



DIRECTIVE 2022-32

April 1, 2022

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

Re: May 3, 2022 Primary Election Instructions

SUMMARY

On March 30, 2022, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio held a hearing in *Gonidakis, et al. v. LaRose, et al.* regarding the Ohio General Assembly redistricting plan.¹ The federal court decided that they would not intervene at this time to select new Ohio House and Senate district plans, nor would the court move the primary election date for all other races not affected by General Assembly redistricting so there could be a single primary date. Thus, this Directive provides instructions to proceed with the May 3, 2022 Primary Election without the offices of Ohio House, Ohio Senate, and State Central Committee on the ballot.

INSTRUCTIONS

I. TRANSMITTING UOCAVA BALLOTS FOR MAY 3, 2022 PRIMARY

Boards must proceed with a primary election on May 3, 2022 without the contests for the Ohio House, Ohio Senate, and State Central Committee. [Directive 2022-31](#) required all county boards of elections to prepare their ballots without those contests and notify my Office as soon as the ballots were reprogrammed and finalized, but prior to sending any ballots.

Boards are now authorized to issue ballots to Uniformed Services and Overseas Citizens' Absentee Voting Act ("UOCAVA") voters as soon as possible, but no later than April 5, 2022 and should work over the weekend to achieve this requirement.

Boards must submit the Form 12-M accompanying this Directive no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 5, 2022 via ElectCollect. After submitting the Form 12-M, the Director and Deputy Director must print, sign, and email the Form 12-M to Results@OhioSoS.gov. If a board transmits ballots to UOCAVA voters before April 5, 2022, the board should still wait until April 5, 2022 to complete and submit the form. This ensures that the Secretary of State's Office can accurately report the number of requested and transmitted UOCAVA ballots to our federal partners.

¹ Case No. 2:22-CV-773 (S.D. Ohio 2022).

II. UPDATED FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE (“FWAB”) NOTICE

Each board must update the 46-Day FWAB notice to include the following information:

“The offices of State Senator, State Representative, and Member of State Central Committee will not appear on the May 3, 2022 Primary Election ballot.”

Form 120 (updated 04-22) is updated to include this language. The offices and candidates for State Senator, State Representative, and Member of State Central Committee must be removed from the FWAB for the May 3, 2022 Primary Election.

III. RESOLVING ANY OUTSTANDING PROTESTS

Any protests filed against candidates for offices *other than* Ohio House, Ohio Senate, and State Central Committee should already be resolved. If a board of elections has not yet resolved a protest affecting the May 3, 2022 Primary Election, the board must notify our Office via Intake@OhioSoS.gov and schedule a hearing immediately.

IV. LOGIC AND ACCURACY TESTING

If a board of elections has not started Logic and Accuracy (“L&A”) Testing² for the May 3, 2022 Primary, it must first complete L&A testing for every component of the voting system to be used for in-person absentee voting and the scanning of absentee ballots received by mail. Once that is complete, the board must immediately proceed to perform L&A testing for all other voting machines and automatic tabulating equipment to be used on Election Day.

V. ORDERING BALLOTS

If a board of elections has not already done so, the board must immediately place its print order for Election Day ballots. If the board outsources the printing and mailing of absentee ballots, the board must communicate with its vendor to ensure absentee ballots are properly tested and ready for mailing as soon as possible. Boards must review [Chapter 5](#), Section 5.07 of the Election Official Manual regarding appropriate ballot quantities.

Boards must provide a copy of each absentee ballot (candidates and questions and issues) by April 5, 2022 to the Secretary of State’s Office. Boards must upload ballots to SharePoint.

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

² See [R.C. 3506.14](#) and [Chapter 5](#), Section 5.08 of the Election Official Manual.