Via Electronic Mail

November 2, 2020

Mollie A. Landefeld, Director
Felicia L. Bates, Deputy Director
117 N. Main St., Suite 12
Woodsfield, OH 43793

Re: Tie Vote Regarding Campaign Signage on Neighboring Property

Dear Director Landefeld and Deputy Director Bates:

On October 13, 2020, the Monroe County Board of Elections held a regular meeting and tied on a motion “to send Yoss Law Office a letter (per policy 2019-05) asking them to remove the campaign signage in front of their office which faces the board of elections in person polling location.” On October 16, 2020, the Board submitted the tie vote for resolution pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3501.11(X).

Ohio law requires two or more small United States flags to be placed 100 feet from the entrance to each polling place on the thoroughfares or walkways leading to it (or as near to 100 feet as possible). The law prohibits campaigning within this “neutral zone” or within 10 feet of any elector waiting in line to vote if the line extends beyond the flags. Of course, in this circumstance, someone else’s private property is within 100 feet from the entrance to a polling place.

With early voting concluding today, I break the tie in favor of sending a letter to Yoss Law Office and working with them to revisit policy 2019-05 of the Monroe County Board of Elections to avoid this situation arising again in future elections.

Yours in service,

Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State

cc: Col. Wayne A. Smith, Chairman of Monroe County Board of Elections
     John O. Curtis, Member of Monroe County Board of Elections
     Dale L. Parks, Member of Monroe County Board of Elections
     Pere Seward, Member of Monroe County Board of Elections

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1 R.C. 3501.30. Note that the office of the board of elections qualifies as a polling place on any day on which an elector may vote in person at the office. “All requirements or prohibitions of law that apply to a polling place shall apply to the office of the board or other designated site on that day.” R.C. 3501.11(Z).
2 R.C. 3501.35.