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## SECRETARY OF STATE

- Moves the date of a presidential primary from the second Tuesday after the first Monday in March to the third Tuesday after the first Monday in March.
- Specifies that moving the date for the presidential primary does not invalidate a declaration of candidacy, nominating petition, or other petition that has been filed and identified the primary election date as March 10, 2020, instead of March 17, 2020.
- Delays the deadline for major political parties to certify presidential and vice-presidential candidates to the Secretary of State for the 2020 general election from the 90<sup>th</sup> day before the day of the general election to the 60<sup>th</sup> day before the day of the general election.
- Reduces from four to two the minimum number of precinct election officials per precinct in a multi-precinct voting location in which electronic pollbooks are used.
- Requires a board of elections that chooses to make that reduction to approve the change by a vote of at least three of its members.
- Eliminates the Election Reform/Health and Human Services Fund.

### Presidential primary

(R.C. 3501.01, 3513.01, and 3513.12; Section 735.15)

The act moves the date of a presidential primary election from the second Tuesday after the first Monday in March to the third Tuesday after the first Monday in March. Under current law, all other primary elections in Ohio that are not a presidential primary election are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May.

Additionally, the act specifies that moving the date for the presidential primary does not invalidate a declaration of candidacy, nominating petition, or other petition that has been filed and identified the primary election date as March 10, 2020, instead of March 17, 2020.

### Certification of presidential and vice-presidential candidates

(Section 735.11)

The act delays the deadline for major political parties to certify presidential and vice-presidential candidates to the Secretary of State for the 2020 general election. For the 2020 general election, presidential and vice-presidential candidates must be certified to the Secretary not later than the 60<sup>th</sup> day before the 2020 general election. Under continuing law, major political parties must certify the names of the presidential and vice-presidential candidates to the Secretary for placement on the ballot on or before the 90<sup>th</sup> day before the day of the general election. A major political party is a political party organized under the laws of the state whose candidate for governor or nominees for presidential electors received not less than 20% of the total vote cast at the most recent regular state election.

Additionally, the act requires the Secretary to certify to the boards of elections the forms of the official ballots to be used at the 2020 general election on or before the 50<sup>th</sup> day before the election. Under continuing law, the Secretary must certify the forms of the official ballots to be used at a general election on the 70<sup>th</sup> day before.<sup>94</sup>

## **Minimum precinct election officials**

(R.C. 3501.22)

In a voting location that serves more than one precinct, if electronic pollbooks are used at that location, the act reduces the minimum number of precinct election officials who must be appointed from four per precinct to two. Under the act, a board of elections that wishes to make that reduction must approve the change by a vote of at least three of its members. Continuing law generally allows board decisions to be made by a vote of 2-2, with the Secretary of State casting a tiebreaking vote.

Additionally, the act makes a technical correction to change the term “presiding judge” to “voting location manager,” which is the term currently used in the Election Law.<sup>95</sup>

## **Election Reform/Health and Human Services Fund**

(R.C. 111.28; Section 516.10)

The act eliminates the Election Reform/Health and Human Services Fund (Fund 3AH0). That fund existed in the state treasury to receive grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 for assuring voting access for persons with disabilities.<sup>96</sup>

Continuing law requires the Secretary of State to deposit any federal grant moneys the Secretary receives, other than those that must be deposited in a specific fund, in the Miscellaneous Federal Grants Fund. As a result, the act does not affect the Secretary’s ability to receive any grant moneys that previously would have been deposited in the Election Reform/Health and Human Services Fund.

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<sup>94</sup> R.C. 3501.01(F)(1), 3505.01, and 3505.10(B)(1), not in the act.

<sup>95</sup> R.C. 3501.11(X), not in the act.

<sup>96</sup> 52 U.S.C. 21021 through 21025.