



DIRECTIVE 2022-44

September 21, 2022

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

Re: Revised Form of Ballot and Statewide Candidates for November 8, 2022 General Election

SUMMARY

On September 20, 2022, the Supreme Court of Ohio ordered the Secretary of State to certify Terpsehore P. Maras as an independent candidate for Secretary of State in the November 8, 2022 General Election.¹ As requested by the candidate at the time of the petition filing, the candidate's name will appear on the ballot as Terpsehore Tore Maras.

This Directive provides: (1) a revised certified form of the official ballot to be used in the November 8, 2022 General Election; (2) the names of the candidates who have been certified by the Ohio Secretary of State; (3) the updated list of individuals who have filed a valid declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate for a statewide office; and (4) language for statewide issues to be printed on those ballots.² This Directive rescinds and replaces [Directive 2022-43](#).

INSTRUCTIONS

Please note that, in lieu of issuing a separate Directive with specific details covering ballot layout, proofing, and quantities, the Secretary of State's Office is issuing only this Directive, which must be used in conjunction with [Chapter 5 of the Election Official Manual](#) when preparing ballots for this election. [Chapter 5 of the Election Official Manual](#) provides specific instructions on the following subjects:

- Ballot format;
- Voter instructions;
- Ballot stubs;
- Candidate ballots (names, restrictions, political party, rotation, etc.);
- Questions and issues ballot;
- Ballot proofs;
- Bid requirements;
- Ballot quantities;
- Logic and accuracy testing; and
- Public test.

¹ *State ex rel. Maras v. LaRose*, Slip Opinion No. 2022-Ohio-3295 (September 20, 2022).

² [R.C. 3505.01](#).

I. VERIFYING DISTRICT RELATIONSHIPS

Before programming any aspect of the central tabulating system for the November 8, 2022 General Election, boards of elections must verify the accuracy of district relationships in the central tabulating system against the county's voter registration system.³ This is to ensure that each voter receives the correct ballot style (i.e., the correct combination of candidate offices and issues) based upon that voter's residential address.

II. OFFICIAL BALLOT FORMS

The certified ballot form accompanying this Directive is for offices to be elected at the November 8, 2022 General Election. The ballot form contains the correct title for each office as that title should appear on your county's ballot and the order in which offices must appear on the ballot for all voting systems. **The ballot form also contains the name of each statewide candidate exactly as the candidate's name must appear on all ballots for all voting systems.**

The names of all candidates, who have not withdrawn pursuant to [R.C. 3513.30](#) (see Section VI of this Directive), must be arranged, rotated, and printed upon the ballot in accordance with the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Chapters [3505](#), [3506](#), and [3513](#) and [Chapter 5 of the Election Official Manual](#).

III. BALLOT PROOFING AND PRINTING

Due to the necessary changes to the ballot, each board must carefully review and proof every ballot style to ensure no other changes are inadvertently made, especially in spacing and alignment, when adding a candidate to the ballot. Boards must follow the instructions for proofing the ballot as outlined in [Chapter 5 of the Election Official Manual](#). In addition, each board must ensure that:

- The updated ballot file is provided to the ballot printing vendor for the production of absentee and Election Day ballots and that all such ballot files are reviewed and approved before production;
- Any absentee ballot that is printed and mailed by a vendor is properly proofed and tested according to the instructions in [Chapter 7 of the Election Official Manual](#);
- The sample ballot on the board's website is updated by Friday, September 23, 2022;
- The updated absentee ballots are provided to the Secretary of State's Office using SharePoint;
- The remote ballot marking system is updated to include all eligible candidates; and
- The 46-Day Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot notice is properly updated to include all candidates.

³ Boards must proof and verify the accuracy of all districts including, but not limited to, Congressional, Ohio House, and Ohio Senate districts.

