



LEGISLATIVE FACT SHEET

Eliminate August Special Elections Except for US Nomination H.B. 458

On January 6, 2023, Governor Mike DeWine (R) signed H.B. 458 which, in addition to eliminating most August Special Elections also imposes one of the strictest voter identification laws in the United States. Moments after signing the bill, the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, Ohio Federation of Teachers, Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans, and the Union Veterans Council filed a complaint with the US District Court for the Northern District of Ohio Eastern Division.

Voter Identification

- Defines photo ID as an unexpired Ohio driver's license or state ID card (Ohio DL/ID), U.S. passport or passport card, or military ID card that includes the individual's name and photograph.
- Generally requires an elector to have photo ID to vote in person, unless the elector has a religious objection to being photographed.
- Requires a person who registers to vote or updates the person's voter registration using a paper form to provide the person's Ohio DL/ID number or the last four digits of the person's Social Security number (SSN).
- Requires an elector to show photo ID in order to cast a regular ballot on Election Day.
- Clarifies that an Election Day voter must sign the voter's name in the pollbook, as opposed to writing the voter's name and address in the pollbook.
- Requires a person who casts absent voter's ballots in person at the board of elections to provide photo ID in the same manner as an elector voting on Election Day.
- Clarifies that an in-person absent voter is not required to complete a written application for absent voter's ballots.
- Requires an elector who is applying to vote absentee by mail, or who is returning absent voter's ballots, to provide an Ohio DL/ID number, the last four digits of the elector's SSN, or a copy of the elector's photo ID.
- Allows an elector who appears to vote in person, either on Election Day or during in person absent voting, and who does not have or cannot provide photo ID, to cast a provisional ballot and show photo ID to the board after Election Day.
- Allows an elector who does not have photo ID because the elector has a religious objection to being photographed to sign an affidavit to that effect and to cast a provisional ballot using the last four digits of the elector's SSN.
- Shortens the cure period to correct a provisional ballot to four days after Election Day instead of seven.

Voter Identification (Continued)

- Authorizes any person 17 and over who applies for and receives a state ID card or a replacement state ID card from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to receive it for free.
- Establishes a process for the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to reimburse a deputy registrar for the fees that a deputy registrar would have charged for the free state ID card.
- Requires any Ohio DL/ID that is issued to a person who is not a U.S. citizen to include a notation that the person is a noncitizen.
- Authorizes a noncitizen who becomes a U.S. citizen in-between renewals of the person's Ohio DL/ID to obtain a free replacement that removes the notation of non-citizenship.

Absentee Voting by Mail

- Shortens the deadline to apply to cast absent voter's ballots by mail from noon on the third day before Election Day to the close of business on the seventh day before Election Day.
- Allows the Secretary of State to continue to mail unsolicited applications for absent voter's ballots, so long as the Secretary submits a report to the Controlling Board with certain information about the most recent mailing.
- Requires a person who applies to cast absent voter's ballots by mail to do so on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State or on an appropriate federal form for uniformed services and overseas absent voters.
- Requires all absent voter's ballots that are returned by mail to arrive at the board of elections by the fourth day after Election Day, instead of the tenth day after Election Day.
- Shortens the cure period to correct an absent voter's ballot to four days after Election Day instead of seven.
- Specifies that absent voter's ballots that are not returned to the board by mail must be returned to the office of the board, and not to any other location, such as to a drop box elsewhere in the county.
- Emphasizes the continuing-law principle that absent voter's ballots that are personally returned to the board must be delivered by the elector or a listed relative, and not by any other person..

In Person Absent Voting – Days Available

- Requires in-person absent voting to be permitted for all voters beginning on the day after the close of voter registration before an election and ending on the Sunday before the election.
- Expresses the General Assembly's intention to enact legislation that specifies the days and hours for in-person absent voting.
- Requires the Secretary of State to prescribe a new, uniform schedule that reallocates the six hours of in-person absent voting previously available on the Monday before Election Day by adding hours on Monday through Friday of the preceding week.



**Read the full
analysis by
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QR code.**

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