

ADVISORY 2026-01

March 18, 2026

To: All County Boards of Elections
Board Members, Directors, and Deputy Directors

Re: New Ohio Voter Registration and Information Update Form

BACKGROUND

My office is releasing an updated Ohio Voter Registration and Information Update Form ahead of the upcoming 2026 election cycle. The revisions enhance the overall organization of the form, making it more intuitive and user-friendly for voters. These updates improve clarity, streamline key sections, and support easier completion while maintaining full compliance with R.C. 3503.14.

These changes have been reviewed with the Ohio Association of Election Officials in advance of today's release.

SUMMARY

- The new layout places instructions within the sections to be filled out instead of grouping all instructions at the top of the form. This helps users to more clearly understand what information they need to provide in each section.
- The form is still a self-mailer, maintaining convenience for Ohioans to return once completed.
- The back of the form still provides information about how to request an absentee ballot and what identification is acceptable to vote in Ohio.
- The updated form now includes an area for a person registering an applicant to include the name of the employer (if they are employed to register applicants), in accordance with R.C. 3503.14(A). However, none of the following persons who are registering an applicant as part of their official duties are required to sign the form as a person employed to register applicants: an election official; a county treasurer; a deputy registrar of motor vehicles; an employee of a designated

agency; an employee of a public high school; an employee of a public vocational school; an employee of a public library; an employee of the office of a county treasurer; an employee of the bureau of motor vehicles; an employee of a deputy registrar or motor vehicles; or an employee of an election official.

My office regularly fulfills orders of these forms for the boards of elections. Boards may continue to use existing stock until it is depleted, as changes to the new form do not substantively impact voter registration. One additional improvement we have made is to increase the paper weight to 100lb text to hold up better during mail delivery. We recommend that county boards consider the same paper weight.

Questions concerning this advisory should be directed to the Secretary of State's elections counsel at 614-728-8789.

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose

Ohio Secretary of State