IV. ORDER OF OFFICES FOR GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

A. Order of Offices

The order of offices for ballots shall be as follows:⁴

- Governor and Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- Auditor of State
- Secretary of State
- Treasurer of State
- Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (Full term commencing 1-1-2023)
- Justice of the Supreme Court (Full term commencing 1-1-2023)
- Justice of the Supreme Court (Full term commencing 1-2-2023)
- United States Senator
- Representative to Congress
- State Senator
- State Representative
- Judge of the Court of Appeals
- County Commissioner
- County Auditor
- Member of State Board of Education
- Judge of the Court of Common Pleas
- Judge of County Court

Note that the offices of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice of the Supreme Court, and Judge of the Court of Appeals appear in a different order than in the past. [Senate Bill 80](#) (134th General Assembly) changed the law so that they appear with other partisan offices, meaning that candidates nominated in the primary election will have a political party designation on the ballot. S.B. 80 did not change the law regarding the offices of judge of municipal court, county court, or court of common pleas.⁵

B. Blank Spaces for Write-In Votes

A write-in space must be provided on the ballot for every office for which the board of elections received a valid declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate.⁶

C. Write-In Candidates for Statewide Office

The following are valid write-in candidates for statewide office:

Governor and Lieutenant Governor

- Timothy Grady and Dayna Bickley
- Craig Patton and Collin Cook
- Renea Turner and Adina Pelletier
- Marshall Usher and Shannon Walker

⁴ [R.C. 3505.03](#) and [3503.04](#).

⁵ [R.C. 3505.03](#). See [Advisory 2021-03](#) for more detail regarding Senate Bill 80 (134th General Assembly).

⁶ [R.C. 3513.041](#).

U.S. Senator

- John Cheng
- Matthew R. Esh
- Stephen Faris
- Shane Hoffman
- LaShondra Tinsley

D. Full or Unexpired Term

For judicial offices, the designation of “Full Term Commencing,” followed by the appropriate date, must appear on the ballot. If for an unexpired term, the designation “Unexpired Term Ending,” followed by the term ending date of the office, must appear on the ballot.⁷ The judicial offices for that court should appear in chronological order by the date the terms commence, followed by unexpired terms in descending order based on the ending date of the term.

For all other offices, the designation of term is necessary only when there is an unexpired term to elect (e.g., if a candidate is running for an unexpired term for prosecutor) and where two or more full terms for the office are to appear on the ballot (e.g., municipal court judge), in which case the offices should appear in chronological order by the date the terms commence. If there is both full and unexpired term for the same office, place the full term first followed by the unexpired term.

A two-point rule must separate the title of the office from the names of the candidates for that office.⁸

V. OFFICIAL QUESTIONS AND ISSUES BALLOT

Offices for which candidates may be elected are presented on the ballot first, followed by the questions and issues.⁹ The Official Questions and Issues Ballot must be used for all voting systems. The ballot form contains the exact ballot language that must be used for the two statewide issues on the ballot.

The ballot form also contains examples of some of the local questions and issues that may appear on the ballot in your county. Not every category or type of question/issue will appear on every ballot in every county, so please apply as much of the form as is appropriate to the ballots in your county. Additional instructions on headings, ballot language, and percentage of votes can be found in [Chapter 5 of the Election Official Manual](#).

Questions and issues must be grouped together in the following political subdivision order for elections held in 2022:

- State
- School and Other Districts
- County
- Municipal
- Township

⁷ [R.C. 3505.03\(D\)](#)

⁸ [R.C. 3505.08\(A\)](#).

⁹ [R.C. 3505.06](#).

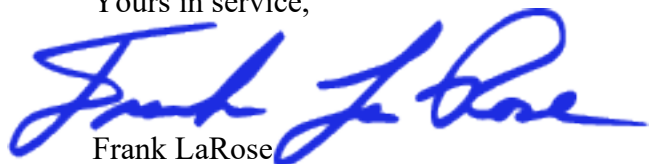
Each board of elections may determine the specific order in which the questions/issues within each group are placed on the ballot in that county, however, a board should adopt a method for doing so (i.e., ordered alphabetically or by date filed, etc.). Absentee ballots must contain identical ordering of issues within groups to regular ballots. Please review the appropriate sections of the Ohio Revised Code, local charter (if applicable), and the [Questions and Issues Handbook](#) for ballot language and formats that are not on the attached Official Questions and Issues Ballot.

VI. CANDIDATE WITHDRAWALS

Pursuant to Ohio law, when a person withdraws their candidacy after the seventieth day before Election Day, a board of elections must not remove the name of the withdrawn candidate from the ballots. If a candidate withdrew after **August 30, 2022**, the board of elections must post a notice at each polling place on Election Day, and enclose a notice with each absentee ballot stating that votes for the withdrawn candidate will be void and will not be counted. If the name is not removed from all ballots before Election Day, the votes for the withdrawn candidate are void and must not be counted.¹⁰

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

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State

¹⁰ [R.C. 3513.30](#).