



March 21, 2023

Hon. Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State
22 North Fourth Street, 16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
secretarylarose@ohiosos.gov

Dear Secretary Frank LaRose:

Since Governor DeWine signed HB 458 on January 6, 2023, Boards of Elections (BOE) workers, legislatures, and advocates alike have experienced extreme confusion about how the law will be implemented.

While you were in DC trying to convince the House subcommittee that Ohio elections laws are the model of best practices for the nation, members of Ohio Voter Rights Coalition (OVRC) across the state have placed calls to their local Boards to understand the voter registration processes and what a new registrant needs to submit a hardcopy registration form. Alarming, we found that staff have been reporting different information instead of a uniform message. For example, some staff have reported that old forms would be accepted, while others say that only the new SOS forms would be permissible.

We are aware that they are not to blame for this confusion. While your office has disseminated [DIRECTIVE 2023-03](#), no training or money has been allocated to ensure the Boards and staff are prepared for this next election. From our perspective, the BOEs have been scrambling to implement the new laws but have been unknowingly releasing different information to the public.

Pushing an unfunded mandate is not only unhelpful for administrators and the public, it is costly. The Bureau of Motor Vehicle has spent upwards of \$10 million dollars of their budget because the legislature rushed through this bill without fronting the funds to pay for it. It is clear that now the SOS' office must spend time and resources. We are urgently requesting that your office disseminate funds sufficient to conduct training for BOE staff and for general public voter education so that staff may properly inform the voters of Ohio of the new procedures due to HB 458, allowing them to cast their ballots without further confusion.

With Regard,

/s/

Kayla Griffin,
Ohio State Director
All Voting is Local
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