

Election Fraud in Ohio

The Ohio Election Security Project

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Has Election Fraud Occurred in Ohio?

Absolutely, without a doubt, election fraud has occurred in Ohio. The archive of official election results for the 2008 presidential election, available [here](#) from the Ohio Secretary of State website (and also [here](#)), confirms this fact. A general rule of thumb is that turnout greater than 80% is an indicator of election fraud. In this 2008 election, 2145 precincts reported greater than 80% turnout. 304 precincts reported more than 90% turnout. A stunning 102 precincts reported more ballots cast than registered voters. For example, precinct 04052-ACB in Ashtabula County had 222 registered voters and 444 ballots cast.

Yet, 13 county boards of elections and then Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner certified these results. Because it was a presidential election the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives also provided oversight before the results were passed to Congress. How could such blatant fraud go undetected by all these officials with legal responsibility for ensuring accurate and fair elections?

This traditional ballot-box-stuffing approach to cheating is what most people think of when you mention election fraud. However, Ohio law has a specific definition. ORC 3599.42 defines election fraud as follows:

A violation of any provision of Title XXXV [35] of the Revised Code constitutes a prima-facie case of fraud within the purview of such title.

In other words, if someone violates any election rule in Ohio, the law assumes it's fraud unless proven otherwise. This underscores the seriousness that Ohio law treats violations of its election regulations. This is for good reason. Elections, by nature, are a zero-trust system between adversarial parties. How do people on either side of the issue come to trust and accept the election results reported by election officials? It is because election laws are designed and intended to instill faith in the election process, and because we trust that election officials will never waver from the law.

Elections have been deemed critical infrastructure to our nation. In a country founded on the bedrock principle that the governed choose those who will govern them, accurate and fair elections are fundamental. Inaccurate and poorly maintained voter rolls are the gateway to election fraud.

This report spotlights issues in Ohio's voter registration system side-by-side with relevant election laws. Its primary objective is to shine a spotlight on serious issues that impact fair, accurate, and honest elections and promote discussion of those issues in the context of the law among the public and election officials, while providing a basis for further investigation.

Election officials from the Secretary of State to Board of Elections members and their directors have voluntarily sought these positions and accepted their responsibilities. They have all sworn oaths to uphold election laws and perform their duties to the best of their abilities. It is up to the citizens of Ohio to hold these officials accountable.

Executive Summary

The previous September 2022 version of this report identified hundreds of thousands of issues in Ohio's voter registration database. Despite Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose's proclamation that Ohio is the "gold standard" for elections, this report confirms that more than 200,000 voter registration issues remain in Ohio's voter rolls.

The issues reported include:

- 289 voter registration records using the UPS store or US Postal Service as their residential address.
- Nearly 170,000 voter registration records with a January 1 registration date, none of them due to online voter registration.
- More than 10,000 records showing duplicate voter registrations.
- Nearly 2,000 voter registration records that match Ohio Department of Health death records.
- A multitude of voter registration records where the county and the Secretary of State have different data for the same voter registration or have different registrations altogether.

In the discussion, of each issue the text presents a reference to the pertinent election law and raises the question as to whether the issue reveals a lack of compliance with Ohio law, federal law, or secretarial directives. If election officials are not following the law, it is up to Ohioans to ensure they do.

Introduction

This report is broken into two sections. The first is a synopsis of Ohio election law, which is codified in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Title 35. This background is necessary to understand the responsibilities that election officials, from the Secretary of State on down, have accepted when they voluntarily sought their positions. Do not undervalue the fact that in accepting their positions, all election officials have sworn an oath to uphold election laws, are legally bound to do so, and they have agreed to that duty voluntarily.

The second section examines Ohio's August 3, 2024 voter rolls, reexamining some of the issues noted in our first report "[Issues Discovered in Ohio's Voter Registration System](#)" published in 2022. To evaluate the agreement between county voter registration data and state voter registration data, downloads were also retrieved from the websites of several county boards of elections on August 3, 2024.

The Ohio Secretary of State recently issued two directives to maintain our voter rolls. [Directive 2024-06](#) established procedures and a July 22, 2024 deadline for completion of 2020 National Change of Address (NCOA) Process. This process cancels registrations of voters who have moved to a new address and have not met other requirements. It also requires county boards of elections to resolve all duplicate registrations.

[Directive 2024-11](#) issued on June 27, 2024, requires boards of elections to correct the date-related and invalid character issues highlighted in the 2022 report. The directive requires boards of elections to use the Secretary’s registration audit dashboard to identify and correct the following issues:

- Prohibited name characters
- Placeholder birth dates
- Registration dates that precede birth dates
- Registration dates reflecting a voter ages less than 17 years old
- Registrations for voters that appear to be more than 110 years old.

The directive requires that by August 1, 2024, boards of elections must maintain their voter registration databases to ensure that the percentage of flagged voter records does not exceed 0.1% of the total number of voter records in Active and Active-Confirmation status.

Sadly, two years and three consequential elections have passed prior to this directive. In several recent, high-profile, elections that occurred in the recent past, we have seen a systematic disregard for election law in certain states. When Ohio’s elections use the same equipment and the same procedures, there is no reason to believe the same chaos couldn’t occur in Ohio. Ohioans can no longer tolerate indifference to inaccurate, error-ridden voter rolls. Reports such as this remain necessary to spotlight the relevant election laws and assure the vigilance of election officials who allow these issues to persist.

For those familiar with database technology wishing to replicate or view the records described in this report, the SQL statements used to query the database are provided in Appendix 1.

Appendix 2 presents a county-by-county summary of issues flagged in this analysis.

Finally, the analysis section of this report is accurate based on publicly available data. The Secretary of State and boards of elections have additional information such as driver’s license numbers and partial social security numbers that the public is not privy to. It is inevitable that they will be able to demonstrate a small number of records that are flagged by this analysis are not problems. Every effort has been made to ensure those are rare instances, so that the vast number of errors that do exist can be addressed.

