

ADVISORY 2009-01

February 5, 2009

TO: All County Boards of Elections

RE: Statewide Issue Petition Deadlines

Due to the passage of State Issue 1 at the November 4, 2008, general election, Sections 1a, 1b, 1c, and 1g of Article II of the Ohio Constitution have been amended. The amendments changed the deadlines for filing and for challenging statewide issue petitions.

The revised deadlines are as follows:

- 125 days before general election – deadline for filing petitions with the Secretary of State's (SOS) office
- 105 days before general election – deadline for SOS to determine sufficiency of petition signatures
- 95 days before general election – deadline to file challenges to petition or signatures with the Supreme Court of Ohio
- 85 days before general election – deadline for the Supreme Court of Ohio to hear and rule on any challenges
- 65 days before general election- deadline for SOS to determine the sufficiency of any additional signatures
- 55 days before general election – deadline to file challenges to additional signatures with the Supreme Court of Ohio
- 45 days before general election – deadline for the Supreme Court of Ohio to rule on any challenges to additional signatures

Accordingly, the deadline to file statewide issue petitions with the Secretary of State's office for the November 3, 2009, general election is July 1, 2009.

When the Secretary of State's office becomes aware that a statewide issue petition may be filed with the Secretary of State's office, we will send an email to boards so they may schedule staff to determine the validity and sufficiency of the part petitions. As in the past, a directive will accompany any statewide issue petitions transmitted to your board.

Please note that the constitutional amendment did not affect the General Assembly's deadline to file a joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment, and that such a resolution may authorize the submission of the statewide issue to the voters at either the general election or a special election held on the day on which a primary election could be held under R.C. 3501.01.

If you have any questions concerning this advisory, please contact your county's assigned elections counsel.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Brunner