



DIRECTIVE 2021-17

July 8, 2021

To: County Boards of Elections in the 11th and 15th Congressional Districts
Board Members, Directors, and Deputy Directors

Re: Unofficial and Official Canvass Directive for August 3, 2021 Special Congressional
Primary Election in the 11th and 15th Congressional Districts

SUMMARY

This Directive outlines the procedures that all boards of elections must follow when conducting both the Unofficial and Official Canvasses of the August 3, 2021 Special Congressional Primary Election in the 11th and 15th Congressional Districts. It establishes a timeline that all boards of elections must follow for the Official Canvass.

To assist boards of elections with any problems, questions, or concerns that may arise on August 3, 2021, the Secretary of State's Office will be staffed from 6:00 a.m. until all boards have reported their unofficial results to our Office. Boards can contact the Secretary of State's Office using a dedicated telephone number that will be emailed to the boards of elections prior to August 3, 2021.

All directors, deputy directors, and board members must ensure that they are able to receive emails via their .gov address and other communications sent from the Secretary of State's Office on August 3, 2021 (including after in-person voting concludes).

PART ONE – UNOFFICIAL CANVASS

The Unofficial Canvass of the August 3, 2021 Special Congressional Primary Election must be conducted on August 3, 2021 in accordance with state law.¹ The boards must follow the procedures outlined in [Chapter 8, Section 1.02](#) of the Election Official Manual. Each board must reconcile results with records from the poll books and the voter registration system to ensure that only one ballot per voter is counted.² This includes ensuring that all returned absentee ballots are logged in the voter registration system and reconciling the list of voters whose ballots were returned with the number of physical ballots returned.

The Unofficial Canvass must be conducted in full view of the members of the board of elections and any appointed observers, and the board must continuously count the ballots during the Unofficial Canvass.³

¹ [R.C. 3505.27](#) (counting regular ballots that were cast at precinct polling locations); [R.C. 3505.28](#) (ballots not counted); [R.C. 3505.30](#) (deadline for reporting unofficial results); [R.C. 3509.06](#) (counting absentee ballots); [R.C. 3509.07](#) (absentee ballots not counted); [R.C. 3511.11- 3511.13](#) (uniformed service and overseas voter absentee ballots).

² [R.C. 3505.26](#) and [R.C. 3505.27](#).

³ [R.C. 3505.21](#); [R.C. 3505.27](#); [R.C. 3505.29](#); [R.C. 3505.30](#).

I. ELECTION NIGHT REPORTING

State law requires that all boards of elections provide election results for certain contests to the Secretary of State's Office.⁴ All counties must use the Secretary of State's County Submission System ("CSS") to provide summary results on all candidates for contests that appear on the county's ballot. The Secretary of State personnel assigned to each county board of elections and their contact information will be provided prior to August 3, 2021.

Although boards of elections will have access to hand-key the results at the time frames below, the upload tool allows each board to do this more efficiently. This method also helps prevent data entry errors. Boards must use the USB thumb drives provided by the Secretary of State's Office to ensure the security of the election night reporting and election management system. The USB thumb drives must be used only once.

Unofficial election results provided to the Secretary of State's Office will be summary only, rather than precinct-level. Boards will upload precinct-level results for the Official Canvass.

A. SCHEDULE FOR REPORTING RESULTS

Each board must log in to the CSS no later than 7:45 p.m. on August 3, 2021. The board must immediately notify the Secretary of State assigned personnel of delays in completing any portion of the results reporting activity. Boards will receive an email with contact information for the Secretary of State personnel assigned to each county.

1. REPORTING ABSENTEE BALLOT RESULTS

Boards of elections may begin processing (including scanning, but not tabulating) absentee ballots not earlier than the day after the close of voter registration (July 7, 2021).⁵ Boards must begin this process prior to Election Day to ensure the Unofficial Canvass includes all absentee ballots received by the close of polls on August 3, 2021. Boards are prohibited from tabulating any absentee ballot prior to 7:31 p.m. on August 3, 2021. If a court orders polls to remain open later than 7:30 p.m. on Election Day, boards will receive a Directive with alternate instructions.