A Primer on Election Law in Ohio

[Duties of Election Officials including the Secretary of State](#)

The Secretary of State, employees of the division of elections, the Director and Deputy Director of a county board of elections, members of the board of elections, employees of the board of elections (including part-time and temporary employees), and precinct election officials are all “election officials” [\[3501.01\(U\)\]](#). These persons subscribe to an oath to support the constitutions of the United States and of Ohio, to perform the duties of the office to the best of their ability, enforce the election laws and to protect and preserve the records and property pertaining to elections [\[3501.08\]](#).

The SECRETARY OF STATE is the chief election officer of the state. He is required to perform the duties prescribed in Title 35 of the ORC [\[3501.04\]](#). He appoints all members of county boards of elections to act as his representatives [\[3501.06\]](#), issues directives to those boards, and prepares rules for conduct of elections. The Secretary of State is instructed to compel election officers in the counties to observe

elections laws [\[3501.05\(M\)\]](#) and has the power to remove them from office or may place them under official oversight and directly supervise that board. Boards of elections have similar authority, but within their jurisdiction [\[3501.11\]](#). Boards of Elections have the additional requirement to perform the duties in the rules, directives, and advisories issued by the Secretary of State [\[3501.11\(P\)\]](#).

The law requires the Secretary of State to investigate the administration of election laws, frauds, and irregularities in any county and report violations for prosecution [\[3501.05\(N\)\]](#) for which he is granted the authority to issue subpoenas, summon witnesses, compel the production of evidence, and hold hearings on any matter relating to the administration and enforcement of election laws [\[3501.05\(DD\)\]](#). Likewise, boards of elections shall investigate irregularities, non-performance of duties, or violations of Title 35 of the ORC and are granted the authority to issue subpoenas, summon witnesses, compel the production of evidence, hold hearings, and report facts to the Secretary of State or prosecuting attorney [\[3501.11\(J\)\]](#).

The Secretary of State is responsible for adopting administrative rules for registering, updating registrations, and removing ineligible voters in accord with the ORC and federal law [\[3501.05\(Q\) through \(U\)\]](#). He must establish and maintain a statewide database of registered voters [\[3501.05\(W\)\]](#). Boards of election must also establish and maintain a voter registration database of all qualified electors in the county [\[3501.11\(T\)\]](#) and maintain voter registration records and remove ineligible electors from voter registration lists in accordance with law and secretary of state directives [\[3501.11\(U\)\]](#).

Each board of elections must have a director of the board who is also under oath to support the Constitution of the United States and the Ohio Constitution, perform all the duties of the office to the best of the director's ability, enforce the election laws, and preserve all records, documents, and other property pertaining to the conduct of elections placed in the director's custody [\[3501.13\(A\),\(B\)\]](#).

The Secretary of State may remove or suspend any member of a board of elections, or the director, deputy director, or any other employee of the board, for neglect of duty, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office, for any willful violation of Title 35, or for any other good and sufficient cause [\[3501.16\]](#).

Requirements and Responsibilities for Voter Registration

The ORC stipulates many requirements without stating who specifically is responsible for ensuring compliance. In cases where the responsible party is not explicitly stated, the duty falls to the Secretary of State and boards of elections because they are responsible for enforcing compliance and executing election laws.

Eligibility and Residence

To be qualified as an elector the ORC requires that a person be a citizen of the United States, be eighteen years old or more, be a resident of the state thirty days immediately preceding the election at which the citizen offers to vote, be a resident of the county and precinct in which the citizen offers to vote and must have been registered to vote for thirty days [\[3503.01\]](#). A person is not considered to have gained residence unless the person intends to make the county their permanent place of abode [\[3503.02\(C\)\]](#). A person who moves to another state with the intention of making that state their residence shall be considered to have lost their residence in Ohio. If a person not in the service of the US government continuously resides outside of Ohio for four years, they shall be considered to have lost

their residence in Ohio regardless of their intention to return [\[3503.02\(E\),\(F\)\]](#). If a person votes in another state, they shall be considered to have lost their residence in Ohio [\[3503.02\(H\)\]](#).

Data Management and Processing

The Secretary of State must adopt rules for electronically transmitting name and residence changes for electors in the statewide voter registration database that are obtained by various government entities [\[3503.09\(A\)\]](#). Any information shared must be verified by the Secretary of State or the board of elections before modifying an existing voter registration [\[3503.09\(B\)\]](#).

Regardless of how the registration is received, all registrations shall be carefully checked, and in case any person is found to have registered more than once, the additional forms shall be canceled by the board of elections [\[3503.12\]](#).

A board of elections may use a legible digitized voter signature provided the signature is copied from the signature on the registration form and provided that the required voter information is included in the statewide voter registration database and precinct election officials have printouts at the polls [\[3503.13\(B\)\]](#).

The Secretary of State is required to prescribe forms for use in voter registration and changes to registration. The form must include spaces for the voter's name, address, date of birth, driver's license, or state ID card number, last four digits of their SSN, signature, and the current date [\[3503.14\(A\)\]](#).

The Secretary of State shall establish and maintain a statewide voter registration database that shall be the official list of registered electors for all elections conducted in Ohio [\[3503.15\(A\)\]](#). The statewide voter registration database shall, among other requirements, include a computer program that harmonizes the records in the statewide voter registration database with the records maintained by each board of elections [\[3503.15\(B\)\]](#). The statewide voter registration database must include safeguards to ensure the integrity, security, and confidentiality of voter registration information. For each registered elector, the statewide voter registration database must include the elector's name, birth date, current residence address, precinct number, registration date, voting history, and last activity date. If available the records shall also include the elector's Ohio driver's license or state ID number, last four digits of the SSN, telephone number, and email address [\[3503.15\(C\)\]](#).

The Secretary of State must make rules to establish a process for an annual audit of the statewide voter registration database [\[3503.15\(E\)\(5\)\]](#), rules to establish at least daily updates to the statewide voter registration database [\[3503.15\(E\)\(2\)\]](#), and rules for purging records [\[3503.15\(E\)\(3\)\]](#). Boards of elections must promptly purge a voter's name and registration information when registrations are canceled [\[3503.15\(F\)\]](#). A board of elections and any vendor contracted by them to perform voter registration software or services, must ensure the board's voter registration system and practices comply with 3503.15 and any rules issued by the Secretary of State under 3503.15 [\[3503.15\(H\)\]](#).

The Secretary of State's Office of Data Analytics and Archives along with boards of elections shall maintain the accuracy of the statewide voter registration database in accordance with 3503.15 [\[3503.151\(A\)\]](#), and the General Assembly has granted the Secretary of State significant authority so that the statewide voter registration database can be accurately maintained. All state agencies are directed to provide the Secretary of State with any information and data they collect in conduct of their business that is necessary to register to vote, update an elector's registration, or maintain the statewide voter

registration database. Ohio Department of Health, the BMV, the Department of Job and Family Services, the Department of Medicaid, and the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections must provide data monthly [\[3503.151\(B\)\]](#). The Secretary of State is directed to enter into agreements to share information with other states to maintain the statewide voter registration database [\[3503.151\(C\)\]](#) and may provide confidential data to persons or organizations engaged in maintenance of the statewide voter registration database.

The Secretary of State and the Ohio Director of Health must electronically exchange information of all persons over 18 years of age who have died within Ohio or another state. Each month, every probate judge is required to provide the board of elections with the names and addresses of persons over 18 years of age who have been adjudicated incompetent to vote. Also, monthly the clerk of court is required to provide the board of elections names and addresses of all persons who have been convicted of crimes that prohibit them from voting. Board of elections are to promptly cancel the registration of electors named in these reports. [\[3503.18\]](#).

When a registered elector moves their residence within a county or changes their name, they may report the change on a form designated for that purpose at the BMV, a public high school, a public library, the county treasurer's office, by mail, or at a polling place where the elector is eligible to vote. The agency must apply a date stamp to the form. A change by mail may only be submitted to the Secretary of State or a board of elections. If the form is incomplete or invalid, the board must notify the registrant [\[3503.16\(A\)\]](#) and [\[3503.19\]](#). A registration form must be received by the agency, or if sent by mail, postmarked at least 30 days before an election for the elector to be eligible to vote in that election. Special rules apply for uniformed services and overseas voters.

The board of elections must acknowledge voter registration applications by sending a notice via non-forwardable mail. If the mail is returned the board must investigate the cause and if unable to verify the correct address must require the elector to vote on a provisional ballot. If the provisional ballot is not counted, then the registration shall be canceled [\[3503.19\(C\)\]](#).

The Secretary of State shall establish a secure online voter registration system that allows a voter registration application to be submitted via the internet. The applicant must provide their name, address, date of birth, last 4 digits of their SSN, driver's license, or state ID card number. The applicant is to be registered if the information provided is consistent with info on file with the BMV, they are a US citizen, have lived in Ohio for 30 days immediately preceding the next election, are at least 18 years old, and are otherwise eligible. The Secretary of State shall obtain an electronic copy of their signature from the BMV to be used in voter registration records. The Secretary of State shall employ whatever security measures he considers necessary to ensure the integrity and accuracy of voter registration information submitted via the online system [\[3503.20\]](#).

Voter registrations shall be canceled upon request by the elector, the filing of a death notice of the elector, the elector's conviction of a felony, when the elector is adjudicated incompetent to vote, or when the elector fails to respond to a confirmation notice or update their registration and vote at least once in a period of four years including two federal elections. The board of elections must send a cancellation notice to the elector who can respond to correct an error [\[3503.21\]](#).

Fourteen days before an election, the board of elections must prepare a complete and official registration list of all qualified registered voters for each precinct using data from the statewide voter

registration database. The list must contain the electors' names, addresses, and political party affiliation [\[3503.23\]](#). It is noteworthy that most, if not all, Ohio counties create their lists of qualified electors using their own database, not the statewide voter registration database.

The boards of elections are granted the authority to conduct investigations, summon witnesses, and take testimony under oath regarding the registration of any voter or as to the accuracy of the registration lists in any precinct [\[3503.25\]](#). They are also required to make a correct set of registration lists for all precincts available for public inspection and must make all records of activities ensuring the accuracy and currency of voter registration lists available for inspection [\[3503.26\]](#). Boards of elections may correct all voter registration errors that are not of fraudulent intent [\[3503.30\]](#).

If an elector applying for registration is already registered in another state or another Ohio county, the elector shall declare that fact and sign an authorization to cancel the previous registration. The director of the board of elections shall mail the authorization to cancel to the proper state or county. The receiving board of elections director shall verify the signature on the registrations match and remove the elector's registration, keeping it in a separate file [\[3503.33\]](#).

The Secretary of State must register and train persons who will receive compensation for registering voters. Such persons must complete the training annually and sign a statement affirming they will follow all applicable laws while registering voters. These persons must submit a copy of the affirmation with each batch of voter registrations they submit to a board of elections [\[3503.29\]](#).

Penalties

ORC 3599 describes some additional responsibilities and consequences when election laws are not followed.

No board of elections member, director, or employee shall willfully or negligently violate or neglect to perform any duty imposed upon him by law. Nor shall they knowingly attempt to prevent enforcement of election laws. Such actions are a fourth-degree felony [\[3599.16\]](#).

No director of elections or employee of the board shall prevent any person from inspecting the board's public records. Such actions are a minor misdemeanor and cause for termination [\[3599.161\]](#).

No election official shall enter or consent to entry of a fictitious name on the voter registration list, alter the name on or remove or destroy an elector's registration card. Violations are a first-degree misdemeanor [\[3599.18\]](#).

