

# **OBSERVATIONS ON OHIO'S MARCH 2023**

## **VOTER ROLLS**

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### **1. SUMMARY**

An analysis of the March 2023 Ohio Voter Registration files shows numerous serious issues, all of which give us reason to believe that the registration system is rife with errors and vulnerabilities which could, in the past or future, be used to facilitate voter fraud.

### **2. DEFINITIONS**

- Voter Registration File/System. The Voter Registration system is the database used by the state of Ohio to track all active and inactive voters.
- A Voter Registration File is the data file exported from the Voter Registration system and downloaded from the Secretary of State website or a county Board of Elections website. It includes the name, address, registration number, registration date, birth date, voting history, a state registration record ID number, a county registration record ID number, and other information pertaining to a single voter.
- Active Status Voter. A voter in active status is a voter in the Voter Registration system that is considered in “good standing” and is eligible to cast a vote in upcoming elections.
- Confirmation Status Voter. A confirmation voter is a voter whose registration record is in the process of being verified. In Ohio, confirmation voters can still vote in an election if they provide adequate identification and proof of residence and may be required to cast a provisional ballot.
- Phantom Voter. A phantom voter describes a voter in the Voter Registration system who is either not a real person, or a real person who has been used against their will and knowledge to cast a vote in an election.

### **3. REGISTRATION SOFTWARE NOT MEETING BEST PRACTICES**

As will be shown below, “impossible” conditions, such as duplicate registrations and obviously incorrect birth dates are permitted to exist in the system. Modern “best practices” dictate that the software prevent the entry of any data which violates a set rule, and it is evident that the software used to maintain the Ohio Voter Registration System has not been designed or developed with adherence to these practices.

It is my recommendation that the Voter Registration System software be revised or replaced so that it meets modern data standards, and that the voters in the state be required to re-register with the new or properly revised system to eliminate the incorrect or perhaps fraudulent records it contains.

### **4. DUPLICATE REGISTRATIONS**

There are 5,538 likely duplicate registrations in the voter file.

- 684 records have the same first name, birth year and address. 434 Active.
- 4854 records have the same last name, first name, middle initial, and birth date. 2690 are active.

This is concerning because 2238 of these voters voted in the November 2020 election, the November 2022 election, or both elections.

See accompanying spreadsheets “Duplicate Registrations 1” and “Duplicate Registrations 2” for all these records.

The top 10 counties where duplicates occur are shown below:

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>DUPLICATES</b>
<b>Franklin</b>	468
<b>Cuyahoga</b>	403
<b>Hamilton</b>	279
<b>Summit</b>	278
<b>Butler</b>	176

<b>Montgomery</b>	174
<b>Stark</b>	140
<b>Clermont</b>	131
<b>Warren</b>	117
<b>Lake</b>	117

## **5. ACTIVE VOTERS WHO HAVE NOT VOTED SINCE 2011**

There are 12,850 voters who are active but have not voted in any election since at least 2011. An additional 46,723 voters are in confirmation status and haven't voted since 2011. If this metric is moved back to 2008, the number is 3212 with 10,476 in confirmation status. This gives us reason to believe that these voters are no longer qualified or have changed residence. These "unlikely voters" remain available as inventory for use in potential fraudulent voter schemes, the likes of which have been observed and documented in other states. These records should be inactivated or deleted. These voters are listed in the spreadsheet "Not Voted Since 2011".

## **6. EXTREMELY OLD ACTIVE VOTERS**

There are 142 active voters who are 110-141 years old, including some who, according to the Voter History files, voted in the November 2020 and November 2022 election. This leads us to believe that either the dates of birth listed in the Voter Registration system are incorrect, or these inactive or deceased voters have been reactivated for nefarious reasons, such as use in potential fraudulent voter schemes. A List of these voters can be found in the "Ancient Active Voters" spreadsheet.

## **7. VOTERS CASTING MULTIPLE VOTES**

82 voters have been identified through cursory search as being very likely the same person registered twice. Of those 82 voters, 55 have registrations in active voter status, 40 possibly voted twice in the November 2020 election, and 28 possibly voted twice in the November 2022 election.

Although these are small numbers, they should be precisely zero, and indicate a problem in the registration/election system which may have much greater scope. A list of the 82 duplicates can be determined from the spreadsheets “Duplicate Registrations 1” and “Duplicate Registrations 2.”

## **8. RECENT VOTERS NOW INACTIVE**

11,126 voters with voter history indicating that they voted in November 2022 are not listed as Active in the voter file. Their records are listed in the “Not Active 2022” spreadsheet.

143,398 voters with voter history indicating that they voted in November 2020 are not listed as Active in the voter file. Their records are listed in the “Not Active 2020” spreadsheet.

