



## **DIRECTIVE 2023-20**

November 9, 2023

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

Re: General Assembly District Maps

### **SUMMARY**

On September 26, 2023, the Ohio Redistricting Commission unanimously adopted new General Assembly district plans. These state maps will remain in effect for two general elections for the Ohio General Assembly. This Directive provides the most current information available regarding the new General Assembly districts. Attached to this Directive are the following:

- House Shapefile;
- Senate Shapefile;
- State House and Senate Equivalency Files (otherwise known as BAFs or block assignment files); and
- Legal Descriptions

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **I. SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS**

On September 26, 2023, the Ohio Redistricting Commission passed a new General Assembly district plan. All boards must begin the process of reprogramming their voter registration systems based on the September 26, 2023 General Assembly district maps. **All boards must have their county voter registration systems updated no later than December 20, 2023.**

Boards cannot verify or certify candidate petitions until the reprogramming of the voter registration system is complete. Whenever an area included in a district is less than a county, the legal description is a political subdivision, such as city, village, township,

municipal ward, or precinct and portions thereof. The descriptions are based on boundaries as they existed when the data was collected by Ohio University. If the board of elections changed precinct boundaries, or if there were municipal ward boundary changes or annexations in the past year, the board needs to consider that the new assignments were made based on previous data. For example, if the board combined Precinct A and C into a new Precinct A, and Precinct A is listed in the legal description, then it is referring to the old Precinct A portion of the new Precinct A.

## **II. 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION AND FILING DEADLINES**

The 2024 primary election remains scheduled for March 19, 2024. Under current law, declarations of candidacy for partisan candidates to appear on the ballot must be filed by **4:00 p.m. on December 20, 2023**, and declarations of intent for partisan write-in candidates must be filed by **4:00 p.m. on January 8, 2024**.

## **III. MOST POPULOUS COUNTIES**

The most populous county for each House and Senate District is identified in the lists accompanying this Directive. This information will be included in an updated 2024 Candidate Requirement Guide.

## **IV. PRECINCT BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS**

Boards of elections are not required to re-precinct in response to redistricting; however, new House and Senate districts may increase the number of split precincts in the county. Some boards may choose to realign precinct boundaries to reduce splits once the redistricting process is complete. If county party central committee members are to be elected from any party at the March 19, 2024 primary election, Ohio law prohibits redrawing precincts between January 1, 2024 and March 19, 2024.<sup>1</sup> If the board plans on redrawing precincts before January 1, 2024, bear in mind that some county party central committee members are elected by precinct, and those candidates will be required to file petitions by December 20, 2023.

If no county party central committee members will be elected in the March primary election, the board may change precinct boundaries any time before February 23, 2024.<sup>2</sup>

If a precinct boundary does not follow census blocks, the board must seek a waiver from the Secretary of State. A precinct can contain no more than 1,400 registered voters, but voters in confirmation status can be excluded from this count. Waiver requests take approximately ten business days to review and complete, assuming all of the information required on [Form 50](#) is provided at time of submission. Waivers must be sent to

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<sup>1</sup> [R.C. 3501.18\(A\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> [R.C. 3501.18\(A\)](#).

[SWVRD@OhioSOS.gov](mailto:SWVRD@OhioSOS.gov) and accompanied with the necessary documentation and maps to visually determine the changes to the precinct boundaries. The documentation must clearly list the census block waivers that are being split.

**V. SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES**

Boards must calculate the signature requirements for independent candidates based upon the vote totals from the 2022 general election gubernatorial race.<sup>3</sup> With redistricting and possible precinct changes, such calculations may be difficult. If you have questions about how to determine signature requirements for independent candidates, please contact Elections Division legal intake.

Each board of elections director must share this Directive with their legal counsel, the county prosecuting attorney, and voter registration system and voting system vendors as soon as possible. If there is anything that adversely impacts the execution of this Directive, my Office will issue guidance. If you have any questions regarding this Directive, please contact the Secretary of State's chief elections counsel, Shanda Behrens, at (614) 728-8789.

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose  
Ohio Secretary of State

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<sup>3</sup> [R.C. 3513.05](#) and [3513.257](#).