No person shall have in their possession a falsely made, altered, forged, or counterfeited registration card, form, or list, pollbook, tally sheet, or list of election returns knowing it to be such with intent to hinder defeat or prevent a fair expression of popular will in an election. Violations are a fifth-degree felony [\[3599.29\]](#)

No official who has a duty imposed by an election law for which a penalty is not specified shall knowingly disobey the law. Violations are a first-degree misdemeanor [\[3599.32\]](#)

From the time ballots are cast until the time has expired for using them as evidence in a recount or contested election, no person shall alter any election material, poll book, or tally sheet with intent to defeat, hinder, or prevent fair expression of the will of the people at an election [\[3599.33\]](#). Likewise, no

person shall alter or destroy any ballots or permit a ballot box or pollbook used at an election to be destroyed [\[3599.34\]](#). Violators are guilty of a fifth-degree felony.

Any other violation of title 35 of the revised code is a first-degree misdemeanor on the first offense [\[3599.40\]](#) and a fourth-degree felony on the second offense [\[3599.39\]](#).

Any violation of Title 35 constitutes a prima-facie case of fraud [\[3599.42\]](#).

Secretary of State Directives

As Ohio's Chief Elections Officer, the Secretary of State issues directives to county boards of elections and other election officials. These directives include an Election Official Manual. A December 2023 issue of the manual is published on the ohiosos.gov website. As noted above, Ohio law requires county boards of elections to follow all directives issued by the Secretary of State.

Chapter 4 of the Election Official Manual, promulgated as Directive 2023-24, establishes rules for voter registration. The rules echo provisions in law noted above but also provide specific guidance to county boards of elections as to the way voter registration data is recorded and managed. In particular, it specifies how names and addresses are to be entered into voter registration systems so that duplicate registrations are avoided. It also gives directions on how to handle duplicate registrations, deceased voters, and transferring data to the statewide voter registration database.

Federal Laws

The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) are two federal laws that address voter registration and maintenance of voter records. Relevant sections of these laws are discussed in the Analysis section of this report. Many provisions of NVRA and HAVA have been incorporated into Ohio law.

Accuracy of the Voter Rolls

The law requires the Secretary of State and boards of elections to maintain accurate voter data. If voters must provide accurate information on a voter registration application, it follows that election officials must maintain that accuracy throughout the system. It would do no good for a voter to provide accurate information if election officials were not also responsible for keeping the integrity of that information.

As this report demonstrates, errors are rampant within the voter rolls. Some of these errors, innocent as they might be, might be construed as a breach of duty and possibly a breach of election law. Under ORC 3599, any election law violation is at least a misdemeanor and a prima facie case of election fraud.

An Analysis of Ohio's Voter Rolls

DATE DATA INTEGRITY ISSUES

Dates are an important part of voter registration data. Per Ohio and federal law, a voter must be 18 years of age to vote. Inactive voters are removed from the rolls after several years of inactivity. In Ohio, after two years of non-voting, voters are sent a confirmation notice. If they remain inactive for an additional four years, the voter's registration is subject to cancellation. To be eligible to vote in an election, a voter must have registered 30 days in advance of the election. The boards of elections must manage their systems and accurately track these various dates to comply with state and federal laws. If dates are not managed according to law, there can be no assurance that the voters on the rolls are eligible to vote.

Dates also have an inherent logical sequence. A person's birth date must precede their registration date by at least 17 years. A voter's registration date must precede their first election by 30 days.

Federal and Ohio law expects this data to be recorded accurately. Missing, omitted, or wrongly recorded birth dates and registration dates make it impossible to verify that electors have been properly registered. Such errors may be violations of Secretary of State directives and provisions of election law that require this data to be recorded and maintained.

Registered Before Law Permits

[Query 1](#) tests for voters who were registered before permitted by law. People are allowed to register when they are 17 years old, provided they will be 18 years old before the November general election.

687 voters like the ones identified by their SOSID number in the table below appear to have been registered before they were 17 years old.

SOSID	COUNTY	REGISTRATION DATE	DATE OF BIRTH	AGE AT REGISTRATION
OH0018399646	Mahoning	11/8/1975	10/11/1959	16
OH0023608144	Montgomery	3/1/2007	7/20/1998	9
OH0025253624	Montgomery	9/27/1983	8/25/1983	0
OH0018761159	Montgomery	3/28/2006	6/15/1990	16
OH0017244532	Franklin	1/1/1977	9/28/1979	-2
OH0017711322	Franklin	1/1/1998	11/24/1984	14
OH0017239407	Franklin	1/1/1977	7/9/1963	14
OH0015406076	Gallia	6/19/2000	10/1/1995	5
OH0011591125	Harrison	9/14/1995	6/19/1979	16
OH0012046278	Lorain	4/9/1980	7/10/1972	8
OH0012073530	Lorain	3/28/1956	3/11/1949	7
OH0012017019	Lorain	9/20/1962	7/23/1962	0
OH0010522911	Summit	3/26/1968	7/18/1967	1

Many records suggest that newborns and toddlers have been registered, and some registration dates precede the person's birth date. The boards of elections appear to have either permitted these fictitious registrations, are unaware of the correct date of birth or registration date, or both. Maybe the birth date, registration date, or both were recorded in error. In any case, not recognizing an ineligible elector who is too young or recording an erroneous birth date or registration date is a fundamental problem. Secretary of state Directive 2024-11 ordered county boards of elections to remediate these issues by

August 1, 2024; however, many remain. The table below indicates counties that have the most persons registered before the law allows as of 8/3/2024.

County	Number of Records
Lucas	210
Montgomery	208
Summit	95
Franklin	61
Mahoning	54
Shelby	26

Unknown Registration Dates

Without a valid registration date, nobody knows whether the voter was registered 30 days before an election as required by law. [Query 2](#) tests for unknown registration dates. 51,159 Ohio registered voters have an invalid registration date like these results. Placeholder or changed registration dates prevent screening for anomalies that may indicate fraud.

