

From: [U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#)
To: butler@ohiosos.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] May 2025 Newsletter: EAC Updates and Events
Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 11:00:23 AM

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U.S. Election Assistance Commission



UPDATES & EVENTS

MAY 2025

This month, the EAC is highlighting:



**2024 Clearinghouse Award
Winners Announced!**



**May is Military Appreciation
Month**



**Thank You, Election Officials
- Public Service Recognition
Week was May 4-10**



**Helping America Vote:
Election Administration in
the United States Guide**



**How are Elections Funded?
New Memo from the EAC
and NCSL Addresses this
Question**



**LLC and Standards Board
Annual Meetings Recap**



**Board of Advisors Annual
Meeting Recap**



53 State and Local Election Office Programs Win 2024 Clearinghouse Awards!

Throughout the year, state and local election officials work hard to serve their voters. This year, the EAC recognized 53 winners and 44 honorable mentions for the 2024 Clearinghouse Awards or “Clearies.” The EAC received a record-breaking 258 submissions, reflecting the amount of exceptional work done throughout the presidential election year.

EAC Chairman Donald Palmer, Vice Chair Thomas Hicks, Commissioner Christy McCormick, and Commissioner Ben Hovland issued the following joint statement:

“This year’s Clearinghouse Award-winning programs truly shined amid the high voter turnout in 2024. They are examples of the outstanding work election officials did to support tens of millions of voters during the presidential election. After nearly a decade, the Clearinghouse Awards continue to grow with a record number of

entries received this year. These programs show how state and local election offices are the incubators of innovation. We are pleased to lift their ideas up and celebrate them on a national stage.”

The categories included:

- Communications: Distinguished Voter Education and Communications Initiatives
- Security: Innovation and New Tools in Election Security and Technology
- Contingency Planning: Exemplary Contingency Planning and Emergency Response Efforts
- Election Administration: Innovations or New Practices in Election Administration
- HAVA Grants: Outstanding Use of HAVA Grants in Elections Modernization
- Accessibility: Best Practices for Improving Accessibility for Voters with Disabilities
- Poll Workers: Best Practices in Recruiting, Retaining, and Training Poll Workers
- “I Voted” Stickers: Creative and Original “I Voted” Stickers

Take a look at the [list of winners and their programs](#), as well as the [honorable mentions and their programs](#). Submissions were judged by a panel of election officials from the EAC’s boards. Criteria included innovation, cost-effectiveness, replicability, sustainability, meeting category requirements, and improving outcomes for voters and election officials.

Thank you to everyone who submitted entries for all your hard work to better serve your communities. The 2025 Clearinghouse Awards submission period will begin in early 2026. Bookmark eac.gov/clearies for more information in the future.

LLC Clearie Winners



The EAC Commissioners present a Clearie Award to winners at the Local Leadership Council Annual Meeting.

SB Clearie Winners

The EAC Commissioners present a Clearie Award to winners at the Standards Board Annual Meeting.

star icon large



May is Military Appreciation Month

Military Appreciation Month



This month, the EAC honors the military personnel who serve our country.

The EAC provides a [variety of resources](#) to assist military voters and the election officials who serve them. These include a [UOCAVA Quick Start Guide](#), [Fact Sheet](#) and [Pocket Guide](#) developed in collaboration with the [Federal Voting Assistance Program](#), as well as state-specific policies, research, reports, and more. Election officials may also benefit from this [EAC blog post](#), which offers guidance on how to effectively support military and UOCAVA voters.

Many veterans continue their service to our country as election poll workers. In these two videos, EAC Chairman Donald Palmer spoke with [West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner](#) and [Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen](#) on their Heroes at the Polls programs. They discussed guidance and best practices for recruiting veterans for these critical roles.

On December 5, 2024, on the USS Orleck pier in Jacksonville, Florida, the EAC and

Vet the Vote hosted an event to show appreciation for poll workers, especially veterans and their families. The event also highlighted opportunities for current service members, veterans, and their families to participate as poll workers in the future. Leading up to the 2024 general election, over 163,000 veterans and military family members signed up to be poll workers through Vet the Vote.

Palmer on USS Orleck



Chairman Palmer speaking on the USS Orleck.

Stay tuned for the Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) Report, coming in June, which will have in-depth information on military and UOCAVA voters from the 2024 general election. This data on their voting practices includes the total number of registered military and UOCAVA voters, the quantity of and methods by which ballots were transmitted to and returned by these voters, and more.

star icon large



Public Service Recognition Week was May 4 –10

Public Service Recognition Week



checklist icon



Helping America Vote: Election Administration in the United States Guide

The EAC partnered with NCSL to develop an [in-depth guide](#) that provides a clear,

nonpartisan overview of how elections are managed across the country - from voter registration to recounts and certification. Designed for policymakers, election officials, and the public, it highlights the variety and complexity inherent to America's decentralized election system. While there are many differences between how election are administered, there are also many common practices.

This document covers:

- Geography,
- Ballot Design,
- Voter Registration,
- Voter Outreach,
- And much more.

checklist icon



Funding Election Administration Document from the EAC and NCSL

With elections being administered at the county or local level, most associated expenses are paid for by these jurisdictions. When new resources like voting systems, personnel to staff voting locations, special paper to print ballots, or cybersecurity tools are required, it is often the responsibility of the county or local jurisdiction to secure the necessary funds. These needs can compete with other local budget requests, as limited resources must be allocated across various government services.

This [joint EAC and NCSL document](#) summarizes the different funding streams available in some states and from the federal government. It covers state funding, federal funding, and a chart showing a breakdown of state and local responsibilities for categories of election expenses.

people icon large



Local Leadership Council and Standards Board Annual Meetings Recap

The EAC's [Local Leadership Council](#) and the EAC's [Standards Board](#) held their Annual Meetings on April 21-22 and April 24-25, respectively, in Charlotte, North Carolina. The boards discussed the executive order related to elections, audit standards, signature verification, the EAC Learning Lab and workshops, and more.

