



DIRECTIVE 2021-12

March 22, 2021

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

Re: Special Congressional Election in Ohio's 11th Congressional District

BACKGROUND

On March 10, 2021, U.S. Representative Marcia Fudge announced her resignation as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, effective immediately, leaving a vacancy in Ohio's 11th Congressional District. Pursuant to Ohio law, the vacancy must be filled by a special congressional election, and partisan candidates for that election must be nominated in a Special Congressional Primary.¹ Governor DeWine issued a writ of election on March 20, 2021 to establish the dates of the Special Congressional Primary and General Elections.

The Special Congressional Primary Election for Ohio's 11th Congressional District will be conducted on August 3, 2021. The Special General Election for the remainder of the unexpired term will be held on November 2, 2021.

The Special Congressional Elections Calendar accompanies this Directive.

PETITIONS

Persons seeking the nomination of a political party for Representative to Congress for Ohio's 11th Congressional District (unexpired term ending January 3, 2023)² must file [Form 2-E](#) (Declaration of Candidacy - Party Primary Election for District Office - Representative to Congress). Persons seeking to run as an independent candidate must file [Form 3-F](#) (Nominating Petition and Statement of Candidacy – Representative to Congress). Persons seeking to run as a write-in candidate must file [Form 13-C](#) (Declaration of Intent to be a Write-in Candidate for Office of United States Senator or United States Representative).

All petitions must be filed with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections – the most populous county in the 11th Congressional District. Ohio law requires each candidate filing a Declaration of Candidacy or Nominating Petition for the remainder of an unexpired term to

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."

designate the date on which that unexpired term will end.³ For the anticipated vacant seat, the last day of the term is January 3, 2023.

If a prospective candidate has additional questions regarding signature and petition requirements, you may refer them to the [2020 Candidate Requirement Guide](#), which is available on the Secretary of State's website.

BALLOT LAYOUT & CANVASSES OF ELECTION

The Secretary of State's Office will provide additional information, including ballot layout and unofficial and official canvass instructions, in separate directives. Thank you for your work in preparing for and conducting these elections. If you have questions, please contact the Secretary of State's Elections Counsel at 614-728-8789.

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State

³ [R.C. 3513.08](#); [3513.28](#).