



**DIRECTIVE 2018-28**

August 27, 2018

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

Re: Ballots and Candidates for November 6, 2018 General Election

**SUMMARY**

This Directive provides the certified forms of the official ballots to be used in the November 6, 2018 General Election and a list of individuals who have filed a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate for a statewide office. **The form contains the exact ballot language that must be used for the statewide issue on all ballots. The form also contains the name of each statewide candidate exactly as the candidate's name must appear on all ballots.**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Please note that, in lieu of issuing a separate Directive with specific details covering ballot layout and proofing the Secretary of State's Office is issuing this Directive, which must be used in conjunction with [Chapter 4, Ballots, of the Election Official Manual](#) when preparing ballots for this election. [Chapter 4, Ballots, of the Election Official Manual](#) provides specific instructions on the following subjects:

- Ballot format;
- Voter instructions;
- Ballot stubs;
- Candidate ballots (names, restrictions, political party, rotation, etc.),
- Questions and issues ballot;
- Ballot proofs;
- Overlaps;
- Bid requirements;
- Logic and accuracy testing; and
- Public test.

## I. Verifying District Relationships

Before programming any aspect of the central tabulating system for the November 6, 2018 General Election, boards of elections must verify the accuracy of district relationships in the central tabulating system against the county's voter registration system. This is to ensure that each voter receives the correct ballot style (i.e., the correct combination of candidate offices and issues) based upon that voter's residential address.

As a part of the review for accuracy of district relationships between the county's voter registration system and its tabulating system, but no later than September 14, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. (noon), the board also must ensure that 1) the Secretary of State's precinct codes (three alphabet letters) are accurate in the tabulating system and, if appropriate, the county's voter registration system; and 2) the precinct names correspond between the two systems.

**Note:** It also is imperative that a board of elections upload to the statewide voter registration database (SWVRD) any changes to district relationships (including wards and precincts) that have been made locally in the county's voter registration system (VRS).

Using the report provided by Robin Fields on Friday, September 7, 2018, each board must review the report to ensure that all SOS Precinct ID Codes provided on the report match the board's voter registration system. Boards will have until 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Friday, September 14, 2018 to return the reviewed report noting any changes.

In addition, the board must spot-check at least one voter record for each precinct in the SWVRD against the county's VRS to ensure accuracy.

## II. Official Ballot Form

The certified ballot form accompanying this Directive is for offices to be elected at the November 6, 2018 General Election. The ballot form contains the correct title for each office as that title should appear on your county's ballot and the order in which offices must appear on the ballot for all voting systems. **The ballot form also contains the name of each statewide candidate exactly as the candidate's name must appear on all ballots for all voting systems.**

The names of all candidates, who have not withdrawn pursuant to R.C. 3513.30, must be arranged, rotated, and printed upon the ballot in accordance with the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Chapters 3505, 3506, and 3513 and [Chapter 4 of the Election Official Manual](#).

### III. Order of Offices

The order of offices shall be as follows:

Governor and Lieutenant Governor  
Attorney General  
Auditor of State  
Secretary of State  
Treasurer of State  
U.S. Senator  
Representative to Congress  
State Senator  
State Representative  
County Commissioner  
County Auditor  
Member of State Board of Education  
Justice of the Supreme Court (Full term commencing 1-1-2019)  
Justice of the Supreme Court (Full term commencing 1-2-2019)  
Judge of the Court of Appeals  
Judge of the Court of Common Pleas  
Judge of County Court

#### A. Write-In Vote Blank Spaces<sup>1</sup>

A write-in space must be provided on the ballot for every office for which the board of elections has received a valid declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate.

### IV. Official Questions and Issues Ballot

Offices for which candidates may be elected are presented on the ballot first, followed by the questions and issues. The Official Questions and Issues Ballot must be used for all voting systems. **The ballot contains the exact ballot language that must be used for the statewide issue on all ballots for all voting systems.** The ballot form also contains examples of some of the local questions and issues that may appear on the ballot in your county. Not every category or type of question/issue will appear on every ballot in every county, so please apply as much of the form as is appropriate to the ballots in your county.

Additional instructions on headings, ballot language, and percentage of votes can be found in [Chapter 4 of the Election Official Manual](#).

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3513.041; 3513.14.

## A. Order of Questions and Issues

Questions and issues must be grouped together in the following political subdivision order for elections held in 2018:

- a. State
- b. School and other Districts
- c. County
- d. Municipal
- e. Township

Except for the statewide issue, each board of elections may determine the specific order in which the questions/issues within each group are placed on the ballot in that county, however, a board should adopt a method for doing so (i.e., ordered alphabetically or by date filed, etc.). Absentee ballots must contain identical ordering of issues within groups to regular ballots.

Please review the appropriate sections of the Ohio Revised Code, local charter (if applicable), and the [Ohio Ballot Questions and Issues Handbook](#) for ballot language and formats that are not on the attached Official Questions and Issues Ballot.

## V. Absentee Ballots<sup>2</sup>

Each board of elections must have absentee ballots printed and ready for use 45 days before the general election (September 22, 2018) for Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) voters, and by October 10, 2018 regular, non-UOCAVA absentee voters.

A copy of each absentee ballot (candidates and questions and issues) must be sent to the Secretary of State's Office at least 46 days before the election (September 21, 2018). Instructions for submitting the absentee ballot files electronically will be provided via email at a later date.

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3509.01; R.C. 3511.04.

**VI. Write-In Candidates for Statewide Office**

The following are valid write-in candidates for statewide office:

**Governor and Lieutenant Governor**

- Rebecca Ayres and Anthony Durgans
- Richard Duncan and Dennis A. Artino
- Renea Turner and Keith Colton

**Secretary of State**

- Michael W. Bradley

**U.S. Senator**

- Stephen Faris

**VII. Candidates of Other District Offices (e.g., Congress, Judge Court of Appeals, State Senate, and State Representative)**

Candidates for other district offices must be certified to the appropriate board(s) of elections by the most-populous county board of elections of the district. If you are a less-populous county of a district and have not received a list of candidates from the most-populous county, you must contact the most-populous county before programming your ballots.

If you have any questions regarding this Directive or [Chapter 4 of the Election Official Manual](#), please contact the Secretary of State's elections attorney that is assigned to your county at (614) 466-2585.

Sincerely,



Jon Husted