



Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State

180 East Broad Street, 16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Tel: (877) 767-6446 Fax: (614) 644-0649
www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov

DIRECTIVE 2015-42

December 31, 2015

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

Re: Ballots and Candidates (First Choice for President of Delegates to Party's National Convention, U.S. Senate, and Chief Justice and Justices of the Ohio Supreme Court) for March 15, 2016 Primary Election

Summary

This Directive provides the certified forms of the official ballots to be used in the March 15, 2016 Primary Election and the names of candidates who have been certified by the Ohio Secretary of State.¹

Note: Those county boards of elections that are part of the 8th Ohio Congressional District must use the form of the Official Republican Primary Ballot that is issued with a forthcoming Directive (expected for January 5, 2016) and not the one that attached to this Directive.

Please note that, in lieu of issuing a separate Directive with specific details covering ballot layout, proofing, and quantities, the Secretary of State's office is issuing only this Directive, which must be used in conjunction with Chapter 4 (Ballots) of the Election Official Manual (EOM) when preparing ballots for this election. The Chapter 4 of the EOM ([Directive 2015-26](#)) provides specific instructions on the following subjects:

- Ballot format;
- Voter instructions;
- Ballot stubs;
- Partisan primary elections;
- Seventeen-year old voters;
- Candidate ballots (names, restrictions, political party, rotation, etc.);
- Questions and issues ballot;
- Ballot proofs;
- Bid requirements;

¹ The filing deadline for a write-in candidate is January 4, 2016. Accordingly, the Secretary of State's office will certify the names of any valid write-in candidates after the filing deadline.

- Ballot quantities;
- Logic and accuracy testing; and
- Public test.

I. Verifying District Relationships

Before programming any aspect of the central tabulating system for the March 15, 2016 Primary Election, 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.

As a part of the review for accuracy of district relationships between the county's voter registration system and its tabulating system, but no later than February 19, 2016, the board also must ensure that 1) the Secretary of State's precinct codes (three alphabet letters) are accurate in the tabulating system and, if appropriate, the county's voter registration system; and 2) the precinct names correspond between the two systems.

Note: It also is imperative that a board of elections upload to the statewide voter registration database (SWVRD) any changes to district relationships (including wards and precincts) that have been made locally in the county's voter registration system (VRS).

After the board has completed all changes in the county VRS, but no later than February 19, 2016, the board must send a complete list of the district(s) that had changes to Robin Fields at swvrd@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov. Be sure to include the name and the state code associated with each district so the names can be corrected in the SWVRD.

The board must spot-check at least one voter record for each precinct in the SWVRD against the county's VRS.

II. Official Ballot Forms

Each board of elections is to provide a separate ballot for each political party listing candidates for nomination or election in a primary election.² Accordingly, accompanying this Directive are the following ballot forms:

- Official Democratic Primary Ballot;
- Official Green Primary Ballot³;

² R.C. 3513.13.

³ Primary election ballots for the Green Party shall list only the offices and positions for which valid declarations of candidacy have been filed and shall contain only the names of persons whose declarations of candidacy have been

- Official Republican Primary Ballot (for counties that are not part of Ohio's 8th Congressional District); and
- Official Questions and Issues Ballot.

The names of all candidates, who have not withdrawn pursuant to R.C. 3513.30, must be arranged, rotated, and printed upon the ballot in accordance with the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Chapters 3505, 3506, and 3513 and Chapter 4 of the EOM ([Directive 2015-26](#)).

III. Order of Offices for all Primary Ballots⁴

A. The order of offices for **Democratic Party** ballots shall be as follows:

Delegates at-Large⁵ (name of delegates' first choice for presidential candidate)
 U. S. Senator
 Representative to Congress
 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
 Justices of the Supreme Court
 Judge of Court of Appeals
 State Senator
 State Representative
 Judges of the Court of Common Pleas
 County Commissioner
 Prosecuting Attorney
 Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas
 Sheriff
 County Recorder
 County Treasurer
 County Engineer
 Coroner
 County Auditor (if a vacancy occurred that requires an unexpired term election)
 Member of County Central Committee

B. The order of offices for **Republican Party** ballots shall be as follows:

Delegates at-Large (name of delegates' first choice for presidential candidate)
 Congressional District Presidential Delegates (name of delegates' first choice for presidential candidate)
 U. S. Senator
 Representative to Congress

determined to be valid for those offices and positions.

⁴ R.C. 3513.13; 3513.151.

⁵ Ohio Democratic Party rules require the delegate vote total for president to be reported by congressional district. Counties with more than one congressional district must program their tabulating system accordingly. Counties in a multi-county congressional district must follow standard reporting protocols to the majority county in the district for both the unofficial and official canvass.

