

DIRECTIVE 2025-54

November 13, 2025

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

Re: Special United States Senate Election

BACKGROUND

On January 9, 2025, U.S. Senator, now Vice President JD Vance announced his resignation from the United States Senate, effective January 10, 2025. Pursuant to Ohio law, the vacancy must be filled by a special election at the next regular state election, and partisan candidates for that election must be nominated in a special senate primary.¹ Governor DeWine issued a writ of election on October 29, 2025, to establish the dates of the special senate primary and special general election.

The special primary election for the office of United States Senator will be conducted during the primary election on May 5, 2026. The special election to fill the unexpired term ending January 3, 2029, will be held during the regular state election on November 3, 2026.

PETITIONS

Persons seeking the nomination of a political party for Ohio's U.S. Senate seat (unexpired term ending January 3, 2029)² must file [Form 2-C](#) (Declaration of Candidacy – Party Primary – United States Senator). Persons seeking to run as an independent candidate must file [Form 3-D](#) (Nominating Petition and Statement of Candidacy – United States Senator). Persons seeking to run as a write-in candidate must file [Form 13-C](#) (Declaration of Intent to be a Write-in Candidate for Office of United States Senator or United States Representative). All regularly scheduled filing dates remain in effect for candidates

¹ [R.C. 3521.02; R.C. 3513.32.](#)

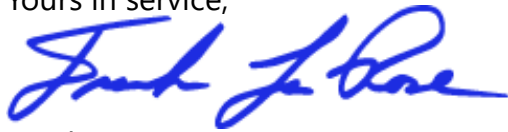
² U.S. Const. Amend. XX, Sec. 1, provides that "[t]he terms of the President and Vice President shall end at the noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3rd day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin."

seeking to fill the U.S. Senate seat. Boards of elections shall give public notice of the special election as provided in [R.C. 3501.03](#).³

If a prospective candidate has questions regarding signature and petition requirements, you may refer them to the [2026 Candidate Requirement Guide](#), which is available on the Secretary of State's website.

Thank you for your work in preparing for and conducting these elections. If you have questions, please contact my office's Elections Counsel at 614-728-8789.

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose

Ohio Secretary of State

³ [R.C. 3521.02](#).