

DIRECTIVE 2024-20

August 27, 2024

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

Re: Ballots for November 5, 2024, General Election

SUMMARY

This directive provides the certified forms of the official ballots to be used in the November 5, 2024, general election.

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 \(Ballots\)](#) of the Election Official Manual (EOM) when preparing ballots for this election. [Chapter 5](#) of the EOM provides specific instructions on the following subjects:

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

I. VERIFYING DISTRICT RELATIONSHIPS

Before programming any aspect of the central tabulating system for the November 5, 2024, general election, boards of elections must verify the accuracy of district

relationships in the central tabulating system against the county's voter registration system. This is to ensure that each voter receives the correct ballot style (that is, the correct combination of candidate offices and issues) based upon that voter's residential address.

As a part of the review for accuracy of district relationships between the county's voter registration system and its tabulating system, the board must ensure the following by September 13, 2024:

- A. The Secretary of State's precinct codes (three alphabet letters) are accurate in the tabulating system and, if appropriate, the county's voter registration system; and
- B. The precinct names correspond between the two systems.

Note: It is imperative that a board of elections upload to the statewide voter registration database (SWVRD) any changes to district relationships (including wards and precincts) that have been made locally in the county's voter registration system (VRS). Using the report provided by Allison Scott on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, each board must review the report to ensure that all Secretary of State Precinct ID Codes provided on the report match the board's voter registration system. Boards will have until Friday, September 13, 2024, to return the reviewed report noting any changes. In addition, the board must verify at least one voter record for each precinct in the SWVRD against the county's VRS to ensure accuracy.

II. OFFICIAL BALLOT FORMS

The certified ballot form accompanying this directive is for offices to be elected at the November 5, 2024, 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, 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 EOM.

III. ORDER OF OFFICES FOR ALL BALLOTS¹

A. Order of Offices

The order of offices for ballots shall be as follows:

- President and Vice President
- Justices of the Supreme Court
- U.S. Senator
- Representative to Congress
- State Senator
- State Representative
- Judge of Court of Appeals
- County Commissioners
- County Auditor (if a vacancy occurred that requires an unexpired term election)
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas
- Sheriff
- County Recorder
- County Treasurer
- County Engineer
- Coroner
- State Board of Education
- Judge of Court of Common Pleas
- Judge of the County Court

B. Write-In Vote Blank Spaces²

A write-in space must be provided on the ballot for every office for which the board of elections or Secretary of State received a valid declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate. The Secretary of State will certify the names of valid write-in candidates for President and Vice President, Justice of the Supreme Court, or U.S. Senator who filed with the Secretary of State's office after the August 26, 2024, filing deadline.

¹ [R.C. 3505.03](#)

² [R.C. 3513.041](#)

IV. OFFICIAL QUESTIONS AND ISSUES BALLOT

Offices for which candidates may be nominated or elected are presented on the ballot first, followed by the questions and issues. 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 statewide issue on the ballot. Please note that the ballot language for State Issue 1 is currently subject to litigation. Should the ballot language for State Issue 1 change, a new certified form of the ballot would be issued as soon as possible.

The attached ballot form 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 EOM.

Questions and issues must be grouped together in the following political subdivision order for elections held in 2024.³

- A. State
- B. Municipal
- C. Township
- D. Schools and Other Districts
- E. County

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 (for example, 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.

³ [Question and Issues Handbook, P. 9, "Rotation of Questions/Issues on the Ballot"; R.C. 3505.06\(B\).](#)

V. ABSENTEE BALLOTS⁴

Each board of elections must have absentee ballots printed and ready for use by Friday, September 20, 2024, (46 days before the November 5, 2024, general election) for Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) voters and by October 8, 2024, for regular (non-UOCAVA) absentee voters.

A copy of each absentee ballot (candidates and questions and issues) must be sent to the Secretary of State's office at least 47 days before the election, by Thursday, September 19, 2024. Absentee ballots must be uploaded to the BOE SharePoint site.

VI. CANDIDATES CERTIFIED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

C. For President and Vice President

Nonparty candidate

- For President
Richard Duncan
- For Vice President
Mitchell Preston Bupp

Democratic Party

- For President
Kamala D. Harris
- For Vice President
Tim Walz

Libertarian Party

- For President
Chase Oliver
- For Vice President
Mike ter Maat

Other-party candidate

- For President
Peter Sonski
- For Vice President
Lauren Onak

⁴ [R.C. 3509.01](#); [R.C. 3511.04](#).

Other-party candidate

- For President
Jill Stein
- For Vice President
Anita Rios

Republican Party

- For President
Donald J. Trump
- For Vice President
JD Vance

D. Justice of the Supreme Court (Full term commencing 1/1/2025)

Democratic Party

- Michael P. Donnelly

Republican Party

- Megan E. Shanahan

E. Justice of the Supreme Court (Full term commencing 1/2/2025)

Republican Party

- Joseph T. Deters

Democratic Party

- Melody J. Stewart

F. Justice of the Supreme Court (Unexpired term ending 12/31/2026)

Democratic Party

- Lisa Forbes

Republican Party

- Daniel R. Hawkins

G. U.S. Senator

Democratic Party

- Sherrod Brown

Libertarian Party

- Donald Kissick

Republican Party

- Bernie Moreno

VII. CANDIDATES FOR OTHER DISTRICT OFFICE (for example, Congress, Court of Appeals Judge, State Senate, and State Representative)

Candidates for other district offices must be certified to the appropriate board(s) of elections by the most-populous county board of elections of the district. A less-populous county of a district that has not received a list of candidates from the most populous county must contact that most populous county before programming ballots.

If you have any questions regarding this directive or [Chapter 5](#) of the EOM, please contact the Secretary of State's elections counsel at 614-728-8789.

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State