



Fellow Ohioan,

Since I began serving as your Ohio Secretary of State last year, my team and I have been committed to creating a workplace that reflects the strength and diversity of our state and, in turn, serves *all* Ohioans. Early on, we realized to achieve our goal meant building a team of community advisors and partners who could speak to the unique needs of minorities and underserved Ohioans and provide valuable insight into meeting those needs. You have played a critical role in this effort, and as we enter the 2020 presidential election season, the time has never been better to formally announce our collaboration. As a leader in your community and throughout Ohio, you understand that increased civic participation and entrepreneurship are profound ways to improve lives and transform communities. And that's what we will be all about, helping increase voting and business ownership in Ohio's minority communities. As the Ohio Secretary of State, these are two areas where I can make a profound impact and help lift up my fellow Ohioans – but I need your help to be able to do so effectively. That's why I am so excited to say thank you for your willingness to join the effort and welcome you to our Diversity & Empowerment Council. Now let's get to work building a prosperous economy and thriving democracy *for all Ohioans!*

With your experience and guidance, I know we can accomplish great things not only for Ohio's minority communities, but for our entire state. I firmly believe Ohio is stronger when every citizen is heard at the ballot box and I know that starting a business is the American dream that can create generational wealth and lift people up to a better life. I commit to working hand-in-hand with you and other leaders as we better understand and identify barriers to voting and entrepreneurial success while building engagement strategies and solutions that increase civic participation among minority communities.

To put it plainly, this council will serve as a bridge between my office and our minority communities – to strengthen relationships and promote engagement. By increasing confidence in voting, entrepreneurship, and our state government, we will become better leaders, better listeners, and build a better Ohio. Finally, I want you all to hold me accountable, challenge me to be the best leader I can be, and help me keep my promise to be a Secretary of State who serves all Ohioans. Iron sharpens iron and the last thing I need is people to tell me what I want to hear...I'll rely on you to tell me what I need to hear!

I appreciate your partnership and friendship as we prepare for November and the years and decades to come.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank LaRose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Frank LaRose  
Ohio Secretary of State