The LLC board members met within their regional committees, where they discussed goals and issues related to their regions. The conversations were very productive, leading to the members setting up further virtual meetings to continue the discussions.

The Ideas Lab, held on Wednesday, April 23, allowed nearly 100 participants from both the LLC and the Standards Board the opportunity to meet and talk with the other board's members. This was the first time the two boards met and effectively interacted with each other.

LLC Group Photo



Standards Board Meeting Group Photo



people icon large



Board of Advisors Annual Meeting Recap

The EAC's [Board of Advisors](#) held its Annual Meeting on May 5-6, in Washington, DC.

The board members had robust discussions on audit standards, voter registration and list maintenance, the upcoming 2026 and 2028 elections, and the executive order relating to elections. The board members also had conversations with Representative Bice from the U.S. Committee on House Administration and Senator Padilla from the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, where they

talked about their legislative priorities, including ensuring bipartisan approaches to election administration and increased funding.

BoA Meeting group photo



EAC Chairman Donald Palmer, Vice Chair Thomas Hicks, Commissioner Christy McCormick, and Commissioner Ben Hovland issued the following joint statement on the three board meetings:

“Through these meetings, we heard from election officials from every region of our country on the most important issues they face in their states and jurisdictions. The feedback emphasized the necessity for more training opportunities, continued communication on updates to the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines 2.0, as well as concern for consistent funding of elections, especially to drive planning for necessary upgrades to election equipment. These comments will be shared with our staff and factored into future programs and resources.

“These in-person interactions with our advisory boards are invaluable to ensure the EAC is meeting its mission to serve election administrators and voters.”

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U.S. Election Assistance Commission

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From: [Secretary LaRose Press](#)
To: butler@ohiosos.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ohio Secretary of State Week in Review
Date: Friday, March 28, 2025 5:25:45 PM

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Ohio Secretary of State Week in Review

For The Week Ending March 28, 2025

3 Things You Need to Know:

- **Secretary LaRose's Statement on President Trump's Election Integrity Executive Order:** "I appreciate President Trump's decisive leadership to protect the integrity of our elections. Fortunately, I can say that a lot of this we already do in Ohio, but where there's an opportunity to do more we can certainly work with our state and federal lawmakers to address it. I'm especially grateful for the clear order to give states better access to citizenship data, something we've been pushing the federal government to do. We'll review the rest of the president's order to see how it specifically applies to Ohio, but it's refreshing to have an administration that's finally setting some clear standards on election administration." [Read the full executive order here.](#)
- **Protect Your Business Online:** The Ohio Secretary of State's office is one week away from hosting a cybersecurity conference for small businesses. This

free event will be held at Xavier University. Attendees will hear from cyber industry experts from Microsoft, InTrust IT, Alta Fiber, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Space is limited so [register today!](#)

- **Early Voting Begins April 8:** There's less than two weeks until the start of early voting for the May 6 primary/special election. For more information visit [VoteOhio.gov](#).

[May 6 Primary/Special Election Early Voting Schedule](#)

- April 8 to April 11: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- April 14 to April 18: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- April 21 to April 25: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- April 28: 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- April 29: 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- April 30 to May 2: 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- May 3: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- May 4: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

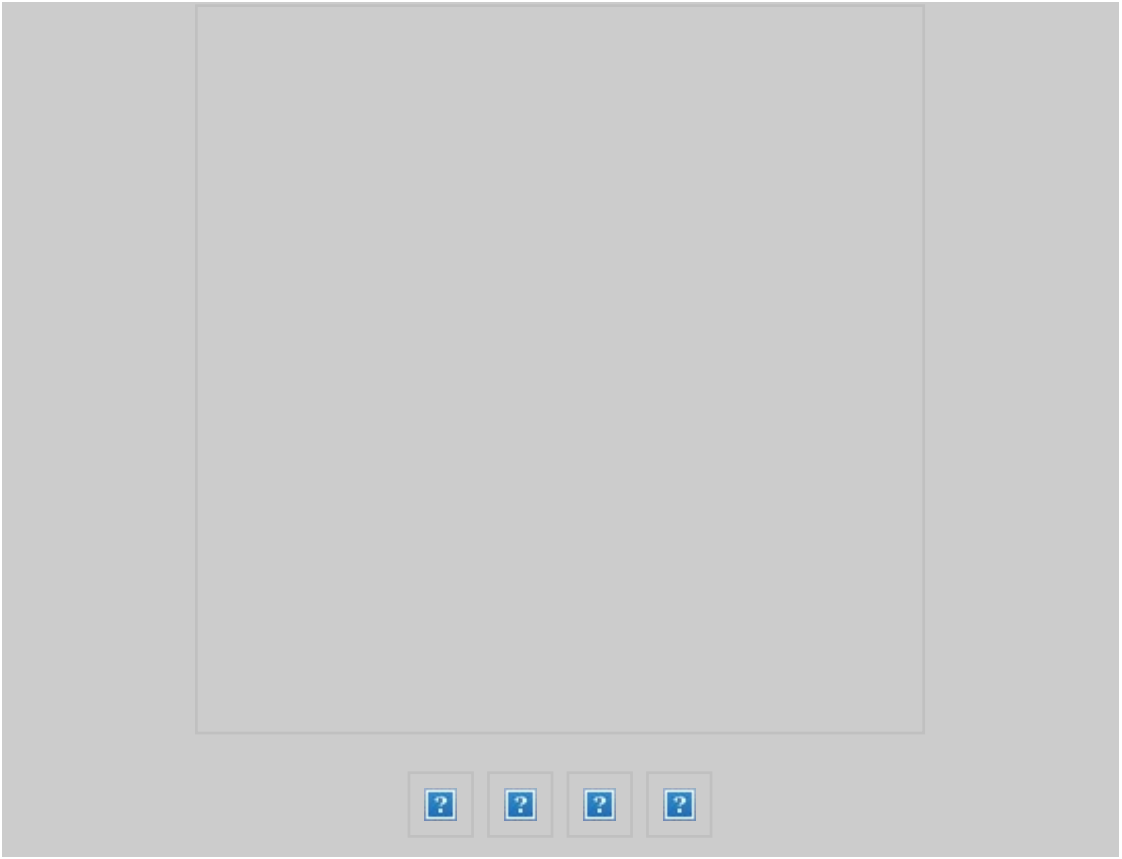
Verify Ohio Weekly Update:

We created **Verify Ohio** as a trusted source for election information and business education. Follow us on your favorite social media channels [@VerifyOhio](#).

