



## *From the Desk of Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted*

Dear Precinct Election Official:

Elections held in odd-numbered years typically don't get the same level of attention as elections featuring presidential or gubernatorial races. However, we know that every contest featured on Ohio ballots is important to that community and to our state as a whole. This May 5th voters in 74 counties will head to the polls to vote on local candidates and issues.

Regardless of what's on the ballot, we who work in Ohio elections are always busy. At the Secretary of State's Office, we are building on our successes from last November's statewide election and looking ahead to improve our elections system for 2016.

This issue of Ballot Box Bulletin features some of the ways we're getting ready for next year, including the story of my recent Congressional testimony on the importance of clean, up-to-date voter rolls. This issue also focuses on the present, including why some voters on May 5 will be voting in a primary election and why others will be participating in a special election. We've also made sure to highlight some of the great work done by elections workers throughout the state.

The May 5 primary/special election may not be getting the media attention it deserves, but that does not make it less important than any other election. The work you do at your assigned polling place will be a constant reminder to voters that it is easy to vote and hard to cheat in Ohio.



*Jon Husted*

Jon Husted, Ohio Secretary of State



## Secretary of State

### Online Precinct Election Official Training Course

If you are working the polls on May 5, 2015 there is still time for you to log on and take the Secretary of State's Online Precinct Election Official Training course if you have not already done so. The course is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week up until 5:30 a.m. on Election Day.

Website: [www.ohiopollworkertraining.sos.state.oh.us](http://www.ohiopollworkertraining.sos.state.oh.us)  
Username: Your e-mail address • Password: 515vote  
Toll-Free Technical Support: 1-888-521-2262

# Is the May 5, 2015 election a primary election? Well, maybe!

A primary election occurs on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May of each year, except in years in which a presidential primary election is held. Presidential primaries are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March. However, in odd numbered years the rules can get a little blurred. Below are a few facts to help understand the difference.

- **What do candidates have to do with it?** Primary election voters determine who will be nominated as candidates for political parties to compete for election to particular offices at the general election.
- **What happens if the party candidates are unopposed?** If the number of individuals that filed to be a candidate for one political party does not exceed the number of available seats for the offices that could appear on the ballot, then no primary election will be held for the purpose of nominating party candidates to be voted on in the general election. The candidates' names will be advanced to the general election ballot.
- **Is it still a primary if only one party has candidates?** If only one party would have contested candidate races, it would be considered a primary election for that party only. The remaining party or parties would vote only on questions and issues appearing on the ballot, if any. The remaining party or parties' candidates' names will appear on the general election ballot.
- **What if there are no candidate races but only questions and issues on the ballot?** If no candidates are on the ballot and only questions and issues are on the ballot, the election is considered a special election.
- **What if no candidates and no questions or issues file?** If no candidates and no questions or issues file then there is no election.

So across the state during any given odd year spring election, some counties will be holding primary elections, for some it will be a special election and others may have no election at all.

## On May 5, 2015

**14** counties will have no election, **32** will have special elections, **15** will hold a primary election; and **27** will be having a combination primary/special election.

## You Can Make a Difference – Get Your Workplace Involved

Every year large and small companies across the state encourage their employees to get involved in their local communities. A sense of community fosters a feeling that members have of belonging, a feeling that individuals matter to one another and to the group.

Many companies feel their customers really want to know how they are making the world a better place. Giving employees an avenue to give back is important for morale and builds a collaborative and inspired team. When employees love what they're doing they do a better job.

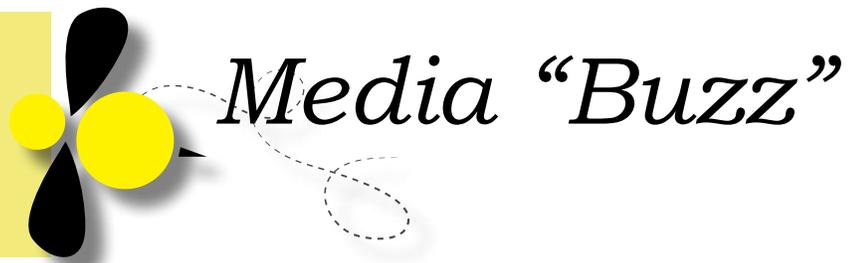
Volunteering also provides leadership opportunities for employees, which leads to increased staff performance, fulfillment and, ultimately, increased productivity.

