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Ohio Secretary of State

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**DIRECTIVE 2012-31**

August 8, 2012

TO: All County Boards of Elections  
Members, Directors, and Deputy Directors

Re: Verifying the Accuracy of District Relationships and Establishing the Order of Offices  
and Issues for the General Election Ballot

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Before programming any aspect of the central tabulating system for the November 6, 2012 Presidential General Election, all boards of elections must verify the accuracy of district relationships in the central tabulating system against the county's voter registration system. This is to ensure that each voter receives the correct ballot style (i.e., the correct combination of candidate offices and issues) based upon that voter's residential address.
2. The order of offices for the November 6, 2012 Presidential General Election shall be as follows:<sup>1</sup>

President and Vice-President  
U. S. Senator  
Representative to Congress  
State Senator  
State Representative  
County Commissioner (Full Term Commencing 1-2-2013)  
County Commissioner (Full Term Commencing 1-3-2013)  
County Commissioner (Unexpired Term Ending 12-31-2014), only if applicable  
County Auditor (Unexpired Term Ending 3-8-2015), only if applicable  
Prosecuting Attorney  
Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas  
Sheriff  
County Recorder  
County Treasurer  
County Engineer  
Coroner  
State Board of Education

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3505.03, .04.

Justice of the Supreme Court (Full Term Commencing 1-1-2013)  
Justice of the Supreme Court (Full Term Commencing 1-2-2013)  
Justice of the Supreme Court (Unexpired Term Ending 12-31-2014)  
Judge of Court of Appeals  
Judge of the Court of Common Pleas  
Judge of County Court

3. The order of ballot questions and issues for the November 6, 2012 Presidential General Election shall be as follows:<sup>2</sup>

State  
Municipal  
Township  
Schools and other districts  
County

Each board of elections may determine the specific order in which the questions/issues within each group are placed on the ballot in that county, however, a Board should adopt a method for doing so (i.e., ordered alphabetically or by date filed, etc.). Absentee ballots must contain identical ordering of issues as regular ballots within the ordering of groups above.

Please review the appropriate sections of the Ohio Revised Code, local charter (if applicable), and the *Questions and Issues Handbook* for ballot language and formats that are not on the attached Official Questions and Issues Ballot.

If you have any questions, please contact the Secretary of State's elections attorney assigned to your county at (614) 466-2585.

Sincerely,

  
Jon Husted

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3505.06.