SOSID	COUNTY	REGISTRATION_DATE
OH0018494373	Mahoning	1/1/1900
OH0014495647	Cuyahoga	1/1/1900
OH0014638468	Cuyahoga	1/1/1900
OH0014887864	Cuyahoga	1/1/1900
OH0014887868	Cuyahoga	1/1/1900
OH0014475134	Cuyahoga	1/1/1900
OH0017675820	Franklin	1/1/1900

Seven counties have failed to accurately record a registration date. However, the vast majority, more than 51,000, occur in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland). This extreme discrepancy should be investigated by the Secretary of State and corrected. The table below shows the counties that continue to have registration records with unknown registration dates as of August 3, 2024.

County	Number of Records
Cuyahoga	51,036
Franklin	83
Fairfield	34
Mahoning	3
Van Wert	1
Clermont	1
Greene	1
Grand Total	51,159

Registered on January 1

[Query 3](#) identifies 165,605 voters whom 74 boards of elections claim registered on January 1st. The table below shows a few examples.

SOSID	COUNTY	REGISTRATION_DATE
OH0016797490	Shelby	1/1/1980
OH0023448464	Mahoning	1/1/2016
OH0011889590	Huron	1/1/1969
OH0022355781	Montgomery	1/1/2013
OH0022344972	Montgomery	1/1/2013
OH0017226816	Franklin	1/1/1977
OH0017226819	Franklin	1/1/1977
OH0013135162	Lucas	1/1/1967

January 1 has been a recognized holiday, with the post office and Ohio government offices closed, since the 1800s. Mail would not get postmarked on January 1 and Boards of elections would not receive mail on January 1. The Election Official Manual requires the boards of elections to record the registration date as the date they receive the voter's application, making it impossible to have an actual January 1 registration date. Ohio began online voter registration on 1/1/2017. The tally above excludes all registrations after that.

Franklin County has more than 160,000 voters with January 1 registration dates. They state that when performing a data conversion, the registration year was known but the exact date was not; therefore, January 1 was used. The original registration cards were requested for a sampling of these January 1 voters. There was no registration card at all for 20% of the cards requested. In every case where a registration card was available, the registration date was noted on the card and was recorded incorrectly in the voter registration system.

Is this simply a case of recording false information? It is possible some 1/1 registration dates have a purpose and are by design. A separate analysis of Franklin County voters with a 1/1 registration date suggests these are a select group of voters who have a distinct age and voting profile different from voters without a 1/1 registration date. Coding a group of voters using a 1/1 registration date seems an unnecessary feature for voter registration data.

DUPLICATE REGISTRATIONS

Federal and Ohio laws require election officials to prevent duplicate registrations from appearing on the voter rolls. [ORC 3503.151](#)(D) requires the Secretary of State to obtain the information and data necessary to ensure the accuracy of the statewide voter registration database, and it requires boards of elections to ensure duplicate registrations are eliminated from the database. [ORC 3503.12](#) requires that all registrations be carefully checked, and if any person is found to have registered more than once, the additional registrations shall be canceled. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires that states perform maintenance on their computerized statewide voter registration database in a manner that ensures duplicate names are eliminated from the list [[52 USC 21083](#)(a)(2)(B)(iii)]. On May 2, 2024, Secretary of State Frank LaRose issued [Directive 2024-06](#) providing procedures for cancellation of

registrations for the 2020 National Change of Address (NCOA) process. The directive required boards of elections to resolve all outstanding duplicate registrations by the close of business on May 17, 2024.

Duplicates Based on Name and Date of Birth

[Query 4](#) identifies 7,484 records with the same first name, middle initial, last name and birth date that are apparent duplicate registrations. Below are a few examples of duplicate records that occur in all 88 Ohio counties.

SOS_VOTERID	County	LAST_NAME	FIRST_NAME	MIDDLE_NAME	SUFFIX	DATE_OF_BIRTH
OH0027126007	Union	ABRAHAM	GABRIEL	ANWER		2/12/1995
OH0024105889	Franklin	ABRAHAM	GABRIEL	A		2/12/1995
OH0022795134	Cuyahoga	CROSS	CHARLES	ROBERT		11/5/1985
OH0026460395	Lake	CROSS	CHARLES	ROBERT		11/5/1985
OH0027004514	Licking	DEEDS MOLDEN	BRENDA	LEE		4/15/1960
OH0017427994	Franklin	DEEDSMOLDEN	BRENDA	L		4/15/1960
OH0017922879	Clermont	HANNAH	DEBORAH	K		5/5/1955
OH0010588996	Summit	HANNAH	DEBORAH	KAYE		5/5/1955

In an effort not to exaggerate the problem, this search for duplicates requires a match on the voter's middle initial or that both records have no middle name. Doing this omits many duplicates because often a name will be registered once with a middle name or initial and a second time without a middle name or initial. If this search is broadened to only consider first name, last name, and date of birth, the number of potential duplicates increases to 15,305 records.

Duplicates Based on First Name, Address, and Date of Birth

[Query 5](#) searches for duplicates in a slightly different manner, looking for records with the same first name, address, and date of birth. It produces 1,030 records for persons who appear to have changed their name and then updated their voter registration, but the Secretary of State and 42 boards of elections failed to remove the original registration, resulting in additional duplicate registrations. A few of these records are identified below.

SOS_VOTERID	County	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	Full Address
OH0027327162	Cuyahoga	ALVERIO	JENNIFER	10/5/1984	3938 LONGWOOD AVE, CLEVELAND, OH 44115
OH0024542468	Cuyahoga	ALVERIO TOLENTINO	JENNIFER	10/5/1984	3938 LONGWOOD AVE, CLEVELAND, OH 44115
OH0027410753	Stark	GRIMM	SUSANN	10/24/1957	605 E NASSAU ST, EAST CANTON, OH 44730
OH0027409082	Stark	GRIMM	SUSANN	10/24/1957	605 E NASSAU ST, EAST CANTON, OH 44730
OH0027332570	Wood	MONTOYA	ERIC	9/29/1996	1515 E WOOSTER ST, BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402
OH0027446341	Wood	MONTOYA	ERIC	9/29/1996	1515 E WOOSTER ST, BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402
OH0020131206	Montgomery	PARK	SOOK JA	11/9/1951	1328 CAPTAINS BRG, CENTERVILLE, OH 45458
OH0025908581	Montgomery	PARK	SOOKJA	11/9/1951	1328 CAPTAINS BRG, CENTERVILLE, OH 45458

The counties with the most duplicate records based on first name, address, and date of birth are shown below.