### So how can you help, you're already giving of your time and making a difference?

You can encourage your employer or a business you use to consider letting their employees take a day and serve as a Precinct Election Official for their local board of elections.

Several counties across the state have started collaborative efforts with business in their counties to do just that. Please check with your local board of elections. If a program is in place see if your business can be added or if no program exists, pitch in to get one started.

# Secretary of State Husted Announces Election Officials of the Year & Presents Bright “I.D.E.A.” Awards



## Media “Buzz”

*Counties recognized include Fayette, Franklin, Madison and Montgomery.*

*COLUMBUS* – Looking to honor the hard work and dedication of local elections officials going above and beyond the call of duty, Secretary of State Jon Husted announced the Election Officials of the Year winners and Bright I.D.E.A. (Innovative Developments in Election Administration) Award recipients at the 2015 Ohio Association of Election Officials Conference.

## Election Official of the Year Award Winners

Announced at the 2015 Ohio Association of Election Officials Conference were the Republican and Democratic Ohio Election Officials of the Year. These awards recognize the notable, positive contributions local elections officials have made to the profession of elections administration in their county, and in the State of Ohio.

This year, both recipients are from the Fayette County Board of Elections and demonstrate how individuals of different political parties can collaborate in a collegial and professional manner to administer elections.

“The Fayette County Board of Elections director and deputy director demonstrate a level of bipartisanship that all public officials should strive to achieve,” Secretary Husted said. “Their ability to work together, putting the public interest ahead of political interests, has helped deliver well-run elections in their county time after time.”



The Republican and Democratic Ohio Election Officials of the Year were each awarded the National Secretaries of State Medallion Award in recognition of their service.

*Secretary Husted with Election Official of the Year recipients.  
Pictured from left to right: Fayette County Board of Elections  
Deputy Director Beth Ann Snyder, Secretary of State Jon Husted,  
and Director Jamie Brooks.*

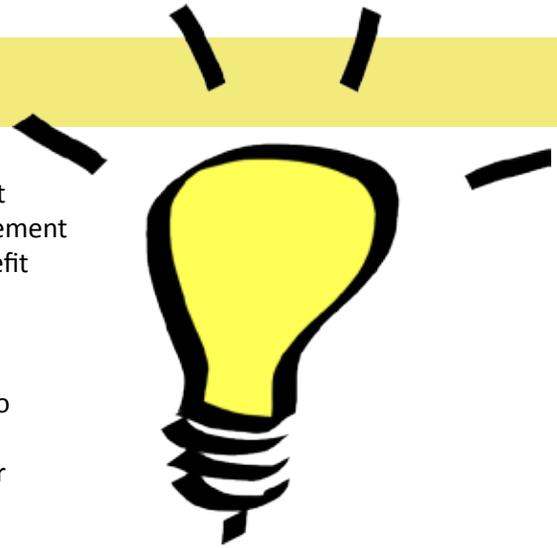
**Republican Ohio Election Official of the Year Award** was presented to Jamie Brooks, Director of the Fayette County Board of Elections. Director Brooks has held the positions of director and deputy director for the past eight years. She is an active member of the OAEO and a graduate of the Ohio Registered Election Official Program. An active member of her community, Director Brooks works tirelessly to share information about voting and the board of elections with Fayette County residents.

**Democratic Ohio Election Official of the Year Award** was presented to Beth Ann Snyder, Deputy Director of the Fayette County Board of Elections. For the past 23 years, Deputy Director Snyder has served the board in either her current position or as director. She has been a contributing member of the OAEO for 20 years and has been a trustee or a member of the Legislative Committee since 1999. She has served on various committees including the Education, Nominating, Audit and Conference Planning Committees. In January 2009, Deputy Director Snyder was appointed OAEO Secretary.

