



DIRECTIVE 2019-10

July 31, 2019

To: Certain County Board of Elections
Directors, Deputy Directors, and Board Members

Re: Initial Petitions Filed Re: Prospective Referendum Petition Concerning Am. Sub. H.B. 6
of the 133rd General Assembly

SUMMARY

This Directive provides instructions to certain county board of elections on the examination, scanning, and certification of signatures on the petition that has been submitted to the Secretary of State to begin the process of referring Am. Sub. H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly to the people of Ohio for their approval or rejection. Each board of elections must complete its examination and certification consistent with the instructions outlined below and return its certification and the part-petitions to the Secretary of State's Office no later than **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 6, 2019**.

INITIAL PETITION SUBMITTED

On July 29, 2019, the Secretary of State's Office received a petition, pursuant to R.C. 3519.01(B)(1), by a group of persons seeking to circulate a petition to refer Am. Sub. H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly to the people of Ohio for their approval or rejection. Your county will be receiving the part-petitions containing signatures from your county. You must examine each part-petition in order to determine the number of qualified electors who signed.

CHECKING SIGNATURES

Please carefully read this Directive, [Chapter 11 \("Petitions," Directive 2017-15\)](#), and [Chapter 14 \("Statewide Initiative and Referendum," Directive 2017-16\)](#) of the Ohio Election Official Manual before you examine the part-petitions sent to your county. Each person who signs a petition paper must be a qualified elector of the county in which the part-petition was circulated as of the date the board of elections examines the part-petition.¹ If the part-petition contains signatures from any other county, the part-petition is still valid, but only signatures from your county may be counted. The signatures from outside your county are invalid.²

¹ R.C. 3519.15

² R.C. 3519.10

SCANNING THE PETITIONS

After you complete checking the signatures on the part-petitions, you must electronically scan the relevant pages of each part-petition (including at least the cover page, the pages containing signatures, and the page containing the circulator statement). A copy of the scanned images should be uploaded to the Secretary of State's SharePoint site (using the instructions accompanying this Directive). Keep an electronic copy of the images for your records.

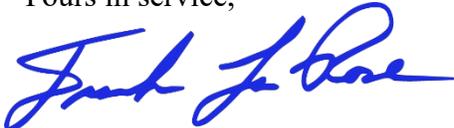
RETURNING THE PETITIONS

As soon as you finish verifying the signatures on the part-petitions, you must return a completed certification form. The certification form must be completed and submitted electronically via Elect Collect by clicking the "Submit" button. The certification form also must be saved and printed. The Board Director must sign the certification form and return the signed certification form to Emily Bright-Woeste via email to ebright@ohiosos.gov. **All certification forms and scanned images of petitions must be submitted by 4 p.m. on August 6, 2019.**

Additionally, once the certification form is submitted and a signed copy sent to Emily Bright-Woeste, county boards of elections must promptly return the original part-petitions to the Secretary of State's Office, via trackable delivery method. **All original part-petitions must be received by the Secretary of State's Office no later than Friday, August 9, 2019.**

If you have any questions concerning this Directive, please contact the Secretary of State's elections counsel at (614) 728-8789.

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose