

Quick Reference Guide

Build-It-Yourself Version

Overview

This Quick Reference Guide is a 'build it yourself' resource that can be taken into the poll location and used to quickly reference Election Day procedures and activities.

Refer to your state's election code to fill in specific information needed to be a well-informed Election Observer. The election codes by state have been aggregated by volunteers. Please see your state's codes by visiting:

<https://truethevote.org/info-by-state>

Assembly Instructions

1. Print this document (double-sided, flip on the long edge)
2. Cut along the dotted line at the bottom of each page.
3. Order the pages according to the page numbers (don't include this page).
4. Align all pages along the top edge and staple.
5. Your finished document will have handy tabs along the bottom of each page for quick reference and space for taking notes as you flip the previous page.
6. Keep those elections honest and help true the vote!



Finished Document

This page intentionally blank

Ohio Election Observer Quick Reference Guide



Polling Place Staff

Lead authority (Voting Location Manager): _____

Other election workers: _____

Primary Mission of a Poll Watcher ("Observer")

OBSERVE and DOCUMENT activities of the Election Workers at the poll to ensure that proper elections procedures are followed. DO NOT TALK or ENGAGE with voters in any way. If a voter or other person approaches you in the poll, walk over to one of the precinct officials or the voting location manager and ask him/her to explain to the person that you are not allowed to speak to them.

Staff & Mission

Hotline #: _____

Notes & Election Codes

Section 3501.22 | Precinct officials.

(A)(1) ...Except as otherwise provided in division (C) of this section, all precinct election officials shall be qualified electors. The precinct election officials shall constitute the election officers of the precinct. Not more than one-half of the total number of precinct election officials shall be members of the same political party... The board may, at any time, designate any number of election officers, not more than one-half of whom shall be members of the same political party, to perform their duties at any precinct in any election. The board may appoint additional officials, equally divided between the two major political parties, when necessary to expedite voting. If the board of elections determines that four precinct election officials are not required in a precinct for a special election, the board of elections may select two or more of the precinct's election officers, who are not members of the same political party, to serve as the precinct election officials for that precinct in that special election... Precinct election officials shall perform all of the duties provided by law for receiving the ballots/supplies/opening & closing the polls/overseeing the casting of ballots during the time the polls are open/ & any other duties required by section 3501.26 of the Revised Code... A board of elections may designate two precinct election officials as counting officials to count and tally the votes cast and certify the results of the election at each precinct, and perform other duties as provided by law. To expedite the counting of votes at each precinct, the board may appoint additional officials, not more than one-half of whom shall be members of the same political party. Except as otherwise provided in division (A)(2) of this section, the board shall designate one of the precinct election officials who is a member of the dominant political party to serve as a voting location manager, whose duty it is to deliver the returns of the election and all supplies to the office of the board... The board shall issue to each precinct election official a certificate of appointment, which the official shall present to the voting location manager at the time the polls are opened.

... (C)(1) A board of elections... may establish a program permitting certain high school students to apply and, if appointed by the board of elections, to serve as precinct officers at a primary, special, or general election.

Section 3501.33 | Authority of precinct officials.

All precinct election officials shall enforce peace and good order in and about the place of registration or election. They shall especially keep the place of access of the electors to the polling place open and unobstructed and prevent and stop any improper practices or attempts tending to obstruct, intimidate, or interfere with any elector in registering or voting. They shall protect observers against molestation and violence in the performance of their duties, and may eject from the polling place any observer for violation of any provision of Title XXXV of the Revised Code. They shall prevent riots, violence, tumult, or disorder. In the discharge of these duties, they may call upon the sheriff, police, or other peace officers to aid them in enforcing the law. They may order the arrest of any person violating Title XXXV of the Revised Code, but such an arrest shall not prevent the person from registering or voting if the person is entitled to do so. The sheriff, all constables, police officers, and other officers of the peace shall immediately obey and aid in the enforcement of any lawful order made by the precinct election officials in the enforcement of Title XXXV of the Revised Code.



What to Do If You See an Infraction

- Notify precinct officials of infraction
- If correction made: Document incident noting correction
- If correction not made: Document incident noting outcome
- Include time and names of precinct officials involved. DO NOT list names of voters.
- Description of violation:
 - What you witnessed and what was said
 - FACTS ONLY, leave out opinion/emotion
- If necessary, file a complaint with the Ohio elections commission when time allows

Professional Conduct & Conflict Resolution

- Remember: Your PRIMARY MISSION is observation & documentation
- Be professional in speech and body language
- Tone of voice says more than words chosen
- Avoid being dismissed as “disruptive”
- Know your election code as much as possible
- Ask precinct election officials to deal with hostile persons
- Dealing with errors by precinct election officials
 - Politely point out correct action from reference materials
 - If not corrected, document and share with your state's elections commission

Infractions

Conflict Resolution

Infractions

Section 3599.19 | Prohibitions concerning precinct election officials.

(A) No precinct election official shall knowingly do any of the following:

- (1) Unlawfully open/permit to be opened the sealed package containing registration lists/ballots/blanks/pollbooks/ & other papers & material to be used in an election; (2) Unlawfully misplace/carry away/negligently lose/permit to be taken from the precinct election official/fail to deliver/or destroy any such packages/papers/ or material; (3) Receive/sanction the reception of a ballot from a person not a qualified elector or from a person who refused to answer a question in accordance with election law; (4) Refuse to receive or sanction the rejection of a ballot from a person, knowing that person to be a qualified elector; (5) Permit a fraudulent ballot to be placed in the ballot box; (6) Place/permit to be placed in any ballot box any ballot known by precinct election official to be improperly or falsely marked; (7) Count/permit to be counted any illegal or fraudulent ballot; (8) Mislead an elector who is physically unable to prepare the elector's ballot/mark a ballot for elector as directed by elector/or disclose to any person, except when legally required to do so, how elector voted; (9) Alter/mark/ or permit any alteration or marking on any ballot when counting ballots; (10) Unlawfully count/tally/sanction the wrongfull counting or tallying of votes; (11) After counting of votes commences, as required by law, postposition/sanction the counting of votes/adjourrn at any time or to any place/remove the ballot box from the place of voting/or from the custody or presence of all precinct election officials; (12) Permit any ballot to remain/be in the ballot box at the opening of the polls/put in the box during the counting of the ballots/or left in box without being counted; (13) Admit/sanction the admission to the polling room at an election during receiving/counting/ & certifying of votes of any person not qualified by law to do so admitted; (14) Refuse to admit/sanction the refusal to admit any person, upon lawful request for admission, who is legally qualified to be present; (15) Permit/sanction counting of the ballots contrary to prescribed by law; (16) Neglect/ unlawfully execute any duty enjoined upon the precinct election official by law.

Conflict Resolution

Section 3501.33 | Authority of precinct officials.