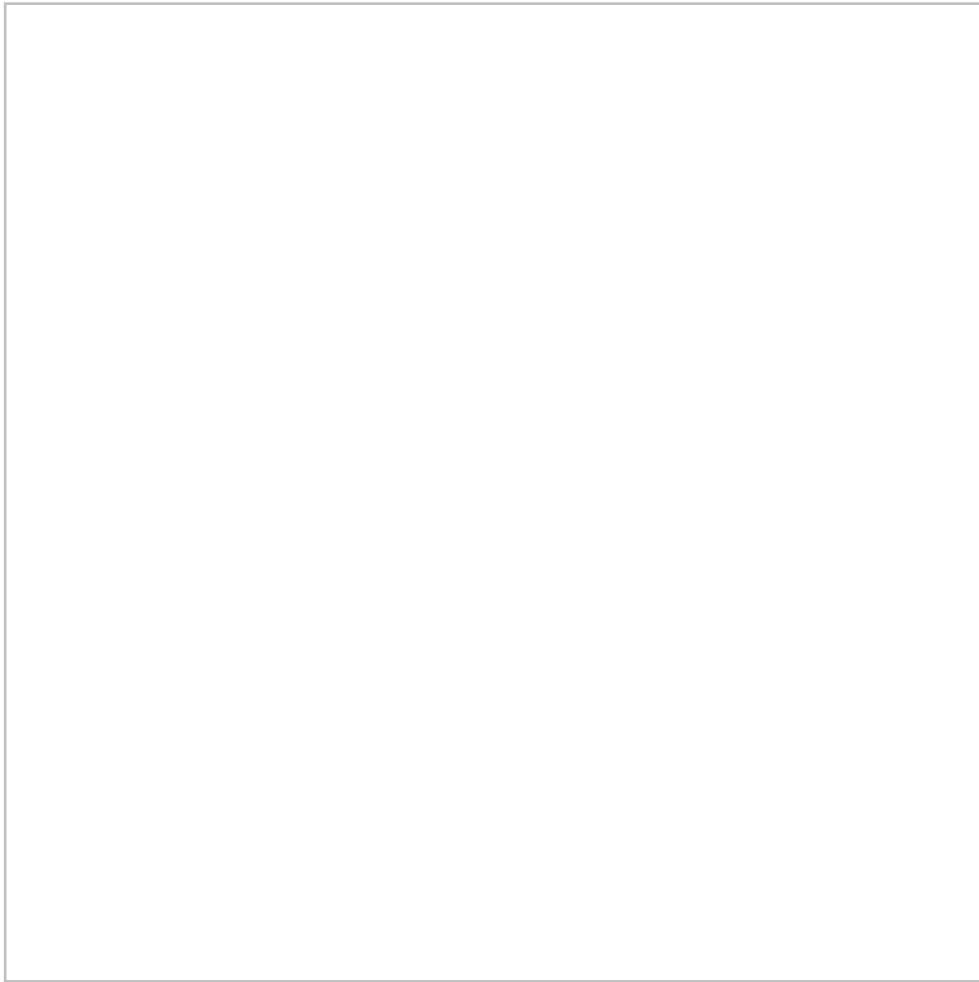
If a voter registration has been removed from the voter rolls, how does it get back on? **Let's Verify!**

It's easy! Simply register to vote! Go to [VoteOhio.gov](#) to register.

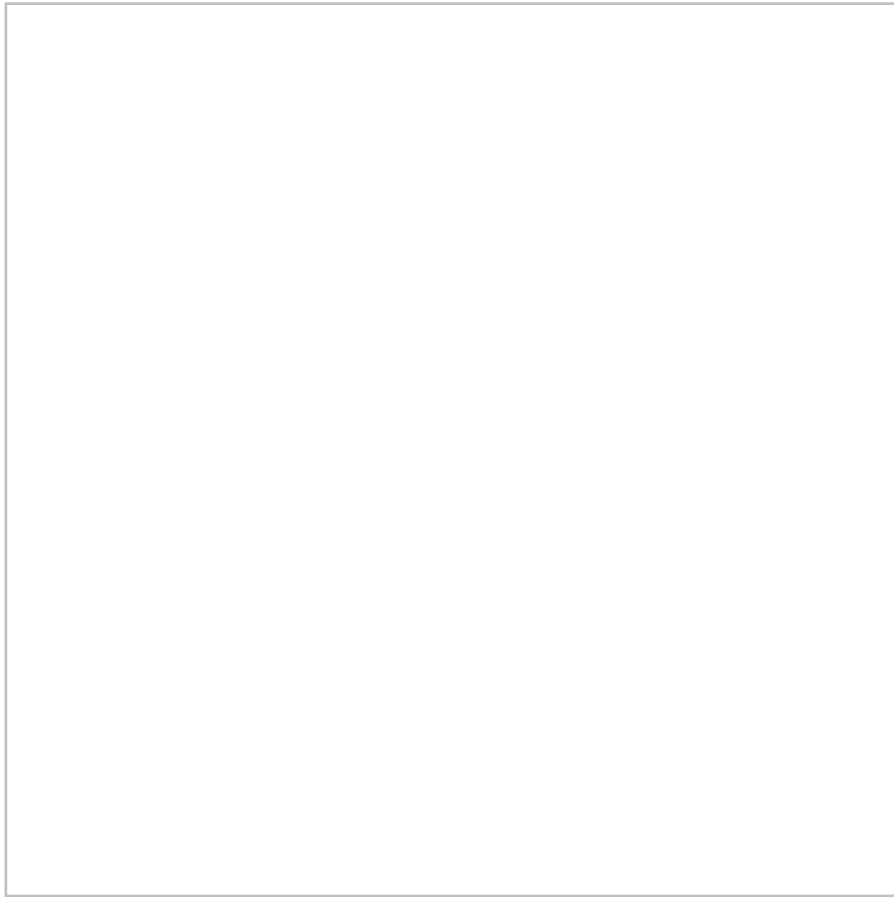
While most removals are simply outdated or bad data, any Ohioan can check if they are at risk of being removed from the voter rolls this year by visiting our [registration readiness page](#).



