

DIRECTIVE 2023-38

December 20, 2023

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

Re: Updated Election Official Manual

BACKGROUND

Consistent with our goals of continuing to provide clear and uniform instructions for all boards of elections and continual improvement in election administration, I am issuing replacement permanent Directives for all chapters of the Ohio Election Official Manual ("EOM"). Some chapters had substantive changes, others were simply renumbered in the process. The chapters with substantive changes were previously published as draft Directives on the Secretary of State's website and were available for public comment.¹

The previous Directives that constitute these eight chapters are hereby rescinded. All Directives no longer in effect are archived on the Secretary of State's website.²

INSTRUCTIONS

The following updated permanent Directives, and the corresponding chapters of the EOM, are hereby issued and in full, immediate effect:

Directive 2023-21	Chapter 1	Introduction
Directive 2023-22	Chapter 2	Board of Elections Organization and Operations
Directive 2023-23	Chapter 3	Security
Directive 2023-24	Chapter 4	Voter Registration
Directive 2023-25	Chapter 5	Ballots
Directive 2023-26	Chapter 6	Precincts, Polling Locations, and Precinct Election Officials
Directive 2023-27	Chapter 7	Absentee Voting
Directive 2023-28	Chapter 8	Provisional Voting
Directive 2023-29	Chapter 9	Election Day Voting
Directive 2023-30	Chapter 10	Canvassing the Vote

¹ [R.C. 3501.053\(A\)](#).

² [R.C. 3501.053\(B\)](#).

Directive 2023-31	Chapter 11	Post-Election Activities
Directive 2023-32	Chapter 12	Voting Systems
Directive 2023-33	Chapter 13	Petitions
Directive 2023-34	Chapter 14	Candidates
Directive 2023-35	Chapter 15	Political Parties
Directive 2023-36	Chapter 16	Statewide Initiative and Referendum
Directive 2023-37	Chapter 17	Miscellaneous Duties
	Chapter 18	Resources

All boards of elections' members, directors, deputy directors, and staff are strongly encouraged to review the new Directives and bookmark the EOM in their web browsers so that each person may easily access and use it on a regular basis. With links to relevant supporting documentation (e.g., statutes, court decisions, etc.) and regular updates, the electronic format of the EOM is designed for ease of use and is less likely to become an outdated resource as compared to a printed hardcopy. The EOM is available on [OhioSOS.gov](https://ohiosos.gov).

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

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State