Each board must upload vote totals for absentee ballots by 8:00 p.m., unless the voting system is technologically unable to do so. If necessary, partial absentee results may be uploaded by the county (e.g., for GEMS users who were unable to scan all absentee ballots prior to starting the central tabulation of precinct cards). If the board uploads partial absentee results at 8:00 p.m., the board must not double-report the initial upload. Contact the board's voting system vendor if you need technical assistance. The board must enter zero (0) precincts reporting when it uploads its first absentee results.

2. MAXIMUM TIME BETWEEN REPORTS

Election Night reporting begins with the first upload of absentee results by 8:00 p.m. and will continue at the assigned time throughout the night. After the board has uploaded its first summary election results, it must report on the following time increment assigned to the county:

⁴ [R.C. 3505.27\(C\)](#).

⁵ [R.C. 3509.06](#).

1. “Quarter-Hour” Counties - *Cuyahoga, Fairfield, Franklin, and Summit Counties.*

“Quarter-hour” counties must report at each quarter hour (e.g., 8:00 p.m., 8:15 p.m., 8:30 p.m., 8:45 p.m., etc.), beginning with the quarter hour that follows the board’s first upload of summary election results and continuing until all precincts have reported.

If, as the board approaches full reporting, one or more precincts have not reported, and it has been more than 30 minutes since the last report, it must notify the Secretary of State personnel assigned to the board to explain the delay. Once 100 percent of the precincts have reported, boards must enter final vote tallies into the Election Night Reporting System (“ENR”). The board does not have to wait until its designated reporting time (noted above) before reporting the final results.

2. “Half-Hour” Counties - *Athens and Ross Counties.*

“Half-hour” counties must report at each half-hour (e.g., 8:30 p.m., 9:00 p.m., 9:30 p.m., etc.), beginning at 8:30 p.m., the first half-hour that follows the upload of the board’s absentee summary election results at 8:00 p.m., then on every half hour after and continuing until all precincts have reported.

If, as the board approaches full reporting, one or more precincts have not reported, and it has been more than 30 minutes since the last report, it must notify the Secretary of State personnel assigned to the board to explain the delay. Once 100 percent of the precincts have reported, boards must enter final vote tallies into the ENR. The board does not have to wait until its designated reporting time (noted above) before reporting the final results.

3. “Hourly” Counties

“Top-of-the-hour” counties (e.g., 8:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m., etc.): *Clinton, Fayette Madison, and Pickaway Counties.*

“Bottom-of-the-hour” counties (e.g., 8:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m., etc.): *Hocking, Morgan, Perry, and Vinton Counties.*

Note: “Bottom-of-the-hour” counties will report once at the “Top-of-the-hour” at 8:00 p.m. and then at the bottom hour as noted above.

“Hourly” counties must report summary election results at the top *or* bottom of every hour, as specified above, and continue until all precincts have reported. If the board reports more frequently, it must still report on the hour.

If, as the board approaches full reporting, one or more precincts have not reported, and it has been more than 60 minutes since the last report, it must notify the Secretary of State personnel assigned to the board to explain the delay. Once 100 percent precincts have reported, boards must enter final vote tallies into the ENR. The board does not have to wait until its designated reporting time (noted above) before reporting the final results.

B. SUPPLEMENTAL STATISTICS

The board must provide supplemental statistics when it reports the county’s last precinct or shortly thereafter. **Boards must promptly report vote totals, even if supplemental statistics are not yet available.** Upload the election results, then submit the statistics when ready.

The required supplemental statistics are as follows:

- Counted Ballots
 - Total number of regular ballots counted from Election Day precincts (not including absentee ballots; they are reported separately below).
 - Total number of non-UOCAVA absentee ballots counted.
 - Total number of UOCAVA absentee ballots counted.
 - Total number of absentee ballots counted.
 - Total regular Election Day and absentee ballots counted.
- Outstanding Ballots (ballots issued but not yet counted)
 - Total number of outstanding non-UOCAVA absentee ballots issued by the board, but not returned.
 - Total number of outstanding UOCAVA absentee ballots issued by the board, but not returned.
 - Combined total number of outstanding absentee ballots (issued by BOE but not returned by close of polls).
 - Total number of provisional ballots issued on Election Day.
 - Total number of provisional ballots issued before Election Day, but after close of registration at the board office or early vote center.
 - Total number of provisional ballots issued at the polls or the board office.