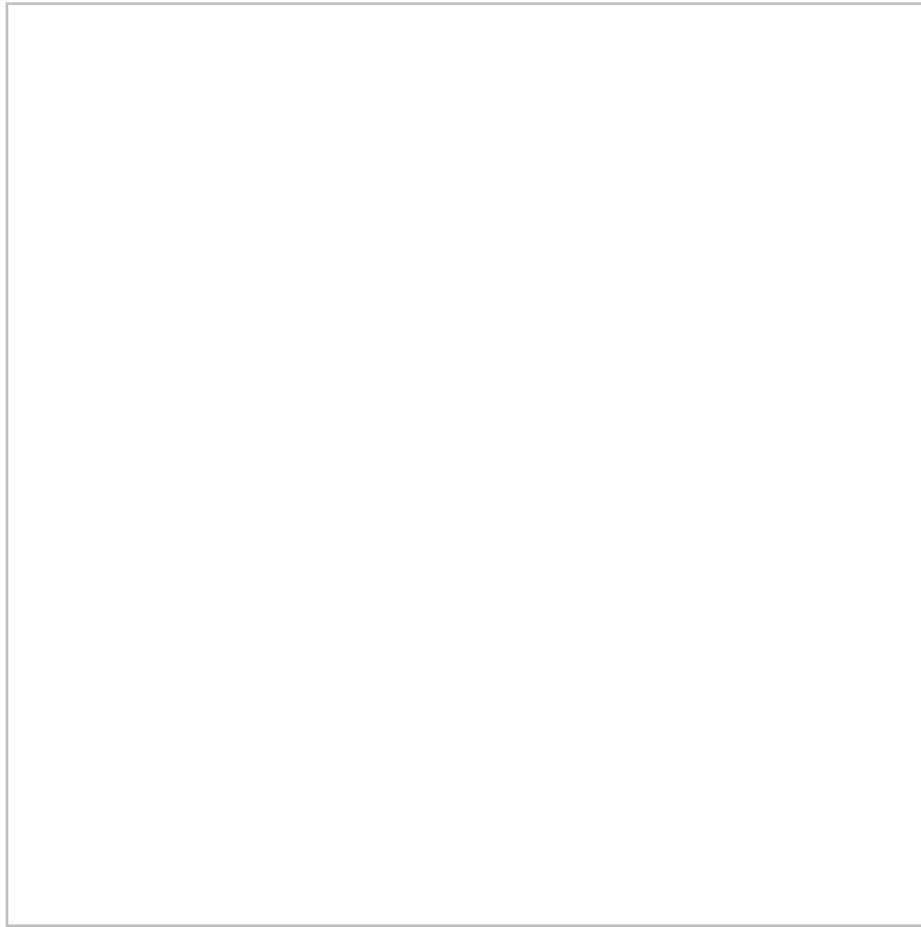
Updates From Around Ohio



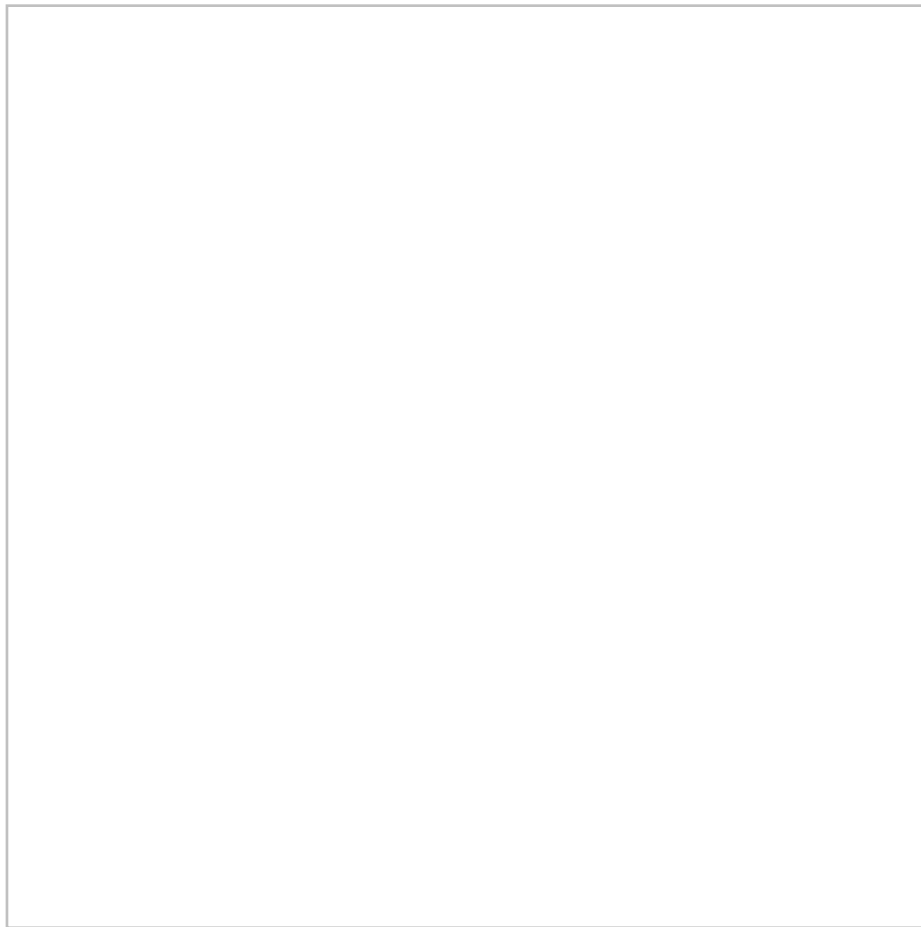
Derrick Clay, president and CEO of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, visited with Secretary LaRose. The two discussed various ways the chamber and the Ohio Secretary of State's office can work together to help Central Ohio businesses succeed.