County	Number of Records
Cuyahoga	364
Franklin	152
Hamilton	138
Clermont	50
Stark	46
Trumbull	40
Wood	30

Duplicates Based on Full Name and Address

Duplicate registrations are also seen when comparing a registrant’s full name and address. This approach finds duplicates where one of the birth dates is likely incorrect. [Query 6](#) looks for records with matching first name, middle name, last name, name suffix, and address. It produces 4,157 records for persons who appear to be duplicate registrations. The Secretary of State and 83 boards of elections failed to find and remove these duplicate registrations. A few examples of these records are shown below.

SOS_VOTERID	County Name	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	SUFFIX	DATE OF BIRTH	Full Address
OH0026433552	Franklin	ABDI	IBRAHIM	DUBOW		1/1/1975	1951 TAMARACK CIR S, COLUMBUS, OH 43229
OH0027149017	Franklin	ABDI	IBRAHIM	DUBOW		1/1/1967	1951 TAMARACK CIR S, COLUMBUS, OH 43229
OH0026787549	Wood	ADAMCZAK	DAVID	ZENON		12/6/2004	21860 ANDERSON RD, BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402
OH0016004330	Wood	ADAMCZAK	DAVID	ZENON		8/8/1980	21860 ANDERSON RD, BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402
OH0017592489	Franklin	CLEMENS	RICHARD	A		4/7/1968	5764 HAWLEY CT, DUBLIN, OH 43017
OH0026273934	Franklin	CLEMENS	RICHARD	A		4/24/2003	5764 HAWLEY CT, DUBLIN, OH 43017
OH0026105124	Licking	HESSLER	JEFFREY	LEE		3/4/2002	47 W FIELDSTONE, PATASKALA, OH 43062
OH0021377563	Licking	HESSLER	JEFFREY	LEE		10/26/1981	47 W FIELDSTONE, PATASKALA, OH 43062

The sets of duplicate voters referenced above exist in Ohio’s voter rolls as of August 3, 2024. The counties with the highest number of apparent duplicate registrations based on full name and address are shown below.

County	Dup Records	County	Dup Records	County	Dup Records
Cuyahoga	1,230	Hamilton	280	Summit	160
Franklin	314	Lucas	172	Lorain	158

County	Dup Records	County	Dup Records	County	Dup Records
Mahoning	132	Butler	124	Clermont	104
Stark	128	Montgomery	122	Trumbull	102

The queries above suggest that almost all Ohio counties have failed to meet the requirement in Directive 2024-06, Ohio law, and federal law to eliminate duplicate registrations. Additionally, the Secretary of State appears to be unaware that many counties appear to have numerous duplicate registrations. State and county election officials that want people to believe they stringently follow Ohio and federal laws should carefully evaluate their voter rolls for duplicates.

DECEASED VOTERS

Each month, the Ohio Director of Health must electronically report the names, social security numbers, dates of birth, dates of death, and residences of all persons over 18 years of age who have died within Ohio or another state to the Secretary of State. Boards of elections are to promptly cancel the registration of electors named in these reports [ORC 3503.18]. NVRA requires states to conduct a general voter list maintenance program that makes a reasonable effort to remove the names of voters who have died [52 USC 20507(a)(4)(A)]. In Ohio, that responsibility falls to the Secretary of State as the chief elections officer. HAVA also requires state election officials to maintain voter lists on a regular basis, including the removal of deceased voters [52 USC 21083(a)(2)(A)].

[Query 7](#) compares death records obtained from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) where names and birth dates match the August 3, 2024 statewide voter file. The query identifies 1,944 instances, across 78 counties, where a deceased person appears to remain on the voter rolls. Apparently, in these cases either the ODH has failed to report the deaths to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State has failed to notify the boards of elections to remove the deceased elector, or the boards of elections have failed to remove them. Below are some sample records showing the match between statewide voter registration and ODH death records.

COUNTY	SOS_VOTERID	SOS FName	SOS MName	SOS LName	SOS DOB	ODH FName	ODH MName	ODH LName	ODH DOD	ODH DOB
Greene	OH0010213870	PATSY	LOUISE	WRIGHT	12/2/1935	PATSY	L	WRIGHT	3/25/2022	12/2/1935
Franklin	OH0018805521	KHADIJA	IDRIS	AHMED	6/24/1940	KHADIJA	I	AHMED	4/19/2023	6/24/1940
Knox	OH0011756285	WILLIAM	ALAN	MUSTAINE	10/29/1938	WILLIAM	A	MUSTAINE	10/22/2023	10/29/1938
Monroe	OH0012104657	HENRY	JOHN	MARLEY	5/19/1939	HENRY	J	MARLEY	6/30/2023	5/19/1939
Stark	OH0021975064	DAMEN	LYNN	TEETERS	8/8/1978	DAMEN		TEETERS	3/18/2023	8/8/1978

The table below lists counties with the most registrations matching ODH death records.

County	Number of Records	County	Number of Records
Knox	299	Montgomery	122
Hamilton	175	Franklin	100
Fairfield	164	Hancock	76
Lake	132	Cuyahoga	67

County	Number of Records
Mahoning	66

County	Number of Records
Greene	64

The process for identifying and removing deceased persons from the voter rolls needs improvement. Otherwise, Ohioans might question whether election officials are stringently following the law regarding removal of deceased voters.

