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Ohio Secretary of State

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DIRECTIVE 2015-23

December 15, 2015

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

Re: Election Official Manual and Related Directives

BACKGROUND

Consistent with our goal of continuing to provide clear and uniform instructions for all boards of elections, and in preparation for the 2016 Presidential Election, we are today issuing a series of Directives that will stand as individual chapters of the newly updated [Ohio Election Official Manual \(EOM\)](#). These chapters were previously published as draft Directives on the Secretary of State's website and available for public comment.¹

As such, all previous Directives issued by this office are hereby rescinded, except that [Directive 2008-80](#) remains in full force and effect pursuant to court order.² As required by Ohio law, all Directives no longer in effect will be archived on the Secretary of State's website.³

Boards of elections' members, directors, deputy directors, and clerks are strongly encouraged to bookmark the [EOM](#) in the web browser that each person most frequently accesses and use it on a regular, if not daily, basis as an important election administration resource. We designed it for ease of use as an electronic document that contains links to the relevant supporting documentation (e.g., statutes, court decisions, etc.). Because it is an electronic document that can be updated, it is less likely to become an outdated resource as compared to a printed hardcopy.

INSTRUCTIONS

The first chapter of the [EOM](#) contains general information and definitions as is not being issued as a Directive. The following Directives, and the corresponding chapter of the [EOM](#), are hereby issued and in full, immediate effect:

Directive 2015-24	Chapter 2	Election Administration
Directive 2015-25	Chapter 3	Voter Registration
Directive 2015-26	Chapter 4	Ballots

¹ R.C. 3501.053(A).

² Consent Decree originally issued in *Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless v. Brunner*, S.D. Ohio No. 2:06-cv-896 on April 19, 2010 and modified by the Court on October 26, 2012 and November 2, 2012.

³ R.C. 3501.053(B).

Directive 2015-27	Chapter 5	Absentee Voting
Directive 2015-28	Chapter 6	Provisional Voting
Directive 2015-29	Chapter 7	Election Day Voting
Directive 2015-30	Chapter 8	Canvassing the Votes
Directive 2015-31	Chapter 9	Post Election Activities
Directive 2015-32	Chapter 10	Voting Systems
Directive 2015-33	Chapter 11	Petitions
Directive 2015-34	Chapter 12	Candidates
Directive 2015-35	Chapter 13	Political Parties
Directive 2015-36	Chapter 14	Statewide Initiative and Referendum
Directive 2015-37	Chapter 15	Miscellaneous Duties

A section with generally available resources for elections officials will also be appended to the end of the [EOM](#) for your convenience.

The EOM is available at:

<http://www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/upload/elections/EOResources/general/2015EOM.pdf>

If you have any questions regarding this Directive, or any of the EOM-related Directives, please call the Secretary of State's elections counsel assigned to your county at (614) 466-2585.

Sincerely,



Jon Husted