Secretary LaRose stopped by the City of Toronto Fire Department to thank local firefighters and members of the Pottery Addition and Pleasant Heights fire departments for their dedication in battling the recent large brush fires in Jefferson County. Their hard work and commitment make a real difference.



Business leaders in Jefferson County met with Secretary LaRose to discuss the evolving economic landscape in Eastern Ohio. The Ohio Secretary of State's office remains dedicated to empowering entrepreneurs with the resources they need to start, grow, and thrive.

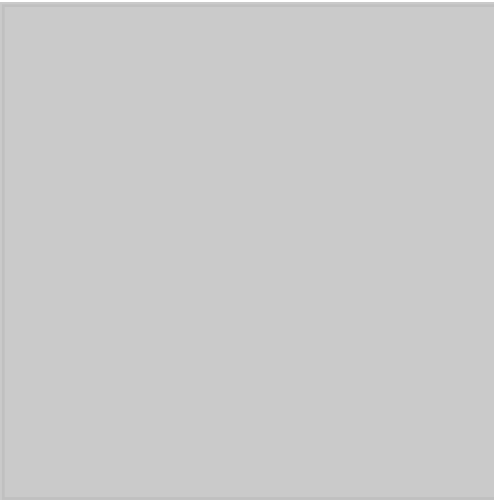


Central Ohio Regional Liaison Susie O'Brien proudly represented the Ohio Secretary of State's office at the grand opening of Huey Magoo's in Bellefontaine. As part of the celebration, she presented General Manager Calvin Fowler with a proclamation from Secretary LaRose, recognizing this exciting new addition to the community.

In Case You Missed It:

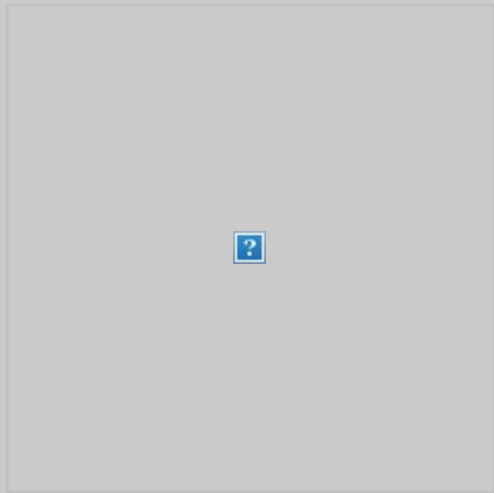
Ohio Secretary of State thanks firefighters for heroic efforts in brush fire response

Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose visited Toronto on Wednesday to express gratitude to local first responders for their heroic efforts during last week's intense brush fire on Township



Road 376.

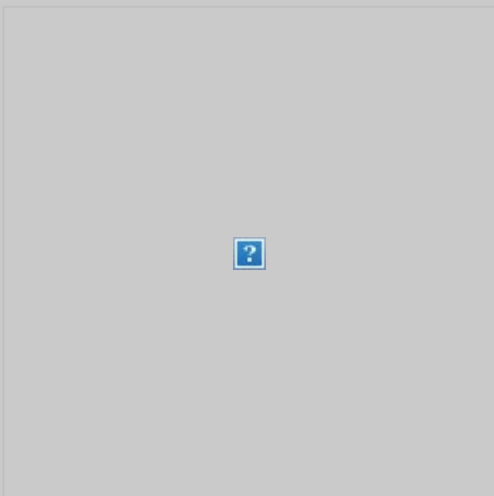
[Read More](#)



Voter registration deadline nears for May primary election

Those who plan to exercise their right to vote in the May 6 Primary/Special Election must be registered to vote at least 30 days before the election.

[Read More](#)



Ohio Secretary of State LaRose confirms ballots dispatched to military and overseas voters for May 6



primary

Ballots are on the move to military and overseas Ohio voters for the upcoming May 6 primary election, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose confirmed.

[Read More](#)



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If interested in interviewing Secretary LaRose, please contact Ben Kindel at BKindel@OhioSoS.gov or 440-864-0106.



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From: [Secretary LaRose Press](#)
To: butler@ohiosos.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ohio Secretary of State Week in Review
Date: Friday, April 18, 2025 5:03:50 PM

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Ohio Secretary of State Week in Review

For The Week Ending April 18, 2025

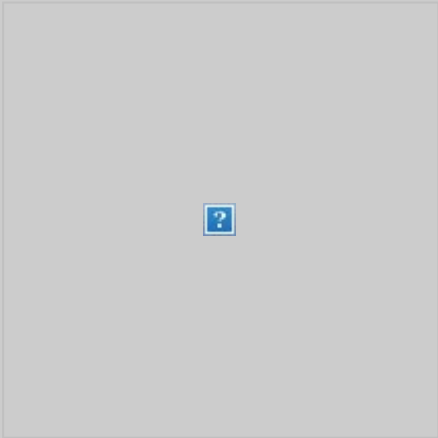
3 Things You Need to Know:

- **Prioritizing Election Transparency:** Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose launched a [new online data dashboard](#) to help citizens better analyze past election results and statewide voting trends. The new resource is part of an ongoing effort to improve election data retention and provide unprecedented levels of transparency in our elections. Find all of Ohio's latest election data tools and dashboards at OhioSoS.gov/Data. [Read the full release here.](#)
- **Collaborating on Election Integrity:** Secretary LaRose joined White House staff and other chief election officers to discuss President Trump's Executive Order to protect the integrity of American elections. During the meeting, Secretary LaRose highlighted Ohio's process for verifying citizenship and discussed the critical importance of the President's directive that "Agencies like the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Social Security Administration, and Department of State must provide states with access to

federal databases to verify eligibility and citizenship of individuals registering to vote."

