

DIRECTIVE 2025-21

February 4, 2025

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

Re: Updated Election Official Manual

BACKGROUND

I am issuing replacement permanent directives for all chapters of the Ohio Election Official Manual ("EOM") as part of this office's routine process of providing uniform instruction and continual improvement in election administration. The revised EOM contains updated language necessary to bring the document in compliance with recent directives and law changes. All chapters include updated legal citations, cross-references, or other updates for technical accuracy. The updated chapters were published as draft directives on the Secretary of State's website and open to public comment, some of which has been included in the final version.¹

All previous directives that constituted the EOM are hereby rescinded and archived on the Secretary of State's website.² I have instructed my staff to manage this process in two parts, offering the more cosmetic changes in this first update and then following up with a set of recommended policy improvements to the manual within the next few months. I anticipate those drafts to be available and publicly posted for comment later this summer. For that reason, I recommend waiting until then to print the entire document for your ready reference, as I know some of you prefer to keep on-hand at the board office. The digital version, available on our website, will serve as an interim resource. If you have policy-related content you believe should be considered for review during that process, I welcome your feedback to our legal team. Please work with your designated regional liaison to facilitate a conversation about your recommendations.

INSTRUCTIONS

The following updated permanent directives, and the corresponding chapters of the EOM, are hereby issued and in full, immediate effect:

Directive 2025-03	Chapter 1	Introduction
Directive 2025-04	Chapter 2	Board of Elections Organization and Operations

¹ [R.C. 3501.053\(A\)](#).

² [R.C. 3501.053\(B\)](#).

Directive 2025-05	Chapter 3	Security
Directive 2025-06	Chapter 4	Voter Registration
Directive 2025-07	Chapter 5	Ballots
Directive 2025-08	Chapter 6	Precincts, Polling Locations, and Precinct Election Officials
Directive 2025-09	Chapter 7	Absentee Voting
Directive 2025-10	Chapter 8	Provisional Voting
Directive 2025-11	Chapter 9	Election Day Voting
Directive 2025-12	Chapter 10	Canvassing the Vote
Directive 2025-13	Chapter 11	Post-Election Activities
Directive 2025-14	Chapter 12	Voting Systems
Directive 2025-15	Chapter 13	Petitions
Directive 2025-16	Chapter 14	Candidates
Directive 2025-17	Chapter 15	Political Parties
Directive 2025-18	Chapter 16	Statewide Initiative & Referendum
Directive 2025-19	Chapter 17	Miscellaneous Duties
Directive 2025-20	Chapter 18	Resources

All boards of elections members, directors, deputy directors, and staff must review the new directives and are encouraged to bookmark the EOM in their web browsers so that each person may easily access and use it on a regular basis. The electronic version includes links to relevant supporting documentation (e.g., statutes, court decisions, etc.) and is available at: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/directives>.

If you have any questions concerning this directive, or any EOM-related directives, please contact the Secretary of State's elections counsel at (614) 728-8789.

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State