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
Justices of the Supreme Court
Judge of Court of Appeals
Member of State Central Committee Man
Member of State Central Committee Woman
State Senator
State Representative
Judges of the Court of Common Pleas
County Commissioner
Prosecuting Attorney
Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas
Sheriff
County Recorder
County Treasurer
County Engineer
Coroner
County Auditor (if a vacancy occurred that requires an unexpired term election)
Member of County Central Committee

C. The order of offices for **Green Party** ballots shall be as follows:

U.S. Senator
Representative to Congress
Judge of Court of Appeals
Member of State Central Committee
State Senator
State Representative
Judges of the Court of Common Pleas
County Commissioner
Prosecuting Attorney
Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas
Sheriff
County Recorder
County Treasurer
County Engineer
Coroner
County Auditor (if a vacancy occurred that requires an unexpired term election)
Member of County Central Committee

D. Write-In Vote Blank Spaces⁶

A write-in space must be provided on the ballot for every office for which the board of elections has received a valid declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate.

⁶ R.C. 3513.041; 3513.14.

- **For County Central Committee:** The board may accept valid declarations of intent to be a write-in candidate and provide a write-in space on the ballot for county central committee, even if no declarations of candidacy were filed for the positions.⁷
- **For State Central Committee:** The board may not accept declarations of intent to be a write-in candidate for state central committee. If no valid declarations of candidacy were filed for the positions, the office does not appear on the ballot.⁸

E. Official Questions and Issues Ballot

Offices for which candidates may be nominated or elected are presented on the ballot first, followed by the questions and issues. The Official Questions and Issues Ballot must be used for all voting systems. The ballot form contains examples of some of the local questions and issues that may appear on the ballot in your county. Not every category or type of question/issue will appear on every ballot in every county, so please apply as much of the form as is appropriate to the ballots in your county.

Additional instructions on headings, ballot language, and percentage of votes can be found in Chapter 4 of the EOM ([Directive 2015-26](#)).

1. Order of Questions and Issues

Questions and issues must be grouped together in the following political subdivision order for elections held in 2016:

- a. State
- b. Municipal
- c. Township
- d. School and other Districts
- e. 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 within groups to regular ballots.

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.

⁷ OAG 70-011.

⁸ R.C. 3513.14.

IV. Absentee Ballots⁹

Each board of elections must have absentee ballots printed and ready for use 45 days before the primary election (January 30, 2016) for Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) voters, and by February 17, 2016 regular, non-UOCAVA absentee voters.

A copy of each absentee ballot (candidates and questions and issues) must be sent to the Secretary of State's office at least 25 days before the election (February 19, 2016). Please send to Serena Henderson at either of the following:

Email: shenders@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov
Mail: Ohio Secretary of State's Office
Elections Division
Attn: Serena Henderson
P.O. Box 2828
Columbus, OH 43216

V. Candidates Certified by the Secretary of State¹⁰

A. First Choice for President

The following names of the first choice for president by delegates and alternate delegates to a party's national convention shall appear on that party's primary election ballot.

Democratic Party (all counties):

1. For Delegates-at-Large and Alternates-at-Large to the National Convention

Hillary Clinton
Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente
Bernie Sanders

⁹ R.C. 3509.01; R.C. 3511.04.

¹⁰ The filing deadline for a write-in candidate is January 4, 2016. Accordingly, the Secretary of State's office will certify the names of any valid write-in candidates after the filing deadline.

Republican Party (all counties):

1. For Delegates-at-Large and Alternates-at-Large to the National Convention (all counties):

Jeb Bush
Ben Carson
Chris Christie
Ted Cruz
Carly Fiorina
Mike Huckabee
John R. Kasich
Rand Paul
Marco Rubio
Rick Santorum
Donald J. Trump

2. For District Delegates and District Alternates to the National Convention (all Congressional Districts), list the following candidates:

Jeb Bush
Ben Carson
Chris Christie
Ted Cruz
Carly Fiorina
John R. Kasich
Rand Paul
Marco Rubio
Donald J. Trump

3. For District Delegates and District Alternates to the National Convention (Congressional Districts 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15), add the name:

Mike Huckabee

4. For District Delegates and District Alternates to the National Convention (Congressional Districts 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 16), add the name:

Rick Santorum

B. U.S. SenatorDemocratic Party

- Kelli Prather
- P.G. Sittenfeld
- Ted Strickland

Republican Party

- Don Elijah Eckhart
- Rob Portman

Green Party

- Joseph R. DeMare

C. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (Full term commencing 1/1/2017)Republican

- Maureen O'Connor

D. Justice of the Supreme Court (Full term commencing 1/1/2017)Democratic Party

- John P. O'Donnell

Republican Party

- Pat Fischer
- Colleen Mary O'Toole

E. Justice of the Supreme Court (Full term commencing 1/2/2017)Democratic Party

- Cynthia Rice

Republican Party

- Pat DeWine

VI. Candidates of Other District Offices (e.g., Congress, Judge Court of Appeals, State Central Committee, State Senate, and State Representative)

Candidates for other district offices must be certified to the appropriate board(s) of elections by the most-populous county board of elections of the district. If you are a less-populous county of a district and have not received a list of candidates from the most-populous county, you must contact the most-populous county before programming your ballots.

If you have any questions regarding this Directive or Chapter 4 of the EOM ([Directive 2015-26](#)), please contact the Secretary of State's elections attorney that is assigned to your county.

Sincerely,



Jon Husted