

ADVISORY 2026-03

June 3, 2026

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

Re: Preparations for 2031 Redistricting

BACKGROUND

The Ohio Legislative Service Commission (LSC) is charged with the development of a Common and Unified Redistricting Database (CURD) for the purpose of redistricting in the State of Ohio after the 2030 United States Census. The CURD combines population and elections data with geographic data containing census political boundaries and block boundaries as well as voting precincts. The CURD provides all interested parties with the geographic and tabular data they need to propose, discuss, and create new Congressional and Ohio General Assembly districts, based on an accurate, current, and comprehensive computer-based mapping database. The work necessary to create this mapping database is extensive and must start well in advance of the 2031 redistricting process.

In preparation for redistricting across the nation, the U.S. Census Bureau requires that states choosing to participate in its 2030 Redistricting Data Program provide data on the boundaries of election districts, namely voting precincts across the state. Data on the state's precinct boundaries is required in order for the Census Bureau to produce census data by block and voting precinct in early 2031. Ohio has declared its intention to participate in the Census Bureau's Redistricting Data Program.

LSC has selected Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service (OU) as the technical consultant that will participate in the Redistricting Data Program on behalf of Ohio to build the CURD. Dr. Jason Jolley at OU has been appointed by the

state as the liaison to the U.S. Census Bureau for the purpose of the Redistricting Data Program.

For this work to be successful, OU has requested assistance from each county board of elections to provide the precinct maps and information on annexations and deannexations approved in the county.

INSTRUCTIONS

To support this critical work, each county board of elections must provide current precinct maps for the county to both the OU project team and to my office. Maps should be in a geographic information system-readable format if available or provide download links. Include the effective date of the latest changes with your county's map submission. **Submit maps to OU via the email address below, and upload them to "Advisory 2026-03 GIS Precinct Files" in your county's SOS SharePoint folder.** For files too large to email: OU can provide a secure upload link upon request. Also include within the email to OU: (1) whether your county maintains historical archives of prior precinct configurations; (2) the name and contact information (phone and email) of the person most knowledgeable about precinct boundaries; and (3) the name and contact information (phone and email) of the person most knowledgeable about annexations and municipal boundary changes in the county.

Additionally, counties **must attend a virtual project kickoff meeting** hosted by OU on any of the following dates:

- June 12th, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- June 16th, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- June 23rd, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Please RSVP for the meeting of your choice via the survey at the following link:

https://ohio.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9z3BkEZAce7UKgu

Ohio University will use your data sources and maps to suggest changes to the Census block boundaries so that the block boundaries may match better with your precincts and political subdivision boundaries.

Your timely assistance is essential to ensure statewide accuracy, compliance, and consistency. **Please provide the resources above by August 1, 2026**, to:

- Matt Trainer
census2030@ohio.edu
740-597-2505

If the files you are sending to OU are exceptionally large, more than 25MB, or if issues arise when sending files via email, please contact Mr. Trainer to arrange an alternative method of transmission, via a secure upload link.

As a reminder, state law requires county boards of elections to establish voting precinct boundaries “using geographical units (i.e., census blocks)” used by the U.S. Census Bureau.¹ Waivers from this requirement may be granted by the Secretary of State when the board applies under a narrow set of exceptional circumstances.² Additionally, whenever a board of elections changes, divides, or combines any precinct or relocates a polling place, it shall notify the Secretary of State of the change at SWVRD@OhioSoS.gov.³

If you have any questions concerning this advisory, please contact the Secretary of State’s elections counsel at 614-728-8789.

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State

¹ [R.C. 3501.18\(B\)\(1\)](#).

² [R.C. 3501.18\(B\)\(2\) and \(3\)](#).

³ [R.C. 3501.21](#); [Directive 2026-08](#).