REGISTRATION DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN SWVF AND COUNTY DATA

Ohio and federal law require the Secretary of State to establish and maintain a statewide voter registration database that shall be the official list of registered electors for all elections conducted in Ohio [\[3503.15\(A\)\]](#). The statewide voter registration database shall, among other requirements, include a computer program that harmonizes the records in the statewide voter registration database with the records maintained by each board of elections [\[3503.15\(B\)\]](#). HAVA requires each state’s chief election official to implement a computerized statewide voter registration list that contains the name and registration information of every legally registered voter in the state. Further, it requires the statewide voter registration list to serve as the single system for storing and managing the official list of registered voters throughout the state. The statewide list is to be used as the official voter registration list for all elections for federal office. [\[52 USC 21083\(a\)\(1\)\(A\)\]](#).

Fourteen days before an election, the board of elections shall cause to be prepared from the statewide voter registration database a complete and official registration list for each precinct [\[3503.23\(A\)\]](#). [Rule 111:3-4-01](#) issued by the Secretary of State requires a board of elections to enter information on a voter registration application into the correct data fields in the county’s voter registration system. After entering the information, the board shall transmit the record to the statewide voter registration database.

To evaluate the consistency of county and state voter registration records, data maintained and published by several counties on August 3, 2024 were compared with the statewide voter file downloaded on the same date. Cuyahoga County is used as an example of the analysis performed for the counties that were examined.

Missing Registration Records

[Query 8](#) identifies 867 voter records in the statewide voter registration database that are not present in Cuyahoga County records.

Conversely, [Query 9](#) identifies 771 voter records that appear in Cuyahoga County records that are not present in the statewide voter registration database.

This is a total of 1,638 records that are missing entirely from either the county voter registration system or the statewide voter registration database. These records represent potentially disenfranchised voters. Who has the correct data, the county or the Secretary of State?

Name Mismatches

[Query 10](#) identifies 214 records where Cuyahoga County and statewide registration databases disagree about the voter’s name. Close examination of the 5 examples below reveals that many of these mismatches are likely the same person with the name entered differently in each database. However, the law requires a computer program that harmonizes the county and state records. If this program were operating properly, it would copy the data and there would be no discrepancies. These records are not being seamlessly replicated from county to state.

SOSID_SOS	FNAME COUNTY	MNAME COUNTY	LNAME COUNTY	FNAME SOS	MNAME SOS	LNAME SOS
OH0014640007	JANINE	E	MCILVEEN	JANINE	E	DREES
OH0015276755	FRANK	D	MCDONALD	FRONT	D	MCDONALD
OH0015103892	GARY	L	ROBERTSON	GARRY	L	ROBERTSON
OH0022085084	JUSTIN	N	DOWNEY	JUSTIN	R	DOWNEY
OH0015268831	SHERRITA	DENISE	BENFORD	SHERRITA	DENISE	MUNNS BENFORD

Registration Date Mismatches

[Query 11](#) identifies 2,041 records where the Cuyahoga County and statewide databases disagree about the voter’s registration date. Here are a few examples.

SOS_VOTERID	RegDate COUNTY	LastRegDate COUNTY	RegDate SOS
OH0014571068	1901-01-01	2022-09-19	2024-05-16
OH0026662711	2022-09-29	2023-06-12	2023-11-01
OH0015337397	2004-01-30	2018-10-08	2024-05-20
OH0026344632	2021-10-26	2021-10-26	2024-04-22
OH0024434627	2017-11-08	2017-11-08	2024-05-07

Address Mismatches

[Query 12](#) identifies 754 records where the Cuyahoga and statewide databases disagree about the voter’s house number, street name, apartment number, or zip code.

SOS_VOTERID	HOUSE NO COUNTY	PRE DIR COUNTY	STREET COUNTY	APART NO COUNTY	ZIP COUNTY	ADDRESS SOS	APART NO SOS	ZIP SOS
OH0021778333	1516		MAPLEGROVE RD		44121	9117 MILES PARK AVE		44105
OH0015261419	26823		NORMANDY RD		44140	6880 CRESTWOOD LN		44138
OH0014514468	3446		OLD GREEN RD	APT 303	44122	26300 SEVILLE DR	APT 102	44122
OH0023740003	5692		HARRISON AVE		44137	15601 STEINWAY BLVD		44137
OH0014971399	18015		HARVARD AVE		44128	4467 LEE RD		44128
OH0023767204	1314	W	91ST ST		44102	17529 MADISON AVE	APT 110	44107
OH0025685999	18116		GARDEN BLVD		44128	15600 TERRACE RD	APT 712	44112

Voter History Mismatch

Boards of elections are required to upload voter history to the statewide voter registration database, indicating which voters cast ballots in an election, no later than 30 days after each election [Directive 2023-24, Section 4.14]. Since the county is uploading the information to the statewide voter registration database, state and county records should completely agree. When they do not agree, one or the other databases has been manipulated and either the county or the Secretary of State has failed to maintain accurate records.

[Query 13](#) identifies 5,802 records where Cuyahoga County and the statewide database disagree about whether the voter voted in the November 2022 election. The statewide database indicates many more votes cast than does the Cuyahoga County database. Below are a few of the disagreeing records. Note that Cuyahoga County signifies a vote by displaying a “Y” in the election column. The statewide database displays a vote by recording an “X.” The five records below are examples where one party or the other has recorded a vote for a particular voter, but the other party has not.

SOS_VOTERID	COUNTY ID	VOTED_110822 COUNTY	VOTED_110822 SOS
OH0026863870	3062856		X
OH0026946709	3071331		X
OH0026870328	3064473		X
OH0014716824	543190	Y	
OH0026929660	3069080		X

Similarly, [Query 14](#) finds 22,881 Cuyahoga County records that disagree with the state about whether a voter voted in the November 2020 presidential election.

