



**J. KENNETH BLACKWELL**  
Ohio Secretary of State

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**DIRECTIVE 2006-80**

October 27, 2006

**TO:** BELMONT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
Members, Director & Deputy Director

**RE:** Prevention of Voter Fraud in Belmont County Precincts # # 1, 3, 36, 36-1, 39, and 39-1

Judge Sargus, in the case of *Phil Wallace, et al. v. Belmont County Board of Elections*, has placed certain mandates upon your board which have unnecessarily created a significant risk for voter fraud during the general election. Furthermore, your county prosecutor has inexplicably decided not to appeal the court's decision despite the clear potential for violation of election law that results from the court's mandates. I am therefore directing you to take every possible precaution to avoid the problems the court's decision has created.

Specifically, due to the court's Order, which required the creation of "duplicate voting sites", it is now significantly possible that unscrupulous persons could vote more than once on election day. Therefore, to the extent that you have not already done so, I am directing you to do the following:

1. Closely monitor all voter activity in the affected precincts listed in the Order which are now placed at risk.
2. Monitor and compare the poll books in those precincts every half hour, commencing at 6:30 a.m. and continuing throughout the day until the polls close, to make sure no person has voted more than once.
3. Train or re-train every election official such that each one knows what to look for and knows what action(s) to take to prevent multiple voting situations.
4. Hire and train enough election officials to enable the board to properly execute these preventative measures.
5. Use the records/list compiled by the elections officials of each voter that votes at the affected precincts on election day. That records/list should be used to do comparisons to determine if anyone voted more than once.

Based on information your board has shared with our office, I am aware that you have complied with the Order by working with the plaintiffs in the *Wallace* case in an attempt to adequately staff each polling location. However, I understand that the board, despite its combined efforts with plaintiffs, still has some concerns over the adequacy of its staffing. Therefore, while I understand that finding suitable staff has

been difficult already, you may need to contact community colleges and area high schools<sup>1</sup> to determine if there are additional workers that can be available.

I will also monitor the activities of these precincts and the board of elections on election day.

If you have any question concerning this directive, please contact the Elections Division at (614) 466-2585.

Sincerely,



Monty Lobb  
Assistant Secretary of State

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. §3501.22 is the state law provision that allows high school students to apply for and be appointed by the board to be a precinct officer.