subdivision" means a county, township, city, village, or school district.  | 151<br>152               |
| (U) "Election officer" or "election official" means any of the following:   | 153<br>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<br>157<br>158<br>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                      |

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| (7) Precinct election officials;   | 164  |
| (8) Employees appointed by the boards of elections on a temporary or part-time basis.  | 165<br>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<br>168<br>169<br>170<br>171<br>172<br>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<br>175<br>176<br>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<br>179<br>180<br>181<br>182<br>183<br>184<br>185<br>186<br>187<br>188<br>189<br>190<br>191<br>192<br>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)~~ (d) The voter's date of birth; 543

~~(5)~~ (e) The voter to provide at least one of the following 544  
forms of identification: 545

~~(a)~~ (i) The voter's Ohio driver's license or state 546  
identification card number; 547

~~(b)~~ (ii) The last four digits of the voter's social 548  
security number. 549

~~(6)~~ (f) The voter's signature. 550

(2) The form shall include the political party affiliation 551  
fields and notice described in division (B)(1) of section 552  
3503.071 of the Revised Code. 553

(3) The registration form shall include a space on which 554  
the person registering an applicant shall sign the person's name 555  
and provide the person's address and a space on which the person 556  
registering an applicant shall name the employer who is 557  
employing that person to register the applicant. 558

(4) Except for forms prescribed by the secretary of state 559  
under section 3503.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of 560  
state shall permit boards of elections to produce forms that 561  
have subdivided spaces for each individual alphanumeric 562  
character of the information provided by the voter so as to 563  
accommodate the electronic reading and conversion of the voter's 564  
information to data and the subsequent electronic transfer of 565  
that data to the statewide voter registration database 566  
established under section 3503.15 of the Revised Code. 567

(B) None of the following persons who are registering an 568  
applicant in the course of that official's or employee's normal 569  
duties shall sign the person's name, provide the person's 570

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-update~~ the applicant's ~~name or residence~~ voter 591  
registration. 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~~ update the applicant's voter 595  
registration. 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 717  
the records contained in the database by each board of elections 718  
and by any persons authorized by the secretary of state to add, 719  
delete, modify, or print database records, and to conduct 720  
updates of the database; 721

(4) A search program capable of verifying registered 722  
voters and their registration information by name, driver's 723  
license or state identification card number, birth date, social 724  
security number, or current address; 725

(5) Safeguards and components to ensure that the 726  
integrity, security, and confidentiality of the voter 727  
registration information is maintained; 728

(6) Methods to retain canceled voter registration records 729  
for not less than five years after they are canceled and to 730  
record the reason for their cancellation. 731

(D) The secretary of state shall adopt rules pursuant to 732  
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code doing all of the following: 733

(1) Specifying the manner in which existing voter 734  
registration records maintained by boards of elections shall be 735  
converted to electronic files for inclusion in the statewide 736  
voter registration database; 737

(2) Establishing a uniform method for entering voter 738  
registration records into the statewide voter registration 739  
database on an expedited basis, but not less than once per day, 740  
if new registration information is received; 741

(3) Establishing a uniform method for purging canceled 742  
voter registration records from the statewide voter registration 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 1307  
information: 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 1312  
security number; 1313

(v) The applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the 1314  
number of the applicant's state identification card issued under 1315  
section 4507.50 of the Revised Code. 1316

(b) The applicant's name, address, and date of birth, the 1317  
last four digits of the applicant's social security number, and 1318  
the applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the number of 1319  
the applicant's state identification card as they are provided 1320  
in the application are not inconsistent with the information on 1321  
file with the bureau of motor vehicles; 1322

(c) The applicant is a United States citizen, will have 1323  
lived in this state for thirty days immediately preceding the 1324  
next election, will be at least eighteen years of age on or 1325  
before the day of the next general election, and is otherwise 1326  
eligible to register to vote; 1327

(d) The applicant attests to the truth and accuracy of the 1328  
information submitted in the online application under penalty of 1329  
election falsification. 1330

(3) The application includes the political party 1331  
affiliation fields and notice described in division (B) (1) of 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 1361  
preceding the next election. 1362

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

(6) I authorize the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to transmit 1365  
to the Ohio Secretary of State my signature that is on file with 1366  
the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and I understand and agree that 1367  
the signature transmitted by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will 1368  
be used by the Secretary of State to validate this electronic 1369  
voter registration application as if I had signed this form 1370  
personally." 1371

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

~~(E) The online voter registration process established~~ 1377  
~~under division (A) of this section shall be in operation and~~ 1378  
~~available for use by individuals who wish to register to vote or~~ 1379  
~~update their voter registration information online not earlier~~ 1380  
~~than January 1, 2017. During the period beginning on the first~~ 1381  
day after the close of voter registration before an election and 1382  
ending on the day of the election, the online voter registration 1383  
system shall display a notice indicating that the applicant will 1384  
not be registered to vote for the purposes of that election. 1385

(F) Notwithstanding section 1.50 of the Revised Code, if 1386  
any provision of this section or of division (E) of section 1387  
3503.14 of the Revised Code is held invalid, or if the 1388  
application of any provision of this section or of that division 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~~ 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  
the population of a subdivision smaller than the county and  
situated in more than one county is located shall, on the  
seventieth day before the day of a primary election, certify to  
the board of each county in which a portion of that subdivision  
is located the names of the candidates to be printed on the  
official ballots to be used at the primary election, whose  
nomination or election is to be determined only by electors  
within that subdivision and who filed valid declarations of  
candidacy and petitions.

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

"DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Candidate), the  
undersigned, hereby declare under penalty of election  
falsification that my voting residence is in \_\_\_\_\_  
precinct of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Township) or  
(Ward and City or Village) in the county of \_\_\_\_\_,  
Ohio; that my voting residence is \_\_\_\_\_ (Street and  
Number, if any, or Rural Route and Number) of the  
\_\_\_\_\_ (City or Village) of  
\_\_\_\_\_, Ohio; and that I am a qualified elector in  
the precinct in which my voting residence is located. I am ~~a~~  
~~member of~~ affiliated with the \_\_\_\_\_ Party. I hereby declare  
that I desire to be \_\_\_\_\_ (a candidate for  
nomination as a candidate of the Party for election to the  
office of \_\_\_\_\_) (a candidate for election to the office

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  
affiliated with 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 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;~~

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

~~(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.~~

(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.

**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.

~~(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:~~

~~(1) A person who does not hold an elective office;~~ 2420

~~(2) A person who holds an elective office other than one~~ 2421  
~~for which candidates are nominated at a party primary.~~ 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