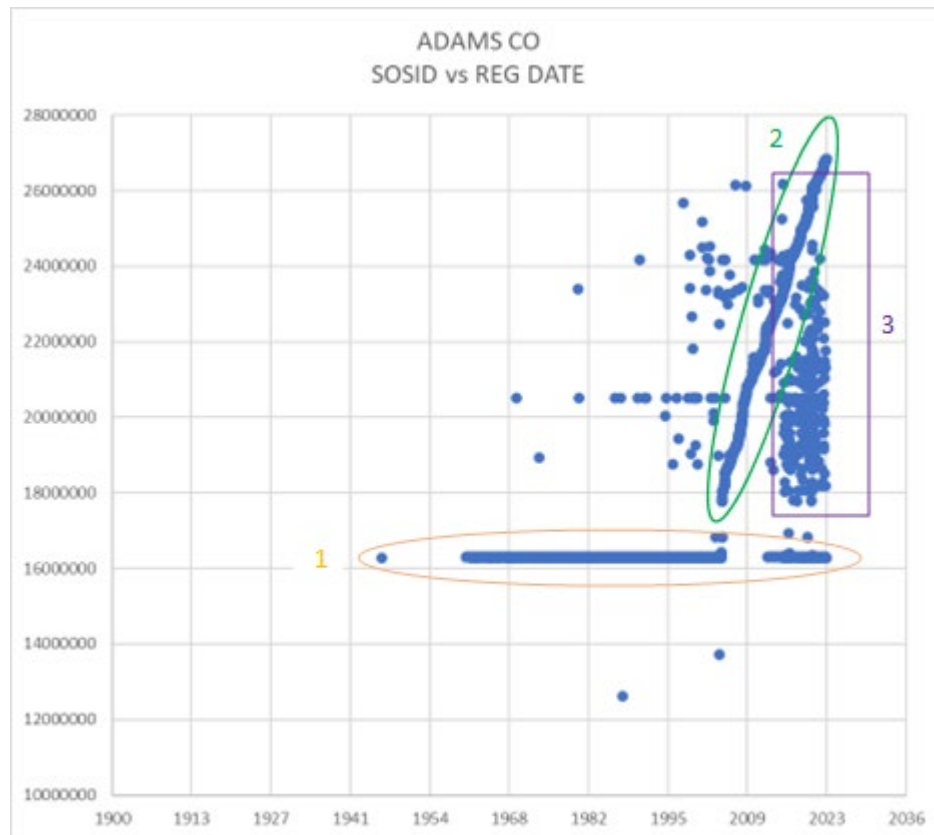
The reason that voter status is changed from active status shortly after a voter casts a ballot is irregular because voting is one of the actions that demonstrates the voter is active. Since they remain in Confirmation status there is either a systemic process failure, or it is possible there is nefarious activity occurring.

## **9. INCONSISTENT REGISTRATION ID NUMBERS**

A thorough analysis of the assignment of voter registration ID numbers shows that the numbers are not being assigned sequentially at the county or state level. Instead, their assignment suggests the use of multiple algorithms or formulas, where voters are being assigned registration ID numbers in a manner which is not straightforward and understandable.

To demonstrate the current method of assigning registration ID numbers in the Statewide Voter Registration Database (SWVRDB) and county voter registration databases, the chart below plots the SOS\_VOTERID versus Registration Date for Adams County. The chart is typical for almost all Ohio counties. A plot of county registration ID versus registration date yields a similar plot. If the IDs were sequential, both the ID number and the registration date would always increase creating a line sloping from lower left to upper right. However, the charts show that many ID numbers

are out of sequence, and multiple methods are being used to assign these ID numbers.



SOS registration ID numbers in Adams County are assigned using three different methods producing “bands” of numbers: 1) in a narrow range around 16,300,000 from 1960 to 2003 and then again from 2011 to 2023; 2) in a linear and sequential fashion ranging from about 17,500,000 to about 27,000,000 during 2007 to 2023; and 3) randomly scattered between 17,500,000 and 27,000,000 from the years 2011 to 2023. While bands 1 and 2 show that the highest number in use increases steadily over time, band 3 shows random selection throughout. Each band represents a different algorithm for assigning the state registration ID number and a different group of voter registrations. Presently, all three methods of assigning state registration IDs are operating at the same time.

This unnecessary obfuscation of registration record ID number assignment destroys transparency and gives reason to believe that the state and its counties are using the ID number assignment to specially classify voters into groups. It also de-couples the sequence of ID number from the sequence of the dates of their entry. This can enable a rogue

actor to backdate inserted registrations to give the appearance that newly inserted voter records have been in the system for some time.

The state of Ohio and its counties must publish the method by which new registration ID numbers are assigned and alter this method to provide transparency and enable effective auditing of the voter registration systems.

## **10. VOTERS WITH ADDRESSES OUTSIDE THE STATE/COUNTRY**

6,951 active Ohio voters have a mailing address outside of the state. 5,106 of these out of state voters voted in November 2020, and 1,680 voted in the November 2022 election. These voters and the breakdown by state and country can be found in the spreadsheet “Out Of State Voters”.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The Rigano-Paulikas report<sup>[1]</sup> was issued in September 2022. It identifies numerous issues discovered in Ohio’s November 2021 statewide voter file. Since then, the quality of Ohio’s voter rolls has marginally improved. While the problems are somewhat less frequent, tens of thousands of voter registrations contain invalid data and remain on the rolls. Thousands of duplicate registrations remain. Voters that should have active status appear in confirmation status and voters that haven’t been active are not in confirmation status. Assignment of registration record IDs is chaotic. Ohio still lacks fundamental data validation processes and standard database practices that would prevent invalid voter registration information from being recorded and discourage fraud.

## **REFERENCES**

1. [Report of Issues Discovered in Ohio’s Voter Registration System, September 2022](#). Rigano and Paulikas. Available at OhioVotesCount.org