- **Understanding Issue 2:** All voters will see State Issue 2 on the ballot in the upcoming primary election. This proposed constitutional amendment, which was introduced by a Joint Resolution of the General Assembly, would authorize the state to issue general obligation bonds to fund public infrastructure capital improvements. Before you cast your vote, make sure you're informed. Our office has compiled a comprehensive report including the ballot language, full text of the amendment, and the official arguments that were submitted *for* and *against* the measure. [Read the full report here.](#)

Verify Ohio Weekly Update:



We created **Verify Ohio** as a trusted source for election information and business education. Follow us on your favorite social media channels [@VerifyOhio.](#)

Can I confirm that my absentee request or ballot was received by my board of elections?

LET'S VERIFY!

One of the voting features here in Ohio is the ability to track your absentee ballot — from when it gets sent out to when the board receives it to be counted on election night.

If you requested an absentee ballot, track the status at [VoteOhio.gov/Track!](#)



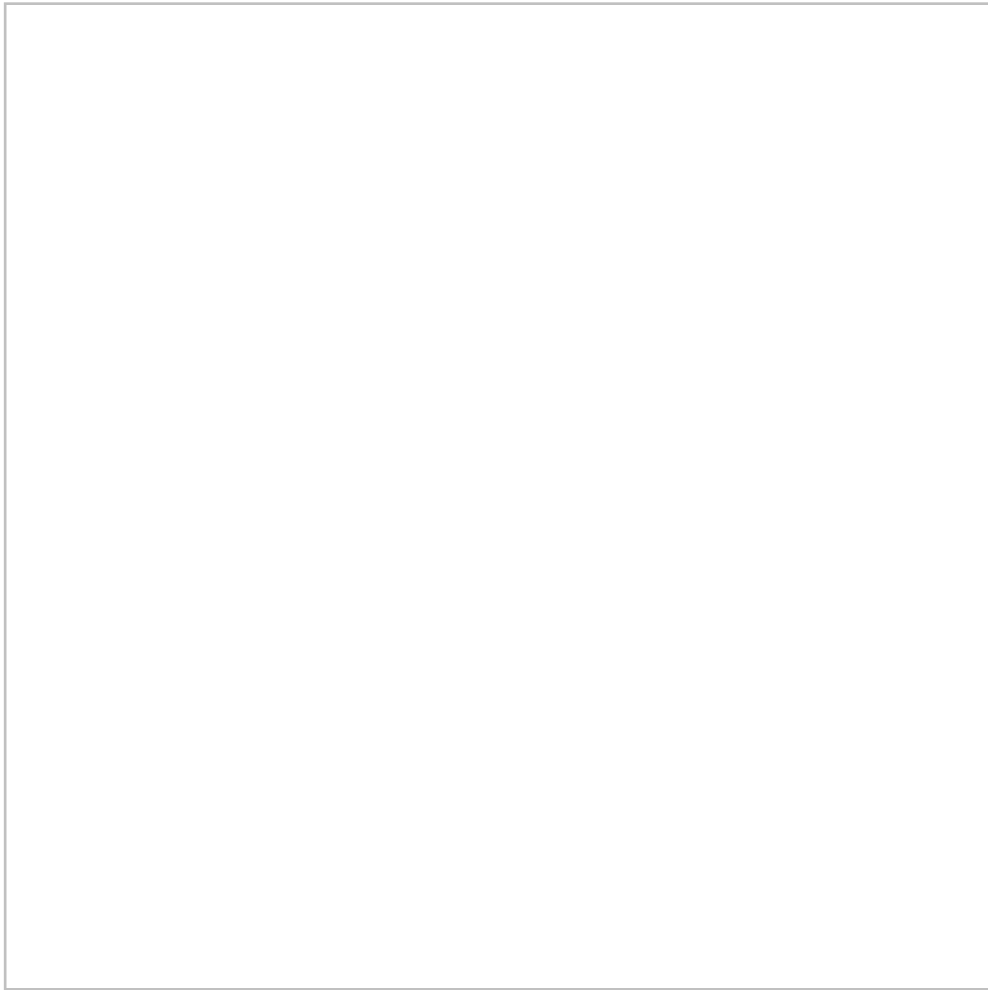
Updates From Around Ohio



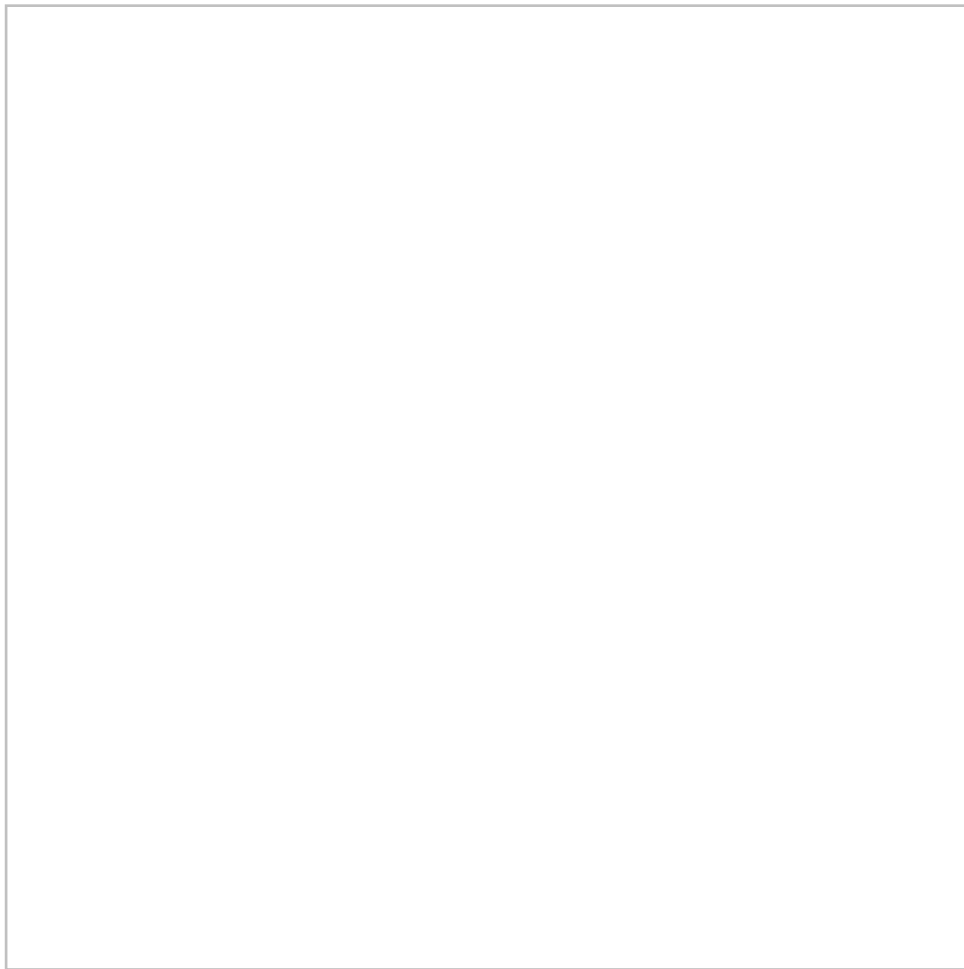
As an Ohio State graduate, Secretary LaRose enjoyed the opportunity to join the Buckeyes football team in Washington, D.C. to celebrate their National Championship at the White House with President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance. Go Bucks!



