

DIRECTIVE 2024-25

September 18, 2024

To: All County Boards of Elections

Board Members, Directors, and Deputy Directors

Re: Revised Form of the Ballot for the November 5, 2024 General Election

SUMMARY

On September 16, 2024, the Supreme Court of Ohio issued its decision in *State ex rel. Citizens Not Politicians v. Ohio Ballot Bd.*, Slip Opinion No. 2024-Ohio-4547, regarding the summary ballot language for State Issue 1. The Court upheld the overwhelming majority of the summary ballot language approved by the Ballot Board. However, the Court did order the Ballot Board to revise two sections of the State Issue 1 summary ballot language for use in the November 5, 2024, general election. Pursuant to the Court's order, the Ballot Board met on September 18, 2024, to adopt the revised language.

This directive replaces the certified form of the official ballot attached to [Directive 2024-23](#), and the revised language **must** be used in the November 5, 2024, general election. In all other aspects, Sections I through VII of [Directive 2024-23](#) remain in effect. The attached Official General Election Ballot form must be used for all voting systems to present voters with the statewide issue.

The attached Official General Election Ballot form contains the exact ballot language to use for State Issue 1. 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 and Directive 2024-09](#) 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;
- Public test.

INSTRUCTIONS

Reprogramming of the Election Management System

The boards of elections must reprogram their election management system to incorporate the revised ballot language for State Issue 1. Once these updates are performed, all logic and accuracy testing must be performed on all voting equipment utilized for the November 5, 2024, general election.

Please note that Secretary of State Export ID Codes transmitted to the counties through SharePoint on Friday, August 30, 2024 are still accurate codes.

Updating the Ballot Language for State Issue 1

The boards of elections 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 boards':

- ☐ Official ballot;
- ☐ Sample ballot;
- ☐ Remote ballot marking system;
- ☐ Website (including the 46-day Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (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