II. SUMMARY AND FINAL REPORTS

Boards of elections must follow the procedures outlined in [Chapter 8, Section 1.02](#) of the Election Official Manual for reporting summary results and submitting final summary reports in even-numbered year elections (due to the contest for federal office). The required reports and forms (listed below) for the Unofficial Canvass and the instructions and deadline for submission will be provided to boards of elections via email before Election Day:

1. Unofficial Vote Total Summary Report;
2. Most Populous Report(s) (when applicable); and
3. Signature Form.

In addition to the Unofficial Vote Total Summary Report submitted on Election Night, each board must print Current County Results from the CSS, proof to the Unofficial Vote Total Summary Report, and email the Current County Results along with the Report to Results@OhioSoS.gov. Instructions outlining this requirement will be provided separately.

All final summary reports must be transmitted to the Elections Division via email to Results@OhioSoS.gov.

On Election Night, once the Secretary of State's Office receives, reviews, and compares the board's Unofficial Vote Total Summary Report and the Current County Results printed from the CSS, a Secretary of State staff member will first contact the Director.

The Director must not leave the office until the assigned Secretary of State Elections Division staff member contacts the Director to confirm that the board's reports have been received and reviewed to ensure the results match. The Director is responsible for releasing the board's staff.

PART TWO – POST-ELECTION CURE PERIOD

Each board of elections must be open to the public on each of the seven calendar days immediately following Election Day, and during the hours specified below, in order to allow voters to cure a deficiency on an absentee or provisional ballot, as provided for in state law:⁶

- Wednesday, August 4th 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 5th 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, August 6th 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 7th 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Sunday, August 8th 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Monday, August 9th 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 10th 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Whenever a board of elections receives an absentee ballot ID envelope that is missing required information or that contains information that does not conform to the voter's registration record, and the board of elections cannot determine the voter's eligibility without the missing or nonconforming information, the board of elections must contact the absentee voter to give an opportunity to supplement their ID envelope so the voter's ballot can be counted. The board must meet this requirement by issuing ([Secretary of State Form 11-S](#)) to the voter.⁷ When a telephone number or email address is available, boards must use that contact information to quickly notify the voter about the deficiency on their ID envelope. The voter must provide the necessary information in writing on ([Form 11-S](#)), either by in person delivery or by mail.⁸

If a board of elections has no voters with a deficiency on their absentee or provisional ballot after Election Day (i.e., there is nothing *possible* to cure for any voter that cast a ballot in the election) or all deficiencies have been cured, the board may return to its normal operating hours for the remainder of the cure period.

PART THREE – OFFICIAL CANVASS

I. TIMELINE FOR OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION

Boards of elections may begin the Official Canvass of the August 3, 2021 Special Congressional Primary Election no earlier than the 11th day after the election (Saturday, August 14, 2021) and must begin no later than the 15th day after the election (Wednesday, August 18,

⁶ [R.C. 3505.181\(B\)\(7\)](#); [R.C. 3509.06\(D\)\(3\)](#). See also *Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless v. Husted*, 837 F.3d 612 (6th Cir. 2016) (holding that the seven-day post-election cure period for absentee and provisional ballots established in state law is constitutional).

⁷ See [Election Official Manual Chapter 5](#), pages 30-32 and 35-37.

⁸ [R.C. 3509.06\(D\)\(3\)\(b\)](#).

2021). Each board must complete its Official Canvass and certify the results no later than the 21st day after the election (Tuesday, August 24, 2021).⁹

II. INSTRUCTIONS FOR OFFICIAL CANVASS

Each board of elections must follow the instructions for pre-canvass activity outlined in [Chapter 8, Section 1.03](#) of the Election Official Manual. Boards must also follow the rules and procedures outlined in [Chapter 8, Section 1.04](#) of the Election Official Manual for conducting the Official Canvass. Each board must reconcile results with records from the poll books and the voter registration system to ensure that only one ballot per voter is counted.¹⁰ This includes ensuring that all returned absentee ballots are logged in the voter registration system and reconciling the list of voters whose ballots were returned with the number of physical ballots returned.