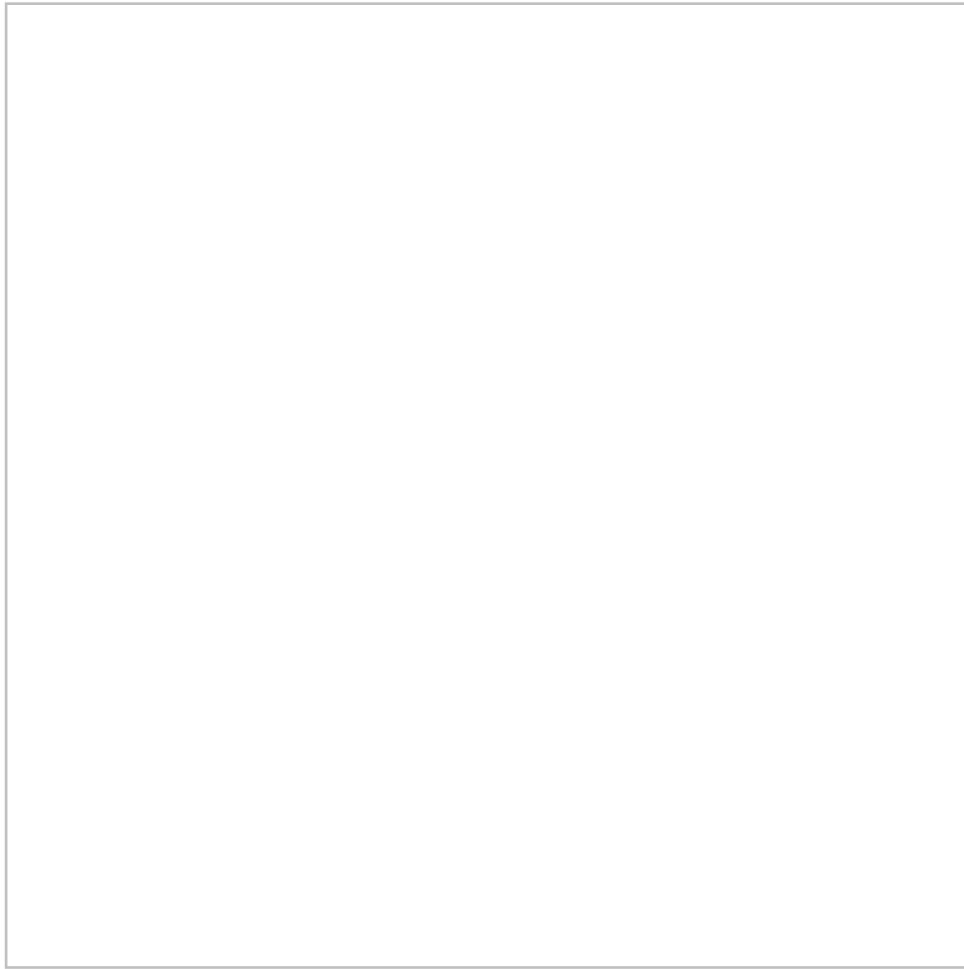
Leadership Medina County hosted their annual State Government Day and welcomed Secretary LaRose to highlight the ways our office is working to support Ohio's voters and entrepreneurs with real-world solutions. Thank you for your commitment to building strong leaders in your community!



