



DIRECTIVE 2023-18

September 21, 2023

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

Re: Revised Form of the Ballot for the November 7, 2023 General Election

SUMMARY

On September 19, 2023, the Ohio Supreme Court issued an opinion in *State ex rel. Ohioans United for Reproductive Rights v. Ohio Ballot Bd.* ordering the Ohio Ballot Board to make a minor revision to one phrase of the State Issue 1 ballot language for use in the November 7, 2023 General Election. Pursuant to the Court's order, the Ballot Board met on September 21, 2023 to adopt the revised language.

This Directive replaces the certified form of the official ballot attached to [Directive 2023-17](#), and the revised language **must** be used in the November 7, 2023 General Election. In all other aspects, Sections I through VI of the Directive 2023-17 remain in effect. The attached Official Questions and Issues Ballot form must be used for all voting systems to present voters with the statewide issue.

The attached Official Questions and Issues Ballot form contains the exact ballot language to use for State Issue 1. There have been no changes to the ballot language to be used for State Issue 2. Additional instructions on headings, ballot language, and percentage of votes are found in Chapter 5 of the Election Official Manual.

As a reminder, this Directive must be used alongside [Chapter 5 of the Election Official Manual](#) when preparing ballots for this election. [Chapter 5](#) provides specific instructions on the following relevant subjects:

- Ballot format;
- Voter instructions;
- Ballot stubs;
- Questions and issues ballot;
- Ballot proofs;
- Bid requirements;
- Ballot quantities;

- Logic and accuracy testing; and
- Public test.

INSTRUCTIONS

I. REPROGRAMMING OF THE ELECTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The board must reprogram its election management system to incorporate the revised ballot language for State Issue 1. Once this update is performed, all logic and accuracy testing must be performed on all voting equipment utilized for the November 7, 2023 General Election.

Please note that SOS ID Codes transmitted to the county through SharePoint on Thursday, September 7, 2023 are still accurate codes.

II. UPDATING THE BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR STATE ISSUE 1

The board must revise the ballot language for State Issue 1 to align with the official sample ballot. This includes, but is not limited to, updating the board's:

- ☐ Official ballot;
- ☐ Sample ballot;
- ☐ Remote ballot marking system;
- ☐ Website (including the 46-day FWAB notice).

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