All precinct election officials shall enforce peace/order in & about the place of registration or election. Especially keep the place of access of electors to polling place open/unobstructed/& prevent/stop any improper practices or attempts tending to obstruct/intimidate/or interfere with any elector in registering/ or voting. They shall protect observers against molestation & violence in the performance of their duties & may eject from polling place any observer for violation. They shall prevent riots/violence/tumult/ or disorder. In the discharge of these duties, they may call upon the sheriff, police or other peace officers to aid in enforcing the law. They may order the arrest of any person violating but such an arrest shall not prevent the person from registering or voting if the person is entitled to do so. The sheriff/constables/police officers/ & other officers of the peace shall immediately obey & aid in the enforcement of any lawful order made by the precinct election...

Section 3517.153 | Filing complaint.

(A) Upon the filing of a complaint with the Ohio elections commission, which shall be made by affidavit of any person, on personal knowledge, and subject to the penalties for perjury, or upon the filing of a complaint made by the secretary of state or an official at the board of elections, setting forth a failure to comply with or a violation of any provision in sections 3517.08 to 3517.13, 3517.20 to 3517.22, 3599.03, or 3599.031 of the Revised Code, the commission shall proceed in accordance with sections 3517.154 to 3517.157 of the Revised Code....

(B) The commission shall prescribe the form for complaints made under division (A) of this section. The secretary of state & board of elections shall furnish the information on the commission requests. Commission/member of the commission may administer oaths & commission may issue subpoenas to persons) in the state compelling the attendance of witnesses/production of relevant papers/books/accounts/& reports. ...

(C) No prosecution shall commence for a violation unless a complaint has been filed with the commission ...

Section 3501.34 | Duties of police as to elections.

At least one policeman shall be assigned to duty in each precinct on each day of an election, when requested by the board or the secretary of state. Such police officer shall have access at all times to the polling place, and he shall promptly place under arrest any person found violating any provisions of Title XXXV of the Revised Code.



Arrival Checklist

- Check in with voting location manager: Arrive 30 minutes prior to the opening of the polls (Section 3501.31)
- Submit any required paperwork upon arrival and receive ID: observers will file their certificates of appointment with the voting location manager at the meeting on the evening prior to the election or on election day. (Section 3505.21)
- Badge if required: There's no badge specified, but observers will need to take an oath administered by one of the precinct officials. Precinct officers will also need to take an oath. (Section 3501.31)
- Ask voting location manager for cell phone policy

Poll Layout

- Write your name, poll location info and date at top of note pad
- Record names of all election workers
- Draw a schematic of the poll layout noting the placement of equipment

Note Taking

- Observe and document all activities, include time of activity and brief description of events
- State observations using facts; DO NOT INCLUDE OPINIONS

Opening Procedures

Things to watch for during the opening of the poll:

- All security seals were intact prior to poll opening
- All ballots boxes were empty (Section 3505.16)
- All voting machines/ballots/ballot boxes are accounted for and are within your line of sight throughout the day until the closing of the polls and the counting of the ballots. (Section 3505.16)

Opening the Polls

Opening the Polls

Section 3501.32 | Hours for polling places.

(A) Except as otherwise provided in division (B) of this section, on the day of the election the polls shall be opened by proclamation by the voting location manager, or in the manager's absence by a voting location manager chosen by the precinct election officials, at six-thirty a.m. and shall be closed by proclamation at seven-thirty p.m. unless there are voters waiting in line to cast their ballots, in which case the polls shall be kept open until such waiting voters have voted.

Section 3505.21 | Appointment of challengers and witnesses.

(C) ... The observer serving on behalf of a political party shall be appointed in writing by the chairperson and secretary of the respective controlling party committee. Observers serving for any five or more candidates shall have their certificates signed by those candidates. Observers appointed to a precinct may file their certificates of appointment with the voting location manager of the precinct at the meeting on the evening prior to the election, or with the voting location manager of the precinct on the day of the election. Observers appointed to the office of the board to observe the casting of absent voter's ballots in person prior to the day of the election or the processing of absent voter's ballots before the time for counting those ballots may file their certificates with the director of the board of elections the day before or on the day that the observers are scheduled to serve at the office of the board. ... (F) No person shall serve as observer at any precinct/board of elections unless board of elections of the county in which such observer is to serve has first been notified of the name/address/location at which observer is to serve. Notification to the board of elections shall be given by the political party/group of candidates/or committee appointing observer as prescribed in this section. No observers shall receive any compensation from the county/municipal corporation/or township, and they shall take the following oath administered by one of the precinct election officials:

"You do solemnly swear that you will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties as an official observer, assigned by law; that you will not cause any delay to persons offering to vote; and that you will not disclose or communicate to any person how any elector has voted at such election."

Section 3505.16 | Ballot boxes and supplies placement at polling place.

Before the opening of the polls, the packages of supplies and the ballot box shall be opened in the presence of the precinct officials. The ballot box, the package of ballots, registration forms, and other supplies shall at all times be in full sight of the observers, and no ballot box or unused ballots during the balloting or counting shall be removed or screened from their full sight until the counting has been closed and the final returns completed and the certificate signed by the judges.

Section 3501.22 | Precinct officials.

...The board shall issue to each precinct election official a certificate of appointment, which the official shall present to the voting location manager at the time the polls are opened.

Section 3501.31 | Notice of election mailed to precinct officials.

The election official designated as voting location manager under section 3501.22 of the Revised Code shall call at the office of the board at such time before the day of the election, not earlier than the tenth day before the day of the election, as the board designates to obtain the ballots, pollbooks, registration forms and lists, and other material to be used in the official's polling place on election day.

The board may also provide for the delivery of such materials to polling places in a municipal corporation by members of the police department of such municipal corporation, or the board may provide for the delivery of such materials to the voting location manager not earlier than the tenth day before the election, in any manner it finds to be advisable.

On election day the precinct election officials shall punctually attend the polling place one-half hour before the time fixed for opening the polls. Each of the precinct

election officials shall thereupon make and subscribe to a statement which shall be as follows:

"State of Ohio / County of ... / I do solemnly swear under the penalty of perjury that I will support the constitution of the United States of America and the constitution of the state of Ohio and its laws; that I have not been convicted of a felony or any violation of the election laws; that I will discharge to the best of my ability the duties of precinct election official in and for precinct ... in the county of ... (township) or (ward and city or village) ... in the county of ... in the election to be held on the day of ... as required by law and the rules and instructions of the board of elections of said county; and that I will endeavor to prevent fraud in such election, and will report immediately to said board any violation of the election laws which come to my attention, and I will not disclose any information as to how any elector voted which is gained by me in the discharge of my official duties. (Signatures of precinct election officials)" If any of the other precinct election officials is absent at that time, the voting location manager, with the concurrence of a majority of the precinct election officials present, shall appoint a qualified elector who is a member of the same political party as the political party of which such absent precinct election official is a member to fill the vacancy until the board appoints a person to fill such vacancy and the persons so appointed reports for duty at the polling place. The voting location manager shall promptly notify the board of such vacancy by telephone or otherwise. The voting location manager also shall assign the precinct election officials to their respective duties and shall have general charge of the polling place.



Who can be in the voting area?

As described in Section 3505.21

- Voters
- Precinct election officials
- The observers
- A police officer
- Other persons who are detailed to any precinct on request of the board of elections, or
- Interpreters providing assistance to voters
- Persons admitted to provide assistance to voter
- Secretary of State, or their representative
- Journalists will be allowed reasonable access to the polling place (Section 3501.35)

- A voter should not be in the voting booth for over 10 minutes. (Section 3505.23)

Valid Forms of ID If Required by Your State

As described in Section 3501.01 and H.B. 458 (see additional notes):

- It must include the individual's name, photograph, & not be expired:
 - An Ohio driver's license (commercial driver's license, motorcycle operator's license, probationary or restricted license, or temporary instruction permit), state ID card, or interim ID form (the form used before the physical card has been mailed to them) issued by the registrar of motor vehicles or a deputy registrar
 - A U.S. passport or passport card;
 - A United States military ID card/national guard ID card/or US department of veterans affairs ID card.
- If they have a religious objection to being photographed, they can sign a for attesting to that and vote.
- A voter cannot give their ID number, Utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document with current address, or the last four digits of their social as a form of ID when voting (H.B. 458)

Voting Area

Valid Forms of ID

Voting Area

Section 3505.23 | Time limit for occupying voting compartment - errors in voting - marking ballot.

Except as otherwise provided in this section, no voter shall be allowed to occupy a voting compartment or use a voting machine more than ten minutes when all the voting compartments or machines are in use and voters are waiting to occupy them. The ten-minute time limit shall not apply to any person who requires the use of an accessible voting machine as required under the "Help America Vote Act of 2002," 116 Stat. 1704, 42 U.S.C. 15481.

Except as otherwise provided by section 3505.24 of the Revised Code, no voter shall occupy a voting compartment or machine with another person or speak to anyone, nor shall anyone speak to the voter, while the voter is in a voting compartment or machine.

Section 3505.21 | Appointment of challengers and witnesses.

(D) No persons other than the precinct election officials, the observers, a police officer, other persons who are detailed to any precinct on request of the board of elections, or the secretary of state or the secretary of state's legal representative shall be admitted to the polling place, or any room in which a board of elections is counting ballots, after the closing of the polls until the counting, certifying, and signing of the final returns of each election have been completed.

Section 3501.35 | No loitering or congregating near polling places.

(B)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (B)(2) of this section and division (C) of section 3503.23 of the Revised Code, no person who is not an election official, employee, observer, or police officer shall be allowed to enter the polling place during the election, except for the purpose of voting or assisting another person to vote as provided in section 3505.24 of the Revised Code.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, a journalist shall be allowed reasonable access to a polling place during an election. As used in this division, "journalist" has the same meaning as in division (B)(2) of section 2923.129 of the Revised Code.

(C) No more electors shall be allowed to approach the voting shelves at any time than there are voting shelves provided.

(D) The precinct election officials and the police officer shall strictly enforce the observance of this section.

Valid Forms of ID

Section 3505.18 | Procedure when elector entered polling place.

(A)(1) When an elector appears in a polling place to vote, the elector shall announce to the precinct election officials the elector's full name and current address and provide photo identification.

Section 3501.01 | Election procedure - election officials definitions

... (AA) (1) "Photo identification" means one of the following documents that includes the individual's name/photograph/ & not expired:

(a) An Ohio driver's license/state identification card/or interim identification form issued by the registrar of motor vehicles or a deputy registrar;

(b) A United States passport or passport card;

(c) A United States military identification card/national guard identification card/or US department of veterans affairs identification card. ...

(2) A "copy" of an individual's photo identification means images of both the front and back of a document described in division (AA)(1) of this section, except that if the document is a United States passport, a copy of the photo identification means an image of the passport's identification page that includes the individual's name, photograph, and other identifying information and the passport's expiration date.

(BB) "Driver's license" means a license or permit issued by the registrar or a deputy registrar under Chapter 4506, or 4507, of the Revised Code that authorizes an individual to drive. "Driver's license" includes a driver's license, commercial driver's license, probationary license, restricted license, motorcycle operator's license, or temporary instruction permit identification card. "Driver's license" does not include a limited term license issued under section 4507.09 of the Revised Code.

(CC) "State identification card" means a card issued by the registrar or a deputy registrar under sections 4507.50 to 4507.52 of the Revised Code.

(DD) "Interim identification form" means the document issued by the registrar or a deputy registrar to an applicant for a driver's license or state identification card that contains all of the information otherwise found on the license or card and that an applicant may use as a form of identification until the physical license or card arrives in the mail.



Voter Check-In

- The voter will give their name and current address, and produce a valid form of ID. (Section 3505.18 and H.B. 458)
- If the voter cannot produce a valid form of ID, they can cast a provisional ballot. (Section 3505.18)
- After their identity is confirmed, the voter will sign their name on the pollbook or in the poll list -- if they're unable to sign they can make a mark by their name -- and a precinct election official will write the voters name next to the signature or mark. The precinct election official will then write their own name next to the mark. (Section 3505.18)
- The voter's signature will be compared to their signature on their registration form/ digitized signature list, and if the two are found to be matching by a majority of the precinct election officials, the voter will be allowed to use the voting machine. (Section 3505.18)
- If there is a discrepancy between signatures, or if the precinct officer has reason to believe that a person is impersonating an elector, then the elector will be allowed to vote by provisional ballot. (Section 3505.22)
- If the precinct uses voting machines, then the elector/voter can proceed to the machine. If they use paper ballots, the precinct election official in charge of ballots will detach the next ballots to be issued to the elector from Stub B attached to each ballot, leaving Stub A attached to each ballot, hand the ballots to the elector, and call the elector's name and the stub number on each of the ballots. The precinct election official will enter the stub numbers opposite the signature of the elector in the pollbook. (Section 3505.18)
- No mark shall be made on any ballot which would in any way enable any person to identify the person who voted the ballot. (Section 3505.18)

Voter Check-In

Viewer Check-In

Section 3505.18 | Procedure when elector entered polling place.

(A)(1) When an elector appears in a polling place to vote, the elector shall announce to the precinct election officials the elector's full name and current address and provide photo identification.

(2) If an elector does not have or is unable to provide photo identification to the precinct election officials, the elector may cast a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised Code.

(B) After the elector has announced the elector's full name and current address and provided photo identification, the elector shall confirm the elector's name and address by signing the elector's name at the proper place in the poll list or signature pollbook, the elector may make the elector's mark at the place intended for the elector's name, and a precinct election official shall write the name of the elector at the proper place on the poll list or signature pollbook following the elector's mark. The making of such a mark shall be attested by the precinct election official, who shall evidence the same by signing the precinct election official's name on the poll list or signature pollbook as a witness to the mark. Alternatively, if applicable, an attorney in fact acting pursuant to section 3501.382 of the Revised Code may sign the elector's signature in the poll list or signature pollbook in accordance with that section.

