

DIRECTIVE 2026-04

February 3, 2026

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. Today, I am issuing replacement permanent directives for several chapters of the EOM to include updated guidance reflecting changes in election law resulting from Senate Bill 293, recent data integrity directives, and other minor clarifications and updates to the law. These updated chapters were published January 21, 2026, 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

All previous directives that constituted the EOM are hereby rescinded and archived on the Secretary of State's website.²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 2026-05	Chapter 2	Board of Elections Organization and Operations
Directive 2026-06	Chapter 4	Voter Registration
Directive 2026-07	Chapter 5	Ballots
Directive 2026-08	Chapter 6	Precincts, Polling Locations, and Precinct Election Officials
Directive 2026-09	Chapter 7	Absentee Voting
Directive 2026-10	Chapter 8	Provisional Voting

¹ [R.C. 3501.053\(A\)](#).

² [R.C. 3501.053\(B\)](#).

Directive 2026-11	Chapter 9	Election Day Voting
Directive 2026-12	Chapter 10	Canvassing the Vote
Directive 2026-13	Chapter 11	Post-Election Activities
Directive 2026-14	Chapter 14	Candidates
Directive 2026-15	Chapter 15	Political Parties

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