## Bright “I.D.E.A.” Award Winners

The Bright I.D.E.A. awards recognize county boards of elections for the development of an innovation that was successfully put into practice, caused a measured improvement in the administration of elections, and, if utilized, that other organizations may benefit from the implementation of such methods for management, policy and procedure improvement.

“Ohio’s elections officials at all levels are innovators, always in search of new ways to improve the voting experience while being mindful that they are on a tight budget” Secretary Husted said. “The honorees are a testament to that ingenuity and another reason why Ohio is a national leader in elections administration.”



*Secretary Husted presents employees of the Franklin County Board of Elections with their Bright “I.D.E.A.” award. Pictured from left to right: Dennis J. Landuyt, Elections Technology Assistant, and Carolyn Gorup, Manager Elections Technology.*

**Franklin County “Election Day Problem Tracking System”:** Communication among election officials on Election Day is essential. In Franklin County, the board of elections operated three separate locations where elections staff handled calls on a wide range of topics and issues. While the county was previously able to address inquiries received, it lacked a central location to collect all of the problems reported that might need further attention. To remedy this issue, the Franklin County Board of Elections developed software that enables election staff throughout the county to enter problems into a database. This system gives elections officials a centralized place to view what problems are occurring, in real time, at polling locations throughout the county and to quickly address any issues that may impede the election process.



*Secretary Husted presents members and employees of the Madison County Board of Elections with their Bright “I.D.E.A.” award. Pictured from left to right: (back row) Director Tim Ward, Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted; Board Member Howard Foust and Board Member Steve Saltsman (front row), Mathew Tlachac, Director of the Clark County Board of Elections and former Deputy Director in Madison County, and Board Member Charles Kitchen.*

**Madison County “Detailed Timeline Tool”:** To ensure greater efficiency and organization, Madison County created and implemented a detailed timeline tool that all staff may access and can use to plan their work on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. The system allows responsibilities and tasks to be assigned to a specific person, reminds staff of their deadlines, as well as prioritizes election and daily tasks. The tool also provides for a way to track and report on progress and check off completed jobs. Officials in Madison County have stated that the tool has been useful in keeping everyone on the same page on what needs to be accomplished both on a daily basis and for future planning.



*Secretary Husted presents members and employees of the Montgomery County Board of Elections with their Bright “I.D.E.A.” award. Pictured from left to right: (back row) Deputy Director Steve Harsman, Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted, Supervisor of Registration Mark Mazer, (front row) Board Member Rhine McLin and Board Member Kay Wick.*

**Montgomery County “Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail Remover”:** The County currently uses voting equipment that produces a Verifiable Paper Audit Trail, or VPAT, that must be removed from each machine following an election. The process of removing the VPAT from the approximately 2,500 machines used in each election required the tedious process of unrolling each spool of paper, identifying it and storing it according to a retention schedule. In an effort to save the board both time and money, the staff simply modified a power drill to more quickly remove multiple VPATs at one time. A process that used to take eight staff members four days to complete, now takes four staff members two days.

[You can view a video of the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail Remover in action here.](#)

More photos from the event are available at:

<http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/mediaCenter/Photos/2015/2015-01-16.aspx>.



While addressing the Ohio Association of Election Officials 2015 Annual Conference this past January and again in a directive to the boards of elections issued in February, Ohio's Secretary of State impressed the importance of preparation. Secretary Husted stated, "A key emphasis for Ohio's election administrators in 2015 must be our preparation for 2016."

One of the issues focused on is an Absentee Ballot Tracking System similar to the one now in place for (UOCAVA) Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act voters.