The elector's signature in the poll list or signature pollbook then shall be compared with the elector's signature on the elector's registration form or a digitized signature list as provided for in section 3503.13 of the Revised Code, and if, in the opinion of a majority of the precinct election officials, the signatures are the same person, the election officials shall enter the date of the election on the registration form or shall record the date by other means prescribed by the secretary of state. The validity of an attorney in fact's signature on behalf of an elector shall be determined in accordance with section 3501.382 of the Revised Code.

If the right of the elector to vote is not then challenged, or, if being challenged, the elector establishes the elector's right to vote, the elector shall be allowed to proceed to use the voting machines. If voting machines are not being used in that precinct, the precinct election official in charge of ballots shall then detach the next ballots to be issued to the elector from Stub B attached to each ballot, leaving Stub A attached to each ballot, hand the ballots to the elector, and call the elector's name and the stub number on each of the ballots. The precinct election official shall enter the stub numbers opposite the signature of the elector in the pollbook. The elector shall then retire to one of the voting compartments to mark the elector's ballots. No mark shall be made on any ballot which would in any way enable any person to identify the person who voted the ballot.

Section 3505.22 | Impersonating an elector.

If any precinct officer has reason to believe that a person is impersonating an elector, that person, before being given a ballot, shall be questioned as to the person's right to vote, and shall be required to sign the person's name or make the person's mark in ink on a card to be provided. If, in the opinion of a majority of the precinct officers, the signature is not that of the person who signed the name in the registration forms, that person shall be permitted to cast a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised Code.



Paper Ballots and Ballot Box

Ballot box will be locked and kept in plain view of the observers the entire time (Section 3505.16)

After the official voter finishes marking their ballot, they will fold their ballot to maintain secrecy and return it to the precinct election official in charge of the ballot box. When they turn in their ballot they will state their name, then the precinct official will announce the voter's name, remove Stub A from each ballot, and announce the number on the stubs. The official in charge of the poll list will verify the number on Stub B matches Stub A, and if it does the official in charge of the ballot box will place Stub A from each ballot in the ballot box. (Section 3505.23)

If a voter spoils a ballot, they can be given up to two more ballots. A voter will not receive more than three ballots. (Section 3505.23)

Until the voter returns the ballot with Stub A attached, they will not be allowed to leave, regardless of whether or not they've voted. (Section 3505.23)

Electronic Ballots

No unauthorized person should have any voting machine parts or keys. (Section 3599.27)

There will be a voter verified paper trail for all electronic ballots, and if there is any discrepancy in the votes, the paper trail will be the official ballots to be recounted. (Section 3506.18)

The paper trail ballots will be preserved in the same way as normal paper ballots. (Section 3506.18)

No voting machine should ever be connected to the internet. (Section 3506.23)

Observers may observe the processing of the ballots and the sealing and signing of the envelopes or containers or both containing the voted ballots (Section 3506.13)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Paper Ballots

Electronic Ballots

Paper Ballots

Section 3505.23 | Time limit for occupying voting compartment - errors in voting - marking ballot.

If a voter tears, soils, defaces, or erroneously marks a ballot the voter may return it to the precinct election officials and a second ballot shall be issued to the voter. Before returning a torn, soiled, defaced, or erroneously marked ballot, the voter shall fold it so as to conceal any marks the voter made upon it, but the voter shall not remove Stub A therefrom. If the voter tears, soils, defaces, or erroneously marks such second ballot, the voter may return it to the precinct election officials, and a third ballot shall be issued to the voter. In no case shall more than three ballots be issued to a voter. Upon receiving a returned torn, soiled, defaced, or erroneously marked ballot the precinct election officials shall detach Stub A therefrom, write "Defaced" on the back of such ballot, and place the stub and the ballot in the separate containers provided therefor.

No elector shall leave the polling place until the elector returns to the precinct election officials every ballot issued to the elector with Stub A on each ballot attached thereto, regardless of whether the elector has or has not placed any marks upon the ballot.

Before leaving the voting compartment, the voter shall fold each ballot marked by the voter so that no part of the face of the ballot is visible, and so that the printing thereon indicating the kind of ballot it is and the facsimile signatures of the members of the board of elections are visible. The voter shall then leave the voting compartment, deliver the voter's ballots, and state the voter's name to the precinct election officials in charge of the ballot box, who shall announce the name, detach Stub A from each ballot, and announce the number on the stubs. The precinct election officials in charge of the poll lists or poll books shall check to ascertain whether the number so announced is the number on Stub B of the ballots issued to such voter, and if no discrepancy appears to exist, the precinct election official in charge of the ballot box shall, in the presence of the voter, deposit each such ballot in the ballot box and shall place Stub A from each ballot in the container provided therefor. The voter shall then immediately leave the polling place.

No ballot delivered by a voter to the precinct election official in charge of the ballot box with Stub A detached therefrom, and only ballots provided in accordance with Title XXV of the Revised Code, shall be voted or deposited in the ballot box.

Section 3599.26 | Tampering with ballots.

No person shall fraudulently put a ballot/ticket into a ballot box; or knowingly & willfully vote a ballot other than official ballot lawfully obtained by the person from precinct election authorities; or fraudulently/deceitfully change No person shall fraudulently put a ballot/ticket into a ballot box; or knowingly & willfully vote a ballot other than official ballot lawfully obtained by the person from precinct election authorities; or fraudulently/deceitfully change a ballot of an elector, such that elector is prevented from voting for candidates/on an issue as the elector intends; or mark a ballot of an elector except as authorized; or hand a marked ballot to an elector to vote, with intent to ascertain how elector voted; or furnish a ballot to an elector who cannot read, knowingly informing the elector that it contains a name different from the one printed/written, to induce the elector to vote contrary to the elector's intentions; or unduly delay/hinder an elector from applying for registration/registering/attempting to vote/voting/or knowingly print/distribute a ballot contrary to law; contrary to law.

Electronic Ballots

Section 3599.27 | Possession of or tampering with voting machine, automatic tabulating equipment, or marking device prohibited.

No unauthorized person shall have in the person's possession any voting machine owned/leased by any county/or parts/keys. No person shall tamper/attempt to tamper with/deface/impair the use of/destroy/ or otherwise injure any voting machine. No unauthorized person shall possession any marking device/ automatic tabulating equipment/any parts/appurtenances/or accessories. ... Section 3506.18 | Electronic voting machine - verified paper audit trail as official ballot in recount.

(A) For any recount of an election in which ballots are cast using a direct recording electronic voting machine with a voter verified paper audit trail, the voter verified paper audit trail shall serve as the official ballot to be recounted.

(B) Voter verified paper audit trails shall be preserved in the same manner and for the same time period as paper ballots are preserved. ...

(C) A voter verified paper audit trail shall be treated as are other ballots. ...