Between the completion of the Unofficial Canvass and the certification of official results, board members and employees of the board of elections are prohibited from disclosing partial or final results of any contest in the election pursuant to [R.C. 3505.32](#).

III. FORMS FOR OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION

Templates for reporting results to the Secretary of State's Office, and, in some instances, to other boards of elections or public agencies will be sent to the boards separately.

All certifications and reports must be signed by the appropriate board personnel before being submitted to any of the following:

- The Secretary of State's Office;
- Another board of elections; or
- Another public entity.

Each board of elections must submit the signature form, which will be sent separately, for the purpose of certifying the Official Election Results. This submission must include the Supplemental Reports for Absentee Ballots and Provisional Ballots to the Secretary of State's Office.

A. CERTIFICATION OF OFFICIAL RESULTS

1. After a board completes its Official Canvass, it must email Results@OhioSoS.gov and attach a copy of the official vote total summary report generated by the board's voting system. This report must be clearly labeled "<County>'s Official Canvass," and it must contain only vote totals for that county.
2. The board of elections for the most populous county of any jurisdiction must generate a separate report from its voting system, create a report outside of its voting system, or use a reporting form that will be provided for this purpose. This report must be clearly labeled "<County>'s Official Canvass – Most Populous County." The report must include the total number of votes recorded for the office, question, or issues from each county in a multi-county jurisdiction and the total number of votes for all counties. The contest(s) for which

⁹ [R.C. 3513.22\(A\)](#).

¹⁰ [R.C. 3505.32\(D\)](#).

a board is the most populous county must be marked to clearly identify it as a contest containing vote totals from other counties.

B. ABSENTEE AND PROVISIONAL BALLOT SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

State law requires the Secretary of State to publish a report on the number of absentee and provisional ballots cast and counted. Each board of elections must provide this supplemental data for absentee and provisional ballots. Note that boards will be required to provide the total count of provisional ballots counted using the APRI Exception.¹¹ The reporting forms will be sent separately.

C. OFFICIAL SUMMARY RESULTS FOR LOCAL LIQUOR OPTIONS AND QUESTIONS AND ISSUES

Each board of elections must send a completed copy of ([Form 126-B](#)) to the Secretary of State's Office (via email to Results@OhioSoS.gov) and a copy of the completed form to the Ohio Division of Liquor Control via email (LiquorLicensingMailUnit@com.state.oh.us) or mail to the following address:

Division of Liquor Control
6606 Tussing Road
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-9005

The board of elections (most populous county if it is a multi-county issue) must certify the results of an election on tax levies and bond issues to the following offices and agencies:

- The county auditor of each county in which the election was held;
- The fiscal officer of the subdivision in which the election was held;
- The Tax Commissioner of the State of Ohio via email at: DTE@tax.state.oh.us; and
- The Secretary of State.

The board of elections of the most populous county must certify the results of an election on a school district income tax on ([Form 125-A](#)) to the following offices and agencies:

- The board of education that placed the issue on the ballot;
- The Tax Commissioner of the State of Ohio via email at DTE@tax.state.oh.us; and
- The Secretary of State.

D. ELECTRONIC PRECINCT-LEVEL OFFICIAL RESULTS FILE OF VOTES

Each board of elections must upload an electronic precinct-level results file of votes that includes all candidates that appeared on the county's ballots on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 via the CSS. Instructions regarding the upload process as well as the time to complete the upload will be sent separately.

¹¹ See [Chapter 6, Section 1.06](#) of the Election Official Manual for an explanation of the APRI Exception.

Additionally, boards of elections are required to provide, via email to Results@OhioSoS.gov, a separate report from the county's central tabulating system detailing turnout by precinct. Boards must also submit a Statement of Votes Cast ("SOVC") or similar report detailing the turnout by precinct with their turnout report. This report will vary by vendor and will be used to proof the turnout by precinct. Details outlining the content and generation of these reports will also be sent separately.

IV. TIMELINE FOR REPORTS

No later than 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, the Secretary of State's Office must receive each of the following:

- Certification report and signature form;
- Report forms;
- Electronic turnout detail by precinct; and
- SOVC report.

