



Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State

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DIRECTIVE 2014-11

April 7, 2014

TO: LUCAS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Board Members, Director, and Deputy Director

RE: Establishing a Transparency Committee

BACKGROUND

Thank you for your cooperation last week in working with former Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, former Assistant Secretary of State Scott Borgemenke and my staff in order to help provide me with information regarding the current state of operations at the Lucas County Board of Elections.

As you are well aware, since becoming Secretary of State, my office has supported the Lucas County Board of Elections through various methods of administrative oversight, assigned my employees and elections administrators and brought in consultants to provide assistance.

It was my hope that with the knowledge and experience board members and staff received while under oversight, and with the roadmap provided by the report issued to you more than a year ago, you would have the tools needed to get the board of elections on the right track.

Unfortunately, it appears there is a severe lack of communication among the board members and between the board and its staff. Further, it is evident from the discussions last week, the right questions aren't being asked.

As a result, I am creating a Transparency Committee to force public accountability and open dialog among the board members and staff and to ask the right questions. This committee will bring much needed light to the functions of the board and therefore ensure an open, transparent and effective elections process. The committee will be made up by the following individuals:

- Scott Borgemenke (Chairman) – Former Assistant Secretary of State
- Jennifer Brunner – Former Ohio Secretary of State
- James Ruvolo – Ruvolo & Associates
- Jonathan Allison – Carpenter, Lipps & Leland, LLP

INSTRUCTIONS

The Lucas County Board of Elections must hold a special meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. The Director and Deputy Director will arrange for the appropriate meeting space and post the attached notice not less than 24 hours prior to the meeting, and provide the notice to

local media and any person who has previously requested to receive notice of meetings of the board of elections. Each member of the Lucas County Board of Elections must attend the meeting.

After calling the meeting of the board of elections to order, Chairman Rothenbuhler will accept a motion to recognize the Transparency Committee and, following a majority affirmative vote of the board of elections, the board of elections will give the balance of the meeting to the Transparency Committee.

Board members and staff must be ready to answer questions and provide information about individual-level and agency-wide policies, procedures and operations, both as they relate to preparations for elections scheduled this year and to the general organization and management of the board of elections. The Transparency Committee has broad discretion to ask board members and staff to provide follow up reports and documentation that may be needed for the committee to get the information it requires.

Subsequent meetings with the Transparency Committee will be held at the discretion of that committee's chairperson. Each member of the Lucas County Board of Elections is expected to attend any subsequent meeting of the Transparency Committee. Further instructions will follow.

I am disappointed to be in this position yet again. I believe it is your sworn responsibility to provide local solutions to local problems. The voters of Lucas County deserve first-class elections, and I will take whatever action I deem necessary to make sure that happens. It is my expectation that you will fully cooperate with the Transparency Committee, as they will help you do what you seemingly cannot: Govern yourselves, set aside partisan and personal bickering, and cooperate in the interest of elections administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jon Husted". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "J" and a cursive "Husted".

Jon Husted

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LUCAS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

10:00 a.m.

One Government Center

<INSERT LOCATION>

AGENDA

Recognition of and Discussion with Secretary of State's Transparency Committee:

- Agency & Individual Operational Preparedness
- Agency & Individual Elections Preparedness
- General Board Management, Policies, and Procedures
- Personnel Matters