(D) If a voter verified paper audit trail is made available to the public, any information on that voter verified paper audit trail that identifies the particular direct recording electronic voting machine that produced it shall be redacted.

Section 3506.23 | Voting machines not to be connected to internet.

A voting machine shall not be connected to the internet.

Section 3506.13 | Challengers and witnesses in precincts where marking devices, automatic tabulating equipment, voting machines, or any combination of these are used.

In precincts where marking devices, automatic tabulating equipment, voting machines, or any combination of these are used, observers may be appointed as prescribed in section 3505.21 of the Revised Code. The duties and privileges of observers in such precincts during the hours the polls are open shall be as provided in section 3505.21 of the Revised Code.

Observers shall be allowed to remain in the polling place after the polls close and may observe the processing of the ballots and the sealing and signing of the envelopes or containers or both containing the voted ballots.



Provisional Ballots

When the eligibility of the voter is in question, a voter should be given a provisional ballot. Some examples are:

- Voter is in the wrong precinct
- Voter has an address that is outside the country
- Voter's signature cannot be verified
- Voter cannot produce a valid form of ID
- The voter is already voted by absentee ballot
- Voter is otherwise not qualified but insists on voting

Provisional ballot procedures that should be followed in your state (Section 3505.181):

- If the voter is in the wrong precinct, the election officials should direct the voter to the correct precinct. If they insist, they can cast a provisional ballot, but it will not be counted.
- The voter will sign a written affirmation stating that the voter is a registered voter in the precinct where they desire to vote and that they are eligible to vote in this election.
- If the individual is able to provide photo ID, then they will record the type of ID provided and the ID number (if there is one, such as in a drivers license or state ID) on the provisional ballot affirmation.
- If an individual doesn't have a photo ID for religious reasons, they'll need to sign an affidavit of religious objection. Election officials will attach the affidavit to the individual's provisional ballot envelope.
- The voter has four days to provide proper documentation or identification to the county board of elections so that their provisional ballot might be counted.

Mail Ballots (Section 3509.05):

- The return envelope must contain the elector's ID number, the last four of their social, and a copy of their ID.
- It should be mailed to the office of the board of elections in the return envelope, or it can be dropped off personally by the elector or a family member.
- The board can only have one dropbox outside of the office to receive ballots.
- It will only be open to receive ballots from the first day after the close of voter registration before the election, until 7:30 p.m. on the day of the election
- The dropbox will be under video surveillance and all recordings will be open to viewing by the public.
- A bipartisan team of election officials will collect the contents of the dropbox and deliver them to the board for processing at least once each day and at 7:30 p.m. on the day of the election. If anyone is waiting in line at the dropbox at 7:30 on election day to drop off a ballot they will still be allowed to deposit their ballot.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Provisional Ballots

Mail Ballots

Provisional Voting

Section 3505.181 [Eligibility to cast provisional ballot - procedure.]

(A) The following individuals shall be permitted to cast provisional ballot(s) at an election: (1) Individual who declares they are a registered voter in precinct in which they desire to vote & they are eligible to vote in election, but name does not appear on official list of eligible voters for precinct or an election official asserts they are not eligible to vote; (2) Individual who does not have or unable to provide photo identification to the election officials; (3) Individual whose name in poll list/signature pollbook has been marked having requested an absent voter's ballot/uniformed services/absent voter's ballot for election & who appears to vote at polling place; (4) Individual whose non registration or return envelope was returned/unopened to board of elections & whose name in official registration list & in poll list or signature pollbook has been marked; (5) Individual who has been successfully challenged; (6) Individual who changes name & remains within precinct without providing proof of name change, moves from one precinct to another & changes name, or moves from one county to another within state, & completes & signs required forms & statements; (7) Individual whose signature, in opinion of precinct officers is not that of the person who signed name in the registration forms.

(B) Individual may cast provisional ballot under (A) shall be permitted to cast provisional ballot as follows: (1) Election official at polling place shall notify individual may cast a provisional ballot in election. (2) Except as otherwise provided in division (F) of this section, individual shall complete & execute written affirmation before election official at polling place stating individual is both of the following: (a) Registered voter in the precinct where desires to vote; (b) Eligible to vote in election. (3) Election official at polling place shall transmit ballot cast by individual & the information in written affirmation executed by individual to appropriate local election official for ... (4) If appropriate local election official to whom the ballot/voter/or address information is transmitted determines individual is eligible to vote, the individual's provisional ballot shall be counted as vote in election. (5) (a) At time individual casts a provisional ballot, appropriate local election official shall give individual written information that states individual who casts a provisional ballot will be able to ascertain whether the vote was counted & if vote was not counted, reason the vote was not counted. (b) Appropriate state/local election official shall establish a free access system, in form of a toll-free telephone number, individual who casts a provisional ballot may access/discover whether vote was counted & if vote not counted the reason not counted. The access system shall provide to individual whose provisional ballot was not counted how may contact the board of elections to register to vote or to resolve problems with the registration. (6) (a) If, at time individual casts a provisional ballot individual provides photo identification, individual type of identification provided on provisional ballot affirmation & if the individual provides an Ohio driver's license/state identification card/or interim identification document they also write the driver's license/state identification card number on provisional ballot affirmation. (7) (a) Provisional ballot to be eligible to be counted when cast by an individual without photo identification because of religious objection to being photographed, the individual shall complete an affidavit or religious objection. The election official shall attach the affidavit to provisional ballot envelope. If the individual does not complete the affidavit at the time of casting provisional ballot, the individual may appear at the office of board of elections within 4 days after day of election & complete. (b) Provisional ballot to be counted when cast by any other individual who does not have/unable to provide photo identification to election officials, the individual may appear at the office of board of elections within 4 days after day of election & complete with photo identification. (8) Provisional ballot cast by individual who has been successfully challenged to be counted, the individual who cast ballot, within 4 days after day of election, shall provide to board of elections any identification/documentation provided by applicable challenge questions ...

(C) (1) Individual declares eligible to vote in a precinct other precinct individual desires to vote, or if, precinct voting location guide using residential street address election official at the precinct at which the individual desires to vote determines that the individual is not eligible to vote in that precinct, the election official shall direct the individual to the precinct & polling place in which the individual appears to be eligible to vote, explain individual may cast a provisional ballot at the current location/ballot/portion of the ballot will not be counted if cast in the wrong precinct & provide telephone number of board of elections in case of additional questions. (2) If individual refuses to travel to the correct precinct/office of board of elections to cast a ballot, ... If individual is in correct polling location registered & eligible to vote, the election official shall complete & sign, under penalty of election falsification, a form including the following, & attach to provisional ballot affirmation: (a) The name/number of individual's correct precinct; (b) Statement election official instructed the individual to travel to the correct precinct to vote; (c) A statement election official informed individual casting provisional ballot in wrong precinct would result in all/portion of votes on the ballot being ejected; (d) The name/number of the precinct individual is casting a provisional ballot; (e) Name of polling location in which the individual is casting a provisional ballot. (D) Appropriate local election official shall cause voting information to be published at each polling place on day of election. ...

