

DIRECTIVE 2025-32

August 5, 2025

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

Re: Updated Election Official Manual

BACKGROUND

The Election Official Manual ("EOM") is a foundational resource for election officials across Ohio. It outlines board responsibilities, office operations, and all aspects of election administration. Following the 2024 general election cycle, I asked my team to prioritize modernizing the EOM for better clarity and usability for board members and employees, while maintaining the original meaning of the statutory requirements.

Today, I am issuing replacement permanent directives for all chapters of the Ohio Election Official Manual as part of this effort to provide clear, uniform instruction and continual improvement of election administration. We previewed these changes for you at our annual conference in June, and the updated chapters were published in July as draft directives on the Secretary of State's website for public review and comment. We appreciate everyone who took the time to share feedback with us, and my office reviewed and considered all comments.¹

Key updates include the following:

- simplified language
- streamlined formatting
- more bullet points, numbered lists, and checklists
- merged redundant topics where appropriate
- addition of pull-out checklists for key components, allowing users to easily reference essential information

All previous directives that constituted the EOM are hereby rescinded and archived on the Secretary of State's website.²

¹ [R.C. 3501.053\(A\).](#)

² [R.C. 3501.053\(B\).](#)

INSTRUCTIONS

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

Directive 2025-33	Chapter 1	Introduction
Directive 2025-34	Chapter 2	Board of Elections Organization and Operations
Directive 2025-35	Chapter 3	Security
Directive 2025-36	Chapter 4	Voter Registration
Directive 2025-37	Chapter 5	Ballots
Directive 2025-38	Chapter 6	Precincts, Polling Locations, and Precinct Election Officials
Directive 2025-39	Chapter 7	Absentee Voting
Directive 2025-40	Chapter 8	Provisional Voting
Directive 2025-41	Chapter 9	Election Day Voting
Directive 2025-42	Chapter 10	Canvassing the Vote
Directive 2025-43	Chapter 11	Post-Election Activities
Directive 2025-44	Chapter 12	Election Equipment and Voting Systems
Directive 2025-45	Chapter 13	Petitions
Directive 2025-46	Chapter 14	Candidates
Directive 2025-47	Chapter 15	Political Parties
Directive 2025-48	Chapter 16	Miscellaneous Duties
Appendix	A	Resources

All boards of elections members, directors, deputy directors, and staff must review the new directives and are encouraged to bookmark the EOM in their web browsers so that everyone may easily access and use it on a regular basis. The electronic version includes links to relevant supporting documentation (e.g., statutes, court decisions, etc.) and is available at www.OhioSoS.gov/directives.

If you have any questions regarding this directive or the Election Official Manual, please contact the Secretary of State's elections counsel at 614-728-8789.

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose

Ohio Secretary of State