The Absentee Ballot Tracking System would allow all absentee voters in the county to identify the status of his or her absentee ballot from the date of application to the date the ballot was accepted for counting. A successful search result would provide the voter with the following information:

- The date the voter's absentee application was approved;
- The date the voter's approved absentee application was processed by the board of elections (i.e., the date the board of elections mailed the ballot or otherwise issued it);
- The date the voter's voted absentee ballot was received by the board of elections; and,
- The date the voter's voted absentee ballot was accepted for counting (or, if not accepted for counting, the reason it was determined to be ineligible for counting and the deadline by which the voter may correct any deficiency).

To date, about half of the Ohio counties have a system in place to track absentee ballots. The Secretary stated a system would need to be in place statewide by September 18, 2015 in preparation for the 2016 primary election.

## OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE JON HUSTED TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON MAINTAINING VOTER ROLLS

*Outlines risk to integrity of elections due to presidential executive actions on immigration.*

In an effort to proactively address a potential issue facing elections officials in Ohio and throughout the country, Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted testified before a joint hearing of the U.S. House Subcommittee on National Security and Subcommittee on Healthcare, Benefits & Administrative Rules regarding the impact President Barack Obama's recent *Immigration Accountability Executive Actions* may have on elections administration.

During his testimony, Secretary Husted noted that these executive actions will expand access to the forms of identification used to register to vote, thereby increasing the likelihood that non-citizens may illegally register to vote.

"For an estimated four to five million non-citizens, the President's executive actions provide access to Social

Security numbers and driver's licenses. These are the same documents that federal law requires the states to recognize as valid forms of identification for voter registration," Secretary Husted said during his testimony. "We want to find the least intrusive solution to closing this loophole without making it unnecessarily difficult to register or vote. While opinions may vary as to the best solution for this issue, one thing is clear: We cannot solve this federal problem solely at the state level alone."

On January 27, 2015, Secretary Husted [sent President Barack Obama a letter](#) raising these concerns and outlining a workable solution.

Secretary Husted's full remarks are available [here](#). (in the Media Center at [www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov](http://www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov)).

# TEAMWORK: A Story of How Together Everyone Achieves More

If someone would tell you a story about four individuals of different political parties (often times strangers) being asked to sit together and work hand-in-hand for 15 hours, would you say that was a fantasy, horror or fairytale?

You know in fact it would be nonfiction, because you are part of that strange rewarding story. Each election everyday people are asked to be part of a team like no other. As a precinct election official, you rise to the occasion. You wake before dawn and are done after dark. You make sure there is no "I" in your team.

## Around the state others are also working to define teamwork:

In Delaware County, Voting Location Managers (VLMs) are told they should start their day with a team huddle. During which time they introduce themselves and inform the workers of the task they will be performing as well as the jobs the VLMs will be responsible for at the polls on Election Day. They administer the oath and have paperwork signed. They update the Precinct Election Officials of any last minute changes;

reminding them of key items not to be missed (signatures, canceled ballots, important forms and rules). They have even heard that some teams end their huddle with a "go team" cheer, starting the day on a positive attitude.

In the days preceding any election in Wyandot County familiar faces are seen delivering, setting up and performing maintenance on the county's voting equipment. The familiar faces are those of the four board members. These individuals, two democrats and two republicans, are selected by their local political parties to oversee the operation of the board office, employees and elections. They are often chairs of their local party and viewed as political figures in their communities. However when it comes to election time, they put their political and administrative roles aside hit the pavement and make sure the polls are ready for Election Day, another GREAT example of what working together can do. Our hats are off to the board members in Wyandot County!!

**At the 2015 Ohio Association of Election Officials conference held in January, the Secretary spoke about our team, a team you should be very proud of.**

Ohio has one of the best elections systems in the nation. That's because in Ohio, we don't sit idle. To us, good is never good enough. We are constantly trying to improve.

Legendary NBA Coach Pat Riley said: "Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to be better." It's true in sports, true in life and true in our profession.

I am sure this is what Urban Meyer is already challenging his team to do. When you succeed, future success becomes an expectation. But it can also lead to overconfidence and complacency. Winners know that you must always challenge yourself to get better.