(F) ... A blind, disabled, or illiterate elector may receive assistance in marking that elector's provisional ballot and in completing the required affirmation in the same manner as an elector may receive assistance on the day of an election under that section.

Mail Ballots

Section 3509.05 | Voting and return procedure.

(A) When elector requested absent voter's ballot, elector before placing any marks on the ballot note whether any voting marks on it. If there are the ballot shall be returned immediately to board of elections; otherwise, the elector shall make & fold in manner the stub on it & the endorsements & facsimile signatures of members of board of elections on back are visible/placed & sealed within identification envelope received from board of elections. Elector shall cause the statement of voter on no envelope to be completed & signed, under penalty of election falsification.

(B) Elector shall provide one of following on statement of identification envelope: (1) The elector's Ohio driver's license/parent(s) or adopted/step parent(s)/in-law(s) of elector's social security number ... (3) Copy of elector's photo identification ...

(C) (1) Elector shall mail the identification envelope to office of board of elections or delivered by elector/spouse/parent(s) or adopted/step parent(s)/in-law(s) voter's ballot(s)/whole or half sibling(s)/children(s)/adopted or stepchild/uncle/aunt/nephew/or niece. ... (2) ... board designate only one office to which absent voter's ballot(s) shall be returned. (3) (a) Board of elections may place not more than one secure receptacle outside the office of board on property where office of board is located. (c) A secure receptacle shall be monitored by recorded video surveillance at all times. The video recordings are a public record. The board shall do one of following: (i) Make the video recordings available for inspection upon request ... (ii) Make each day's video recording available to the public on the internet for streaming or download without charge within 72 hours after the recording ends ... (d) Only bipartisan team of election officials may open a secure receptacle or handle its contents. A bipartisan team of election officials shall collect the contents of each secure receptacle & deliver to board for processing at least once each day & 7:30 pm on day of election. If, at 7:30 pm there are persons waiting in line to deposit absent voter's ballots in a receptacle, those persons shall be permitted to deposit ballots. (4) (a) During period beginning on the 45 day before election day & ending on the day after election day, on each day office of board of elections is open for business, the board shall report to secretary of state all the following information: (i) Number of return envelopes containing absent voter's ballots/uniformed services/absent voter's ballots received by personal delivery ... (iii) If board has placed a secure receptacle outside the office of board of return envelopes containing absent voter's ballots/uniformed services/or oversees absent voter's ballots board received in the receptacle. (b) ... the secretary of state shall make the information in the report available to the public on the secretary of state's official web site.

(D) (1) Except as otherwise provided all envelopes containing marked absent voter's ballots shall be delivered to the office of board not later than the close of the poll on the day of an election. Absent voter's ballots delivered to the office of board later than the times specified shall not be counted, but shall be kept by board in the sealed identification envelopes in which they are delivered, until the time provided for the destruction of all other ballots used at the election for which ballots were provided, at which time they shall be destroyed. ...



Curbside Voting

For voters physically unable to enter polling place without assistance or risk of injury to health, a ballot will be brought out to them by two polling place officials of major political parties. They will be able to cast their ballot from their vehicle or at the door of the polling place. (Section 3501.29)

Rules on Voters Needing Assistance

A voter who wants to vote at the office of board of elections to cast absent voter's ballots in person may be given assistance, if they declare that they are blind, illiterate, or otherwise disabled. Any election official may require a declaration of inability to be made by the voter under oath before the election official. (Section 3505.24 & Section 3501.221)

Who may provide assistance to a voter?

Two election officials of different political parties, or anyone the voter chooses other than the voter's employer, agent of the voter's employer, or officer or agent of the voter's union. Election officials cannot give any information to the voter when helping mark their ballot. Interpreter guidelines: The board of elections will appoint those who're fluent in a non-English language to serve as interpreters, and interpreters shall complete a program of instruction. Interpreters can only provide the information that an election official would be able to provide to an elector. All requirements relating to the qualifications of election officials apply to persons appointed. No interpreter can influence or attempt to influence any voter to vote for or against any candidate or issue submitted at such election. They also cannot wear or display any campaign badges, signs, or other promotional material for any candidate. (Section 3505.24)

Electioneering

No election official, observer, sheriff, special deputy, or police officer can wear any badge, sign, or any kind of insignia or promotional material for any campaign.

No kind of campaigning -- including campaign material -- can be done/placed between the polling place and the small flags placed along the thoroughfares and walkways leading to the polling place. If the line of electors extends beyond those flags, then the parameter for campaigning extends ten feet beyond the last elector in line. (Section 3599.38 & Section 3501.35)

Curbside Voting

Voters Needing Assistance

Electioneering

Curbside Voting

Section 3501.29 | Polling places.

(C) Board of elections shall permit any elector with a disability who travels to that elector's polling place, but who is physically unable to enter the polling place, to vote, with the assistance of two polling place officials of major political parties, in the vehicle that conveyed that elector to the polling place, or to receive and cast that elector's ballot at the door of the polling place. Under no other circumstance may an elector vote in a vehicle or at the door of a polling place.

Voters Needing Assistance

Section 3505.24 | Providing assistance to blind, disabled or illiterate electors.

Electors who does both of following may be accompanied in voting booth & aided by any person of the elector's choice, other than elector's employer/agent of the

elector's employer/or officer or agent of the elector's union, if any:

(A) Appears to vote on the day of an election/appears at the office of board of elections to cast absent voter's ballots in person;

(B) Declares to presiding judge of elections or election official who is accepting applications to cast absent voter's ballots in person that the elector is unable to mark the elector's ballot by reason of blindness/disability/illiteracy. The elector also may request & receive assistance in the marking of elector's ballot from 2 election officials of different political parties. Any person providing assistance in marking of an elector's ballot shall provide no information in regard to the marking of ballot. Any election official may require a declaration of inability to be made by the elector under oath before the election official. Assistance shall not be rendered for causes other than specified in this section, & no candidate whose name appears on the ballot shall assist any person in marking that person's ballot.

Section 3501.221 | Appointment of interpreters.

(A) To encourage voting, a board of elections may appoint persons who are fluent in a non-English language to serve as interpreters to assist voters in certain election precincts. If the board determines that the number of non-English-speaking electors in a precinct indicates a need for an interpreter and provision of an interpreter is feasible and practical in terms of the number of such electors, the board may appoint an interpreter for such precinct in the same manner as other precinct election officials are appointed. A person appointed pursuant to this section may only provide to voters such assistance in the non-English language as may be provided by election officials to English speaking voters. All requirements relating to the qualifications of election officials apply to persons appointed under this section. Interpreters shall complete a program of instruction as provided in section 3501.27 of the Revised Code and shall be compensated in the same manner and amount as provided by section 3501.28 of the Revised Code for other election officials. A person appointed pursuant to this section may also serve as a precinct election officer; such persons shall be compensated as though he served only in the capacity of an election official, and he need not undergo a program of instruction a second time for the same election unless required by the board.

