Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State

MODERNIZING VOTER REGISTRATION IN OHIO

A Sophisticated System for More Accurate Voter Rolls, Preventing Voter Fraud, Improving the Efficiency of Our Local Boards of Elections, and Increasing Civic Engagement

Ohio's current voter registration system is antiquated. State and federal law both require Ohio to maintain accurate voter lists. It's a responsibility that has been carried out by Republican and Democratic Secretaries of State for decades. However, it's clearer than ever that Ohio has relied upon an unsophisticated voter registration system which has become less of a tool for registering and updating voter information, and more of a political talking point. As Secretary LaRose has long believed, Ohio must leverage the technology available to properly carry out our responsibility to follow the law and maintain accurate voter lists, while at the same time increasing civic engagement.

Ohio has made it easier to vote, but we must do more. From no-fault absentee voting, to the expansion of early voting, to online voter registration – with Republican leadership and effective bipartisan engagement, Ohio is one of the easiest states in the nation to cast your ballot and have your voice heard. It's now time for Ohio to take the next logical step.

Ohio is ready to begin embracing technology that will improve our voter registration system. Currently, the default setting to register to vote requires Ohioans to actively choose to do so. However, each year voters interact with state government many times and in many ways. By using the available technology, there is an opportunity to reverse that default setting and use those interactions to update voter registration information -- essentially transforming Ohio from an opt-in voter registration state to an opt-out voter registration state. This will allow Ohioans to register more easily and have their information updated, or not participate if they so choose.

Getting it done right. Many states have already implemented different variations of this system, and it's important for Ohio to apply the lessons learned. By bringing Republicans and Democrats together, we can put our best foot forward and begin to build a more modernized system that will work for Ohio. By doing so, we will build more accurate voter rolls, reduce the potential for voter fraud, improve the efficiency of our local boards of elections, and increase civic engagement.