



JENNIFER BRUNNER
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ADVISORY NO. 2007-01

March 7, 2007

To: All County Boards of Elections

Re: Ohio Voter Registration Form Line 15

This Advisory concerns Line 15 of the Ohio Voter Registration Form, which is the line that requires an individual who is paid to register voters to provide his or her name, signature, and the date that the individual completed the form.

On September 8, 2006, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio issued an order requiring Ohio elections officials to accept properly completed and otherwise valid Voter Registration Forms regardless of whether the information on Line 15 is provided or not. The effect of the court's order is that no otherwise valid voter registration form may be rejected solely based upon Line 15 not being completed. However, at that time, the court specifically allowed for the continued use of the existing Voter Registration Form that contained Line 15 (even though the Line 15 signature requirement is no longer to be enforced) until a new Voter Registration Form could be issued.

Since the Line 15 signature requirement still may not be enforced, our office has issued a new Voter Registration Form with Line 15 omitted. The new Voter Registration Form is available to Boards of Elections on the Secretary of State's "Extranet" website.

Boards of Elections may continue to use the Voter Registration Forms containing Line 15 that they have in stock until their current supply is exhausted. However, when a Board of Elections orders a new supply of Voter Registration Forms, it must use the current version of the Voter Registration Form without Line 15 that is now on the Extranet and our office website.

Moreover, we suggest that Boards of Elections should only order a sufficient number of Voter Registration Forms without Line 15 to complete the 2007 election cycle, because the Ohio General Assembly could adopt new legislation at some point which would require the Voter Registration Form to be revised.

Please direct further questions to the Elections Division at (614) 466-2585.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennifer Brunner".

Jennifer Brunner
Secretary of State