Each board should submit these reports as soon as the board has completed its official certification. Boards must not delay submitting the official certification forms because of a recount for any race or issue. All completed reports must be submitted via email to Results@OhioSoS.gov.

Every board of elections must maintain at its office a copy of each of its completed certification and report forms.

V. CERTIFICATES OF NOMINATION

Each board of elections must follow the instructions for issuing certificates of nomination within [Chapter 8, Section 1.04](#) of the Election Official Manual. For the Special Congressional Primary contests, Ohio law requires the most populous board to certify to the Secretary of State the names of the candidates nominated and the Secretary of State will issue certificates of nomination for the offices of representatives to congress.¹²

VI. RECOUNTS

The Secretary of State will order an automatic recount of a multicounty district race if the difference between votes cast for a declared winning nominee and a declared losing nominee is equal to or less than one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the total votes cast in the candidate contest.¹³ A requested recount may be conducted only when an automatic recount of a race or issue is not mandated by [R.C. 3515.011](#). The recount of a candidate contest may be requested by any candidate who was not declared nominated.¹⁴

Before scheduling and conducting a recount, please review the procedures set forth in state law and the instructions and procedures outlined in [Chapter 9, Section 1.02](#) of the Election Official Manual. Boards will be provided with a survey link to notify the Secretary of State of a recount. The survey will be provided via email along with the Official Canvass report forms. All boards must complete the survey, even if there is no recount in their county. If the board must conduct a recount, they must provide the information regarding the recount in a format provided by the

¹² [R.C. 3513.22\(E\)](#).

¹³ [R.C. 3515.011](#).

¹⁴ [R.C. 3515.01](#).

Secretary of State's Office in the email along with the Official Canvass Report forms. If the recount to be conducted is for a multi-county jurisdiction, the Secretary of State's Office will issue the notice of recount after receiving notice from the most populous county. If a recount changes vote totals, the board of elections must submit a properly completed and signed amended certification and abstract to Results@OhioSoS.gov.

VII. POST-ELECTION AUDIT

Every board of elections holding an election in August must conduct a post-election audit. The timeline for post-election audits depends on whether there is a recount, as explained below:

1. **If there is no recount:** The audit may start six days after the official results are declared and must be completed by the 21st day after that declaration. The board has five days after completion to certify those audit results to the Secretary. A form will be offered for certifying audit results.
2. **If there is a recount:** The audit must begin immediately after the board certifies the results of the recount and be complete within 14 days. The board has five days after completion to certify those audit results to the Secretary.

After Election Day, the Secretary of State's Office will provide more guidance for complying with this Directive's requirement to perform a post-election audit.

VIII. VOTER HISTORY AND PARTY AFFILIATION

All boards must upload voter history for the August 3, 2021 Special Congressional Primary Election to the Statewide Voter Registration Database no later than 14 days after the board's official certification. Counties with more than 100,000 registered voters must contact Robin Fields to schedule their upload in advance. Use the election name **2021_AUG_PRIM** to submit the history for the election.

For purposes of assigning voter history, a voter record should be marked as having voted in an election, only if any of the following are true:

- The voter signed the signature poll book on Election Day.
- The voter was issued an absentee ballot in-person during the period for in-person absentee voting.
- The voter timely returned the voter's identification envelope (including UOCAVA and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)), regardless of whether the ballot was eligible to be counted.
- The voter is an eligible elector of the State of Ohio and cast a provisional ballot, regardless of whether the ballot was eligible to be counted. **If a provisional ballot affirmation is used to register an individual to vote, the newly registered voter should be assigned voter history for casting a provisional ballot.**

Following each primary election, a board of elections must program its county voter registration system to reflect a voter's party affiliation in accordance with [R.C. 3513.05](#).

IX. RETENTION OF BALLOTS

Because ballots for the August 3, 2021 Special Congressional Primary Election include candidates for election to federal offices, each board of elections is required by state and federal law to retain all ballots prepared for the election – both used and unused – for 22 months following the election.¹⁵ If the board uses a voting system and software that captures images of ballots as they are scanned by a high-speed scanner, those images may be subject to disclosure pursuant to a public records request and must be retained. Accordingly, consult with the county prosecuting attorney regarding their retention.