(B) No person appointed under division (A) of this section, while performing the duties of such office, shall:

(1) Wear any badge, sign, or other insignia or thing indicating a preference for any candidate or for any question submitted;

(2) Influence or attempt to influence any voter to vote for or against any candidate or issue submitted at such election.

(C) Whoever violates division (B) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.

Electioneering

Section 3599.38 | Illegally influencing voters while performing election duties.

(A) No election official, observer, deputy sheriff, special deputy sheriff, or police officer, while performing that person's duties related to the casting of votes, shall do either of the following:

(1) Wear any badge, sign, or other insignia or thing indicating that person's preference for any candidate or for any question submitted at an election;

(2) Influence or attempt to influence any voter to cast the voter's ballot for or against any candidate or issue submitted at an election.

(B) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.

Section 3501.35 | No loitering or congregating near polling places.

(A) During an election and the counting of the ballots, no person shall do any of the following:

(1) Loiter, congregate, or engage in any kind of election campaigning within the area between the polling place and the small flags placed on the thoroughfares and walkways leading to the polling place, and if the line of electors waiting for any

elector in that line;

(2) In any manner hinder or delay an elector in reaching or leaving the place fixed for casting the elector's ballot;

(3) Give, tender, or exhibit any ballot or ticket to any person other than the elector's own ballot to the precinct election officials within the area between the polling place and the small flags of the United States placed on the thoroughfares and walkways leading to the polling place, and if the line of electors waiting to

vote extends beyond those small flags, within ten feet of any elector in that line. ...



Closing Procedures

- In the presence of observers, the precinct officials will:
 - Count number of electors who voted, as shown on pollbooks
 - Count unused ballots without removing stubs
 - Count soiled & defaced ballot
 - Insert the totals on the report forms provided in pollbook
 - Count voted ballots (if there is any disagreement on how the ballot should be counted, the board will make a decision as to the extent that a vote can be counted. (Section 3505.27))
 - Put unused ballots with stubs attached/soiled/& defaced ballots with stubs attached, in envelopes or containers provided certify the number, & proceed to count/tally votes & certify the result of election to board of elections.
- If the number of voted ballots exceeds number of voters whose names appear in pollbooks, the voting location manager will enter on the pollbooks an explanation of discrepancy, and that explanation, if agreed to, shall be subscribed to by all of the precinct election officials. Any precinct official having a different explanation shall enter it in the pollbooks & subscribe to it. (Section 3505.26)

Voting After the Polls Close

- Doors close at 7:30 pm. If the polling place is located on an island not connected to the mainland by a highway/ bridge may close earlier than 7:30 pm if all registered voters in the precinct have voted. (Section 3501.32)
- Any voter waiting in line when the polls close will still be allowed to vote. (Section 3501.32)

Securing and Transporting Ballots / Equipment

- The results of the vote in the polling place must be entered on the proper forms, and the certificates of those results must be signed by the precinct officials (Section 3505.31)
- Before leaving the polling place, precinct officials must place all ballots that they have counted in containers provided for that purpose by the board of elections (Section 3505.31)

Breaking Down Equipment

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Closing the Poll

Closing the Poll

Section 3501.32 | Hours for polling places.

(A) ... shall be closed by proclamation at 7:30 pm unless there are voters waiting in line to cast ballots, in which case polls shall be kept open until such waiting voters have voted.
(B) ... polling place located on an island not connected to the mainland by a highway/bridge may close earlier than 7:30 pm if all registered voters in the precinct have voted...

Section 3505.26 | Closing polls procedures.

At time for closing the polls, the voting location manager shall by proclamation announce that the polls are closed. The precinct election officials shall in the presence of observers proceed as follows:

- (A) Count number of electors who voted, as shown on pollbooks;
- (B) Count unused ballots without removing stubs;
- (C) Count soiled & defaced ballots;
- (D) Insert the totals on the report forms provided in pollbook;
- (E) Count the voted ballots. If the number of voted ballots exceeds the number of voters whose names appear upon the pollbooks, the voting location manager shall enter on the pollbooks an explanation of that discrepancy, and that explanation, if agreed to, shall be subscribed to by all of the precinct election officials. Any precinct official having a different explanation shall enter it in the pollbooks and subscribe to it.
- (F) Put unused ballots with stubs attached/soiled/& defaced ballots with stubs attached, in envelopes or containers provided certify the number, & proceed to count/tally votes & certify the result of election to board of elections.

Section 3505.31 | Sealing ballots, pollbooks, poll lists or signature pollbooks, tally sheets.

When the results of the voting in a polling place on the day of an election have been determined and entered upon the proper forms and the certifications of those results have been signed by the precinct officials, those officials, before leaving the polling place, shall place all ballots that they have counted in containers provided for that purpose by the board of elections, and shall seal each container in a manner that it cannot be opened without breaking the seal or the material of which the container is made. They shall also seal the pollbook, poll list or signature pollbook, and tally sheet in a manner that the data contained in these items cannot be seen without breaking the seals. On the outside of these items shall be a plain indication that they are to be filed with the board. The voting location manager and an employee or appointee of the board of elections who has taken an oath to uphold the laws and constitution of this state, including an oath that the person will promptly and securely perform the duties required under this section and who is a member of a different political party than the voting location manager, shall then deliver to the board the containers of ballots and the sealed pollbook, poll list, and tally sheet, together with all other election reports, materials, and supplies required to be delivered to the board.



Election Observers MUST

- Take an oath before serving in the polls (Section 3505.21)
- Have a certificate that certifies them as an observer; observers must file their certificates with the voting location manager before the polls are closed. (Section 3505.21)

Election Observers MAY

- Witness the examination and opening of identification envelopes/processing/& counting of absent voters' ballots. The opening of absent voter ballots cast by electors who have confidential voter registration records cannot be witnessed by observers in such a way that compromises the confidentiality of the voter's identity or address. (Section 3509.06)
- Be permitted to watch every proceeding of the precinct election officials from the time of the opening until the closing of the polls. (Section 3505.21)
- Inspect the counting of all ballots in the polling place or board of elections from the time of the closing of the polls until the counting is completed and the final returns are certified and signed (Section 3505.21)
- Observe the counting and processing of the ballots, & the sealing and signing of the envelopes or containers or both containing the voted ballots. (Section 3506.13)
- The precinct election officials will protect the rights of observers. (Section 3505.21)

Election Observers MAY NOT

- Have in their possession any ballots, or hand out ballots. They can have a ballot if/when they are personally voting. (Section 3599.07)
- There may not be more than 6 observers appointed for any one election in any one precinct. (Section 3505.21)
- Wear any sort of campaign material or promotional material for any candidate. (Section 3599.38)
- Influence or attempt to influence any voter to cast the voter's ballot for or against any candidate or issue submitted at an election (Section 3599.38)

Election Observer Rules & Privileges

Election Observer Rules & Privileges

Section 3506.13 | Challengers and witnesses in precincts where marking devices, automatic tabulating equipment, voting machines, or any combination of these are used.