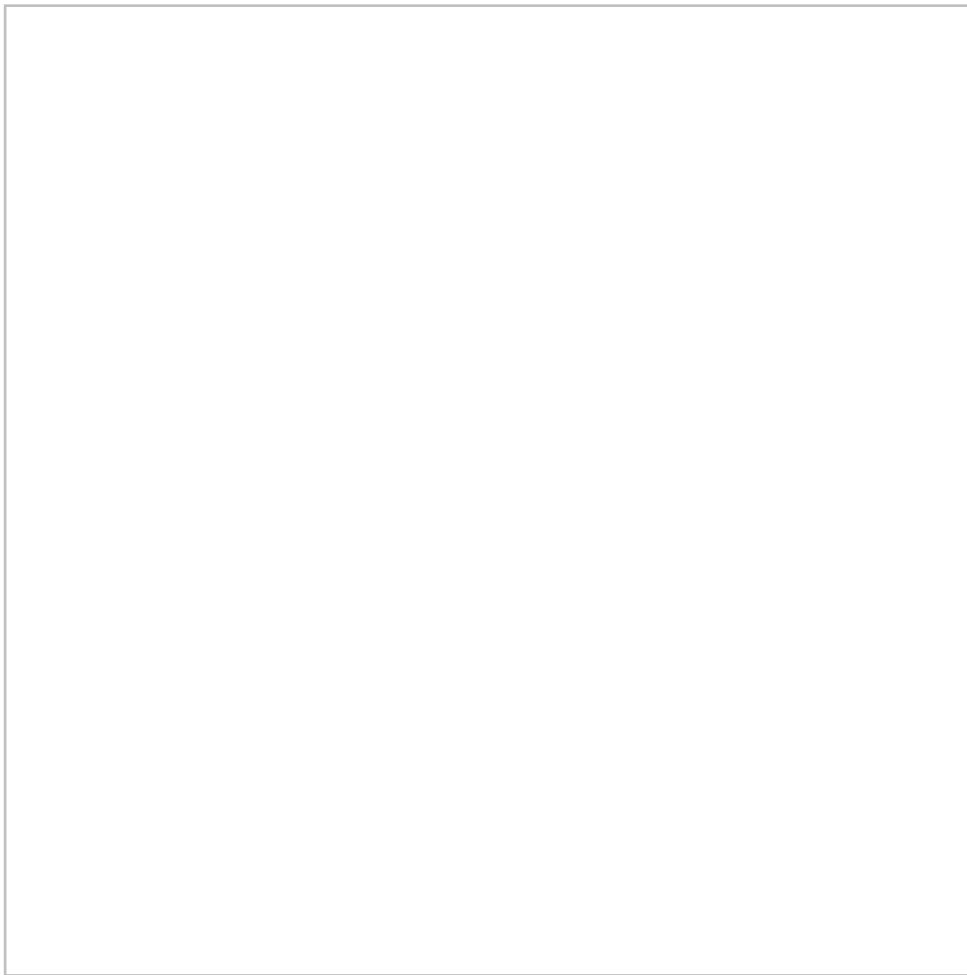
It was a pleasure having the Republic of Türkiye Consul General, T. Bora Atatanir, visit our office this week! Secretary LaRose and our team had a great conversation about the strong ties between the U.S. and Türkiye. We also talked about how we're helping members of the Turkish community here in Ohio start businesses and navigate the apostille process.



Secretary LaRose visited the Williams County Board of Elections to check in with board staff and precinct election officials as they prepare for the May 6 election.



The Bryan Area Chamber of Commerce hosted Secretary LaRose for a discussion about the local economic landscape and the issues impacting job creators and entrepreneurs in their communities.



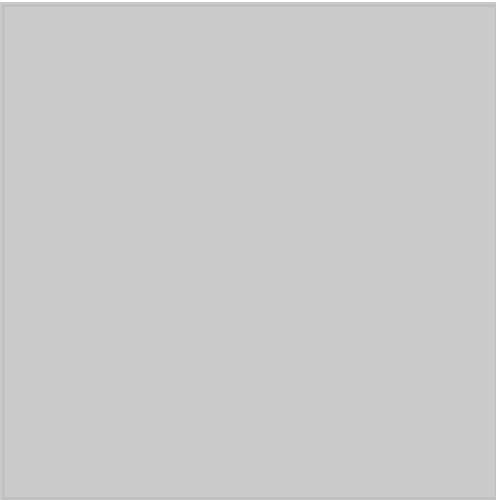
As the office that helps businesses get started in Ohio, Secretary LaRose values getting out into the community and hearing directly from job creators. During his visit to APA Solar Racking in Henry County, he toured their facility and saw firsthand the innovation happening right here in our state.

In Case You Missed It:

Secretary Frank LaRose launches election history data dashboard

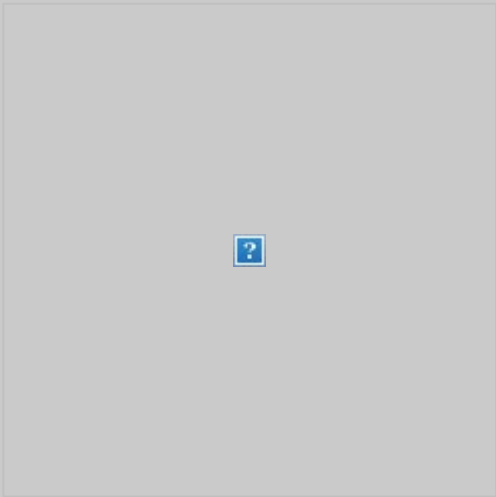
Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose announced on Wednesday that he is launching a new election history data dashboard.

LaRose's office says the dashboard is designed to help citizens analyze past election results and voting trends across



the state.

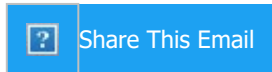
[Learn More](#)



Alabama, Ohio agree to share voter data in effort to fight fraud across state lines

Alabama and Ohio will now cross-check their voter rolls to prevent double registration, Secretary of State Wes Allen announced today. Ohio's partnership with the Alabama Voter Integrity Database (AVID) marks the ninth such decision from another state to assist in the fight against voter fraud.

[Learn More](#)



If interested in interviewing Secretary LaRose, please contact Ben Kindel at BKindel@OhioSoS.gov or 440-864-0106.



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From: [Secretary LaRose Press](#)
To: butler@ohiosos.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RELEASE: Secretary LaRose Releases Statement on Election Integrity Executive Order
Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 7:42:39 PM

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 25, 2025

MEDIA CONTACT
[Ben Kindel](#) | 440-864-0106

SECRETARY LAROSE RELEASES STATEMENT ON ELECTION INTEGRITY EXECUTIVE ORDER

(Columbus) - Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose released the following statement on today's [executive order](#) by President Donald Trump regarding election integrity:

"I appreciate President Trump's decisive leadership to protect the integrity of our elections. Fortunately, I can say that a lot of this we already do in Ohio, but where there's an opportunity to do more we can certainly work with our state and federal lawmakers to address it. I'm especially grateful for the clear order to give states better access to citizenship data, something we've been pushing the federal government to do. We'll review the rest of the president's order to see how it specifically applies to Ohio, but it's refreshing to have an administration that's finally setting some clear standards on election administration."

#

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