I believe the strong working relationships we've built, and you've built with each other, serve as an example to the people of Ohio that Democrats and Republicans can work together. Our bipartisanship elevates the cause of public service and puts the enduring principle of democracy ahead of self-service and the political interests of the day.

adjective: **bipartisan**; adjective: **bi-partisan**

Of or involving the agreement or cooperation of two political parties that usually oppose each other's policies.



*So it starts with your table of four workers and extends to your polling location but it doesn't stop there. We are all in this together, your party, precinct, polling location, board of elections, county and state. We are one giant team working together to achieve great things! GO TEAM!!*

# GO TEAM!!

# Former address on an unexpired photo ID is **ACCEPTABLE**

An Ohio driver's license or state identification with an old address IS ACCEPTABLE as a valid form of identification necessary to cast a regular ballot when the voter's current address is printed in the Signature Poll Book.



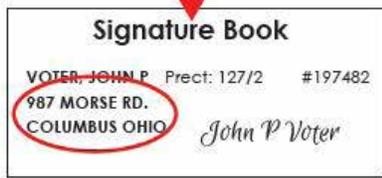
## Forgot to Update the Address on Your ID?

An **unexpired** Ohio Driver's license or State ID card with your **former address** IS an **ACCEPTABLE** form of ID when your current address is printed in the Signature Poll Book.\*

**1** Former Address Is On **UNEXPIRED** Ohio Driver's License or State ID Card



**2** Address Is Current In Signature Book



**Cast Your Ballot**



You may cast a regular ballot unless otherwise marked in the signature poll book.

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**Jon Husted**  
 Ohio Secretary of State

## New Format of Ohio's Driver License and State ID Cards

Effective, January 5, 2015, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles issued a new format of Ohio's driver license and state identification cards (state ID). Visible changes to the driver's license and state ID include:

- Blue/green card in place of the salmon colored card
- Laminate on front of card now contains the word "OHIO" and the year "1803" (hologram) near the top of the card



**NOTE:** Individuals holding a driver's license or state ID printed in the old formats (i.e. salmon colored card, etc.) are still valid until the driver's license or state ID card is expired. Customers are not required to obtain a replacement driver's license or state ID if they have the old format.

For additional information click [here](#).

# COUNTY MATCH

*Ex. Franklin*

1. Carroll County
2. Champaign County
3. Clark County
4. Clermont County
5. Clinton County
6. Columbiana County
7. Coshocton County
8. Crawford County
9. Cuyahoga County

- A. Birthplace of Ulysses S. Grant, 18th President of the United States
- B. Named in honor of Christopher Columbus and Queen Anne
- C. Home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum
- D. Known by many as the Antique Capital of the Midwest
- E. Wilmington College, a private career-oriented liberal arts institution established by Quakers in 1870 is located here
- F. This county seat was platted in 1815, in 2015 they will celebrate their 200th anniversary
- G. Host of the Annual Bratwurst Festival every August
- H. Visit the Jonny Appleseed Museum in this county
- I. Home of Historic Roscoe Village & the Horse-Drawn Canal Boat
- J. Host of the Ohio State Fair*

Key: 1-F, 2-H, 3-D, 4-A, 5-E, 6-B, 7-I, 8-G, 9-C

# It's a Date...



## May 2

- Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed for the May 5 primary/special election must be received by boards of elections by noon (3 days before primary/special election)

## May 5 - Primary/Special Election Day

- Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Absentee ballots, returned in person or via a method other than U.S. Mail, must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls and counted as a part of the unofficial vote total certified by the board of elections

## May 15

- Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail must be postmarked no later than May 4 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after primary/special election)
- UOCAVA absentee ballots must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after primary/special election)

## May 16

- Boards of elections may begin official canvass of May 5 primary/special election ballots (11 days after primary/special election)

## May 26

- Boards of elections must complete canvass of May 5 primary/special election ballots no later than this date (21 days after primary/special election)



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