Observers shall be allowed to remain in the polling place after the polls close & may observe the processing of the ballots & the sealing & signing of the envelopes or containers or both containing the voted ballots.

Section 3509.06 | Counting absent voters' ballots.

(G) Special election officials, employees or members of the board of elections, or observers shall not disclose the count or any portion of the count of absent voters' ballots prior to the time of the closing of polling places. No person shall recklessly disclose the count or any portion of the count of absent voters' ballots in such a manner as to jeopardize the secrecy of any individual ballot.

(H)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (H)(2) of this section, observers may be appointed under section 3505.21 of the Revised Code to witness the examination and opening of identification envelopes/processing/& counting of absent voters' ballots under this section.

(2) Observers shall not be permitted to witness the examination & opening of identification envelopes returned by, & processing & counting of absent voters' ballots cast by, those electors.

addresses of those electors.

Section 3599.07 | Unlawful possession or distribution of ballots.

No precinct election official/observer/police officer admitted into polling rooms at the election, at any time while the polls are open, shall have in the individual's possession/distribution/or give out any ballot or ticket to any person on any pretense during the receiving, counting, or certifying of the votes, or have any ballot or ticket in the individual's possession or control, except in the proper discharge of the individual's official duty in receiving, counting, or canvassing the votes. This section does not prevent the lawful exercise by a precinct election official or observer of the individual right to vote at such election.

Section 3505.27 | Counting and tallying of ballots.

Unless otherwise ordered by the secretary of state or the board of elections, the counting and tallying of ballots shall be conducted according to procedures prescribed by the board of elections that assure an accurate count of all votes cast and that include all of the following:

(A) The counting and tallying of ballots at the appropriate office, as designated by the board, in the full view of members of the board and observers;... The board shall prescribe additional procedures as necessary to assure an accurate count of all votes cast. These procedures shall be followed until all of the ballots that are required to be counted on the day of the election after the close of the polls have been counted.

Section 3505.21 | Appointment of challengers and witnesses.

(A) As used in this section :

... (2) "During the counting of the ballots" includes any time during which the election officials count and tally ballots, make the official canvass of election returns, or conduct an audit of the official results of an election.

(B) At any primary, special, or general election, any political party supporting candidates to be voted upon at such election and any group of five or more candidates may appoint to the board of elections or to any of the precincts in the county or city one person, a qualified elector, who shall serve as observer for such party or such candidates during the casting of the ballots and during the counting of the ballots; provided that separate observers may be appointed to serve during the casting and during the counting of the ballots. No candidate, no uniformed member of the armed services, no uniformed member of a uniformed state highway patrol troop, no uniformed member of any fire department, no uniformed member of the armed services, no uniformed member of the organized militia, no person wearing any other uniform, and no person carrying a firearm or other deadly weapon shall serve as an observer, nor shall any candidate be represented by more than one observer at the board of elections except that a candidate who is a member of a party

controlling party committee... may serve as an observer.

(C) Any political party or group of candidates appointing observers shall notify the board of elections of the names and addresses of its appointees and the

precincts at which they shall serve at the board of elections. Notification of observers appointed to serve on the day of an election shall take

place not less than eleven days before the day of the election on forms prescribed by the secretary of state and may be amended by filing an amendment with

the board of elections at any time until four p.m. of the day before the election. Notification of observers appointed to serve at the office of the board during the

time absent voter's ballots may be cast in person or during the time in which the board processes absent voter's ballots pursuant to section 3509.01 of the Revised Code on forms

prescribed by the secretary of state and may be amended by filing an amendment with the board of elections at any time until four p.m. of the day before the

election. The secretary of state shall have the authority to use the chairpersons and secretary of the respective

controlling party committee. Observers appointed to a

precinct may file their certificates of appointment with the voting location manager of the precinct at the meeting on the evening prior to the election, or with

the voting location manager of the precinct on the day of the election. Observers appointed to the office of the board to observe the casting of absent voter's

ballots in person prior to the day of the election or the processing of absent voter's ballots before the time for counting those ballots

with the director of the board of elections the day before or on the day that the observers are scheduled to serve at the office of the board.

Upon the filing of a certificate, the persons named as observers shall be permitted to be in and about the applicable polling place during the

casting of the ballots and shall be permitted to watch every proceeding of the precinct election officials from the time of the opening until the closing of the polls.

The observer also may inspect the counting of all ballots in the polling place or board of elections from the time of the closing of the counting is

completed and the final returns are certified. Observers appointed to serve at the board of elections on the day of an election under this section may

observe at the board of elections and may observe in the county. The precinct election officials shall protect such observers in all of the rights and

privileges granted to them by Title XXXV of the Revised Code.

(D) No persons other than the precinct election officials, the observers, a police officer, other persons who are detailed to any precinct on request of the board of

elections, or the secretary of state or the secretary of the county, shall be admitted to the polling place, or any room in which a board of elections is

counting ballots, after the closing of the polls until the counting, certifying, and signing of the final returns of each election have been completed.

(E) Not later than four p.m. of the twentieth day prior to an election at which questions are to be submitted to a vote of the people, any committee entitled to

appoint observers to the county shall file a petition with the board of any county asking that the petitioners be recognized as the committee entitled to

appoint observers to the board of elections of the names and addresses of its appointees and the precincts at which they shall serve. Notification shall take place

not less than eleven days before the election on forms prescribed by the secretary of state and may be amended by filing an amendment with the board of

elections at any time until four p.m. on the day before the election. A person so appointed shall file the person's certificate of appointment with the board of

election manager in the precinct in which the person has been appointed to serve. Observers shall file their certificates before the polls are closed. In no case shall

more than six observers be appointed for any one election in any one precinct. If more than three questions are to be voted on, the committees which have

appointed observers may agree not to exceed six observers, and the precinct election officials shall appoint such observers. If such committees fail to agree,

the precinct election officials shall appoint six observers from the appointees so certified, in such manner that each side of the several questions shall be

represented.

(F) No person shall serve as an observer at any precinct or at the board of elections unless the board of elections of the county in which such observer is to serve

has first been notified of the name, address, and location at which such observer is to serve. Notification to the board of elections shall be given by the political

party, group of candidates, or committee appointing such observer as prescribed in this section. No such observers shall receive any compensation from the

county, municipal corporation, or township, and they shall take the following oath, to be administered by one of the precinct election officials:

"You do solemnly swear that you will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties as an official observer, assigned by law; that you will not cause any delay to

persons offering to vote; and that you will not disclose or communicate to any person how any elector has voted at such election."



H.B. 458

House bill 458 rescinded some of the qualifications for voter ID, deadlines for absentee ballots, and made adjustments to other laws pertaining to elections. Everything in this guide is updated with the current law, but if you would be interested so see the previous deadlines and laws pertaining to elections, please research "Ohio House Bill 458 - 134th General Assembly" for more information.