OHIO MOVES ELECTION DAY TO JUNE 2

Keeping Ohioans Safe and Making Voting Accessible for All

Thanks to the leadership of Governor Mike DeWine and Dr. Amy Acton of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Ohio has led the nation in responding to the coronavirus crisis. Following their lead, Secretary LaRose has utilized their expert counsel and advice to execute every available option at his disposal to run a safe, secure, fair and healthy primary election. The county boards of elections and thousands of patriotic poll workers have worked tirelessly to prepare for election day and should be commended for their incredible dedication to civic duty.

Keeping Ohioans safe. Through March 15, guidance from ODH indicated it would be safe to vote on election day. However, on March 16, ODH determined it was impossible to conduct an election on March 17 because it would force poll workers and voters to "place themselves at an unacceptable health risk of contracting coronavirus". Dr. Acton, in consultation with Governor DeWine, ordered all polling locations closed for the March 17 primary election.

How and when Ohioans can vote. Secretary LaRose took action by directing the county boards of elections to hold the primary election on June 2, with an extension of absentee voting through May 26. There will be no early in-person voting. Only voters who registered by the primary election deadline of February 18 may vote.

All votes already submitted will count. It's important that voters who have already submitted their vote by mail or in-person know that their vote will be counted.

OUTCOME: These are certainly unprecedented times, and Secretary LaRose has implemented the guidance of the Ohio Department of Health every step of the way. As this situation has evolved, we are once again following expert consultation in order to keep Ohioans safe. By moving Ohio's election day we can ensure Ohio voters have every opportunity to have their voice heard and stay healthy in the process.