



Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State

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DIRECTIVE 2015-20

November 1, 2015

To: Butler, Clark, Darke, Mercer, Miami, and Preble County Boards of Elections
Directors, Deputy Directors, and Board Members

Re: Special Congressional Primary & General Elections in Ohio's 8th Congressional District

Background

On September 25, 2015, U.S. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner announced that he planned to retire at the end of October of this year. His retirement leaves a vacancy in Ohio's 8th Congressional District. Pursuant to Ohio law, the vacancy must be filled by a special congressional election, and candidates for that election must be nominated in a special congressional primary.¹ Governor Kasich issued a writ of election on November 1, 2015, establishing the dates of the special congressional primary and election.

The Special Congressional Primary Election for Ohio's 8th Congressional District will be conducted in conjunction with the Presidential Primary Election on **March 15, 2016**. The special general election for the remainder of unexpired term will be held on **June 7, 2016**.

Accompanying this Directive are the following:

- Expedited Special Congressional Election Calendar, and
- Questions and Answers regarding the Special Congressional Primary & General Elections.

Petitions

Persons seeking the nomination of a political party for representative to Congress for Ohio's 8th Congressional District (unexpired term ending January 3, 2017²) must file [Form 2-E](#) (Declaration of Candidacy - Party Primary District Office - Representative to Congress).

Persons seeking to run as an independent candidate for representative to Congress for Ohio's 8th Congressional District (unexpired term ending January 3, 2017) must file [Form 3-F](#) (Nominating Petition and Statement of Candidacy – Representative to Congress).

¹ R.C. 3521.03; 3513.32.

² U.S. Const. Amend. XX, Sec. 1, provides that "[t]he terms of the President and Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3rd day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin."

Persons seeking to run as a write-in candidate for representative to Congress for Ohio's 8th Congressional District (unexpired term ending January 3, 2017) must file [Form 13-C](#) (Declaration of Intent to be a Write-in Candidate for Office of U.S. Senator or U.S. Representative).

All petitions must be filed with the Butler County Board of Elections – the most populous county in the 8th Congressional District. The deadlines for filing are listed in the Expedited Special Congressional Election Calendar.

Please note that Ohio law requires each candidate filing a Declaration of Candidacy or Nominating Petition for the remainder of an unexpired term to designate the date on which that unexpired term will end.³

If a prospective candidate has additional questions regarding signature and petition requirements, you may refer him or her to the [2016 Candidate Requirement Guide](#), which is available on the Secretary of State's website.

Hours for In-Person Absentee Voting

All boards of elections are instructed to adopt the following as their business hours for in-person absentee voting for the June 7, 2016 Special Congressional General Election:⁴

Regular Municipal Elections, Primary Elections, and Special Elections

- Weeks One, Two and Three of Voting (beginning with the day after the close of registration for the election, except any holiday established by state law)
 - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on each weekday (Monday through Friday)
- Week Four of Voting
 - 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on each weekday (Monday through Friday)
 - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the Saturday before Election Day
 - 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the Sunday before Election Day
- Week of Election Day
 - 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the Monday before Election Day.

Any voters in line at the end of these regular business hours must be permitted to make their application and vote.⁵

Ballot Layout & Canvasses of Election

The Secretary of State's office will provide additional information regarding ballot layout and conducting the unofficial and official canvasses of these elections in separate directives.

³ R.C. 3513.08; 3513.28.

⁴ Settlement agreement, *NAACP v. Husted*, (Case No. 2:14-CV-404).

⁵ R.C. 3501.32(A).

Thank you for your work in preparing for and conducting these elections. If you have questions, please contact the elections attorney assigned to your county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jon Husted". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Jon" is written with a large, looped "J" and a small "on". The last name "Husted" is written with a large "H" and a cursive "usted".

Jon Husted