

DIRECTIVE 2026-46

September 3, 2026

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

Re: Voter Registration Data Integrity – Verification Updates

SUMMARY

As you know, Ohio law requires the Secretary of State and the 88 county boards of elections to “maintain the accuracy of the statewide voter registration database.”¹

Thanks to the partnership between you and our office, Ohio’s statewide voter registration database is the most accurate it has ever been, but a constantly changing list requires ongoing maintenance. This directive is the next step in that routine process.

More than three years ago, we worked with the Ohio General Assembly to draft and enact the DATA Act, making Ohio the first state in the nation to modernize the definition, management, and retention of voter data. The law also created the first full-time Office of Data Analytics and Archives within the Secretary of State’s office. Since then, our data team has worked with county boards of elections to standardize voter data and strengthen list-maintenance practices across all 88 counties.

As part of that initiative, we implemented an expanded voter data reconciliation program last year to address incomplete or mismatched registration records. Directive 2025-52 required boards of elections to update these records using data maintained by the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles.² Today’s directive builds on that work by instructing boards to resolve additional voter registration records that lack the last four digits of the voter’s Social Security number (SSN4), driver license number, or state identification number.

Boards must comply with [Section 4.11 of the Election Official Manual](#) by:

- Researching possible match-pairs

¹ [R.C. 3503.151](#).

² [52 U.S.C. § 21803](#) and [R.C. 3503.15](#).

- Updating incomplete voter registration records
- Removing duplicate voter registration records

INSTRUCTIONS

Building on our routine, ongoing list maintenance process, boards of elections are instructed to access additional possible-match pairs through the “BMV Missing” Voter Registration Audit Dashboard on the BOE Portal. These additional voter records are missing the BMV_ID or the SSN4. Potential matches were generated using First Name, Last Name, Date of Birth, and either Middle Initial or House Number and Zip Code.

There are two categories for these types of possible-match pairs missing information:

- BMV ID is blank in the SWVRD record, and the match-pairs match exactly on SSN, DOB, and First and Last Name.
- SSN4 is blank in the SWVRD record, and the match-pairs match exactly on BMV ID, DOB, and First and Last Name.

Accordingly, boards must review the dashboard to confirm and verify that the records represent the same person. If so, board staff must complete the voter record in the county voter registration system and the SWVRD with the missing information provided.

Note: Voter registration records must not be assigned voter-initiated activity, and any records in confirmation status must not be updated to active status as a result of this information update.

Further instructions regarding the possible match-pair review will be available on the Voter Registration Audit Dashboard. This work must be completed by September 24, 2026.

If, after reviewing the records, the board cannot verify and confirm the voter registration information, the board is required to follow the instructions in accordance with Section 4.11 of the Election Official Manual.

If you have any questions about this directive or need assistance, please contact Intake@OhioSoS.gov or 614-728-8789.

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose

Ohio Secretary of State