

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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January 31, 2023

Gail,

We appreciate your patience as we prepared for and administered the November 8, 2022, General Election. Since the polls closed on Election Day we have been focused on certifying and auditing the 2022 General Election, preparing for the 2023 May Special Election, analyzing the questions presented in the twenty-three page report received in October, and responding to the additional thirty plus record requests you have submitted to our office. We have in fact been in contact with you multiple times regarding your requests. Documents have been sent as we are able to identify, scan and redact personal identifying information from tens of thousands of records.

The twenty-three page report refers to the term “ballots counted” and “ballots cast,” which are used interchangeably in this report. These two terms also seem to be used interchangeably with what the Ohio Secretary of State Election Official Manual refers to as “voter history.” Voter history is explained in the Election Official Manual, Section 4.14 Voter History. Voter history is provided to voters who cast a ballot in the election as well as voters who attempted to vote but their ballot was unable to be counted. Voter history accounts for the difference of “242” that is mentioned on the cover sheet. In the bullet points below we explain the difference between the numbers the report refers to as, “ballots counted.”

- 187,828 is the total ballots counted in the official certification in Butler County for the November 3, 2020 General Election.
- 188,070 listed under the column “Ballots Counted” across from the title “November 3 2020 STATEWIDE VOTER RECORD (SWVR) dated DEC 4 2020”, is incorrectly labeled. This is the number of voters that were provided voter history, NOT the number of ballots counted.

The twenty-three page report you provided to the board at the October 2022 meeting has numerous questions about voter registration data. It is impossible to compare the registration data after certification to registration data on or prior to Election Day due to the continuously changing nature of registrations. The registrations received after the close of registration date are entered into our registration database after certification. This process will result in duplicates, new registrations, address changes, name changes and the sequential order of the state identification numbers.

DIRECTOR
Nicole Unzicker

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Eric Corbin



County Boards of Elections in Ohio work throughout the year to resolve duplicate registrations between counties and within county lines to ensure each voter is only registered once. More information about how duplicate registrations are resolved and how matches are identified please see the Ohio Elections Official Manual Section 4.14 Duplicate Resolution.

Voters are able to register or update their registration online 365 days a year. This explains the registration dates on federal holidays that were mentioned in the report. More information about the Online Voter Registration System can be found in the Ohio Elections Official Manual Section 4.08 Secretary of State's Online Voter Registration System.

The twenty-three page report also asks many questions about the difference in registration from the statewide database on Election Day, November 3, 2020 and a copy of the statewide database on December 4, 2020. Many of the voters or numbers identified can be explained by normal voter activity. More information about the examples of activity listed below can be found in the Ohio Elections Official Manual.

- Registrations submitted after the close of the registration are processed and added to the voter rolls after the election is complete. This also includes registrations for voters who may have moved into or out of the county. This includes all registrations from designated agencies (BMV, JFS, libraries etc.), mail or online registrations.
- Any voter who completes a provisional ballot is given the date of the election as their registration date which explains why they would not be in the earlier data set.
- Some voters may have completed the "Notice of Change of Name" form 10-L at the polls which is used to update their voter registration at the polls after their identification has been verified. Voters can also update their registration at the polls on Election Day with a change of address within the same precinct.

The twenty-three page report states that there are voters who have been registered to vote for a long time, twenty or more years, and have never cast a ballot. There is no requirement in Ohio for voters to cast a ballot to keep their registration active. These voters have continued to keep their records active by engaging in some of the following activities, re-registering, responding to notifications from our office, signing petitions, moving or requesting an absentee ballot. Although the twenty-three page report indicates this is, "inflated voter rolls," these voters are registered in compliance with Ohio law.

The twenty-three page report asks several questions about voters in confirmation status. The Ohio Elections Official Manual Section 4.01 Definitions reads, *"Like a voter with an "active" status code, a voter with an "inactive" or "active-confirmation" voter status code is a fully qualified elector and eligible to engage in the activities of a registered voter (i.e., sign a petition, request an absentee ballot, etc.) and appears in the pollbook on Election Day."* If there is a voter who was in confirmation status and cast a ballot or was changed to confirmation status after the election, this is normal activity and they are permitted to vote as, "a fully qualified elector." For more information about the General Voter Records Maintenance Program please see Ohio Secretary of State Directive 2022-46.



The twenty-three page report also states that, “Ohio had election integrity issues long before 2020.” The report states the data provided on page 22 is from the November 2008 Presidential General Election. However upon review of the numbers provided, the data supplied in the report does not match the official election record. The incorrect data supplied in the report is below, on the right, with the correct data on the left. We cannot verify the source of the report’s incorrect data.

November 2008 Presidential Election							
Data from Official Record				(Incorrect) Data From Report			
Precinct	Registered Voters	Times Counted	Turnout %	Precinct	Registered Voters	Times Counted	Turnout %
09-P-AKW	80	61	76.25%	09-P-AKW	6	61	1,016.7%
09-P-AJX	1,334	964	72.26%	09-P-AJX	1,334	9,640	722.6%

There were two items in the twenty-three page report that were brought to the attention of the board and were able to be resolved.

In the twenty-three page report you indicated twenty-eight individuals were too young to register to vote. These voter records were updated with the correct registration date. All twenty-eight voters were found to be eligible to register to vote. Out of the two hundred and fifty-five thousand plus registered voters, these data entry errors accounted for 0.01% of Butler County voters. For more information about 17-year old voters, please see the Ohio Secretary of State Election Official Manual Section 5.01 17-Year-Old Voters (PRIMARY ELECTION ONLY).

Voters are prohibited from registering to vote or casting a regular ballot at a PO Box address. These addresses are now identified in our database to prevent voters from registering there in the future. Please see the Ohio Elections Official Manual Section 4.02 Eligibility.

Link to the Ohio Secretary of State Election Officials Manual

https://www.sos.state.oh.us/globalassets/elections/directives/2022/eom/eom_fullversion_2022-02.pdf

Link to the Ohio Secretary of State Directive 2022-46 General Voter Records Maintenance Program

<https://www.sos.state.oh.us/globalassets/elections/directives/2022/dir2022-46.pdf>



We hope our analysis of the data and questions in the twenty-three page report have clarified some of the mechanics of voter registration in Ohio and identified some of the misconceptions about normal voter activity. We take great pride in our work and continue to improve our methods to keep the voter rolls as accurate as possible for the voters of Butler County. We hope that your continuing efforts will be better served with the information our office has provided to you over the last several months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nicole Unzicker'.

Nicole Unzicker

Director, Butler County Board of Elections

Nicole.Unzicker@bcoho.gov

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eric Corbin'.

Eric Corbin

Deputy Director, Butler County Board of Elections

Eric.Corbin@bcoho.gov