PART FOUR – OPEN MEETINGS AND OBSERVERS DURING THE CANVASS

I. BOARD MEETINGS MUST BE IN PERSON

Consistent with [R.C. 3505.30](#), board members must open session at 6:30 a.m. on August 3, 2021, just as in-person voting begins. The temporary law that authorized a public body to hold meetings and hearings by means of teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology has expired.¹⁶ Although boards may not conduct their meetings remotely, boards are encouraged to live-stream meetings for public viewing.

II. OBSERVERS

Election observers are appointed by political parties, groups of candidates, or issue committees to observe the conduct of the election. A board must allow the presence of observers who present a valid certificate of appointment for the Unofficial or Official Canvass, recount, or post-election audit.¹⁷

The role of observers is limited to observing the proceedings of an election. Accordingly, while observers are permitted to watch and inspect, observers are never permitted to handle any election materials.¹⁸ They also must not interfere with election officials or poll workers doing their jobs or otherwise slow down the operation of the polling location, board of elections, or early vote center, nor may they interact with voters in a manner that interferes with or disrupts an election.¹⁹

Voting location managers, directors, deputy directors, and appointing authorities have the authority to administratively remove observers from their posts for behavior inconsistent with Ohio law or Secretary of State Directive, or that interferes with, impedes, or disrupts an election. Law enforcement officials have the statutory duty to remove observers at the order of one of the above-listed election officials.²⁰

¹⁵ [R.C. 3505.31](#); [52 U.S.C.S. 20701](#).

¹⁶ Section 12 of H.B. 404 of the 133rd General Assembly permitted virtual meetings until July 1, 2021.

¹⁷ [R.C. 3505.21](#).

¹⁸ [R.C. 3505.21](#).

¹⁹ [R.C. 3599.24](#).

²⁰ [R.C. 3501.33](#) and [3505.21](#).

PART FIVE – USE OF SECURE RECEPTACLES AND ELECTION OFFICIALS TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOTS OUTSIDE OF THE BOARDS OF ELECTIONS

I. AVAILABILITY AND MONITORING OF SECURE RECEPTACLES

For the August 3, 2021 Special Congressional Primary Election, boards of elections must follow the same rules and procedures as set forth in [Directive 2021-10](#) for the use of secure receptacle(s) outside the county board of elections. Boards are required to retrieve the contents upon the absentee ballot application deadline (12:00 noon on July 31, 2021) and the deadline for personal delivery of absentee ballots (7:30 p.m. on Election Day).

II. ELECTION OFFICIALS RECEIVING ABSENTEE BALLOTS OUTSIDE THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

As stated in [Directive 2021-10](#), boards of elections may have permanent²¹ or temporary board employees who have undergone a criminal background check (hereinafter, collectively referred to as “board employees”) collect absentee ballots outside the office of the board of elections from electors personally delivering²² their absentee ballots to the board. Boards of elections, by a vote of a majority of the board’s members, may have board employees collect absentee ballots directly outside of the office of the board of elections in addition to the secure receptacle(s) that are available 24 hours a day. Boards are strongly encouraged to do so whenever a high volume of traffic/turnout is anticipated.

If a majority of the board members vote to have board employees receive absentee ballots outside the office of the board of elections from electors who opt to personally deliver their ballots to the board, then the board’s plan must meet the requirements outlined in [Directive 2021-10](#), except that the Secretary of State’s Health Guidance for the May 4, 2021 Primary/Special Election no longer applies. Boards should consult with their county health department regarding any necessary health precautions. The bipartisan team of election officials may use any suitable container to collect ballots outside the board office.

If you have any questions regarding this Directive, please contact the Secretary of State’s elections counsel at (614) 728-8789.

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State

²¹ All permanent board of elections employees are required to have a criminal background check conducted. *See* [Election Official Manual Chapter 2](#), page 11.

²² An absentee voter may also have certain designated relatives deliver the voter’s ballot “to the director.” *See* [R.C. 3509.05\(A\)](#) (“spouse of the elector, the father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, brother, or sister of the whole or half blood, or the son, daughter, adopting parent, adopted child, stepparent, stepchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece of the elector.”).