SOS_VOTERID	COUNTY ID	VOTED_110320 COUNTY	VOTED_110320 SOS
OH0026507383	3026674		X
OH0026507387	3026670		X
OH0015204986	1851533	Y	
OH0024586355	2822248	Y	
OH0026414530	3017299		X
OH0026255833	3003122		X
OH0015078777	1703956	Y	

Mismatches or errors in voting history have a serious impact on the annual voter registration maintenance program mandated in the NVRA [[52 USC 20507\(a\)\(4\)](#)] and Ohio law [[3503.21\(A\)\(7\)](#)]. Registrations of persons who have not updated their registration or voted in four years, including two federal elections, are subject to cancellation. Voting history records must be accurate to ensure compliance with these laws. Just as important, properly maintained voter rolls are necessary to deter election fraud. It is the duty of every election official to vigilantly maintain voter rolls, and to do that they must ensure voting history is accurately recorded.

Mismatches in Other Counties

These same queries were run using data obtained on 8/3/2024 from several other counties. The table below summarizes the mismatches between the statewide voter registration database and county data for the counties that were evaluated.

County	Missing records	Name mismatch	Address mismatch	Registration date mismatch	2020 Voting history mismatch	2022 Voting history mismatch
Cuyahoga	1,638	214	754	2,041	22,881	5,802
Franklin	46	4	10,246	223,954	34,477	9,707
Hamilton	172	9	607	345,734	17,501	4,408
Butler	2	8	6	Not available	Not available	Not available
Montgomery	7	3	496	0	14,182	3,585

County	Missing records	Name mismatch	Address mismatch	Registration date mismatch	2020 Voting history mismatch	2022 Voting history mismatch
Warren	222	2	3,620	0	12,841	3,363
Lucas	2	0	351	0	6,106	1,578
Greene	2	0	357	0	7,911	2,211
Licking	0	0	654	0	7,958	1,998
Lorain	3	1	563	0	10,101	2,687
Mahoning	2197	0	379	0	4,202	1,091
Fairfield	1	0	1,864	0	7,976	1,990
Delaware	0	1	128	0	14,835	4,232

Hamilton County and the statewide voter registration databases disagree on registration date in nearly 350,000 voter records. In the statewide database, 92,252 of these records have a registration date of 7/17/1989. However, in the Hamilton County database, the registration date for these records is bouncing around. In Fall of 2023 Hamilton County changed the registration date for these voters to 1/1/1985; however, the statewide database was not updated with this change and reflected the 7/17/1989 registration date. The two databases remained in disagreement until Summer 2024 when the Hamilton County 1/1/1985 registration dates were flipped back to 7/17/1989. These changes were never reflected in the statewide database. For some reason the registration dates are being manipulated at the county level. A separate analysis of these voters suggests these are a select group of voters who have a distinct voting profile different from voters without these registration dates. Coding a group of voters using a unique registration date seems to be an unnecessary feature for a voter registration system.

Ohio and federal law require that the statewide voter registration database be used as the official list of registered voters in all elections [[3503.23](#), [52 USC 21083\(a\)\(1\)\(A\)](#)]. Instead, Cuyahoga County and another 70 counties that responded to an inquiry, report using their own county databases for this purpose. If the two databases were in complete agreement, one could argue it does not matter which database is used. How many thousands of missing voters and discrepancies are required before this becomes a breach of the requirement in [ORC 3503.15\(B\)\(2\)](#) to harmonize the databases? Are elections run using a list of qualified voters that is derived from county databases in lieu of the official statewide database lawful?

INCORRECT RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES

Accurate voter addresses are an essential element of the voting process. Voter registration forms require an applicant to identify their RESIDENCE ADDRESS. A voter’s residence address determines the political districts to which they belong – such as their school district, township, library, city, county, state representative, state senate, and congressional district – and consequently, for whom they are entitled to vote. It also determines whether they are eligible to sign a candidate’s petition or a ballot issue petition. If an individual decides to run for office, their residence address identifies which offices they are eligible to seek. Addresses also determine a voter’s voting location and serve as a valuable tool for identifying fraud and preventing individuals from registering in multiple districts.

The Ohio Revised Code outlines the rules for determining a voter’s residence address. A person’s residence is defined as is the place where their “habitation is fixed, and to which, whenever the person

is absent, the person has the intention of returning” [\[3503.02\(A\)\]](#). [ORC 3501.11\(Q\)](#) directs boards of elections to investigate and determine the residence qualifications of electors.

In Directive 2023-24, Section 4.02, the Secretary of State instructs each board of elections “to regularly review the eligibility of any elector whose voter registration address is an address at which the individual rents a postal box to obtain mail , such as an address for a branch of the United States Postal Service (USPS) or a commercial entity such as Mail Boxes Etc.® or the UPS Store®. Additionally, each board must program its county voter registration system to flag the usage of any such address by an elector in the future or regularly examine its county voter file to determine the eligibility of any individual registering to vote using such an address, prospectively. To accomplish these tasks, each board must compile a list of the addresses for all USPS and commercial mailbox entities in its county at which patrons may rent postal boxes and compare the resulting list to the county’s voter registration system to determine if any voters are registered at these addresses. The board of elections then must determine the residence qualifications of these voters using the guidelines established by Ohio law, which is the place in which the person’s habitation is fixed and to which, whenever the person is absent, the person has the intention of returning.”

If a board of elections allows voters to use these addresses, it raises questions about their compliance with legal duties. [ORC 3599.11](#) prohibits a person from knowingly creating a false voter registration. Registering to vote using an address that is not one's actual residence could be a serious legal infraction.

Registration at Commercial Mailbox Facilities

Several Ohio boards of elections have allowed individuals to register at commercial mailbox facilities, seemingly in contravention of the laws and directives noted above. [Query 15](#) identifies 177 voters in 28 counties that have been permitted by election officials to register using one of these facilities as their residential address. Below are a few examples.

SOSID	COUNTY	ADDRESS	UNIT	CITY	ZIP	Franchise	Building Type
OH0027225881	Hamilton	8465 COLERAIN AVE	APT 1254	CINCINNATI	45239	Other	Staples retail building
OH0024247829	Franklin	3000 E MAIN ST	UNIT 123	COLUMBUS	43209	The UPS Store	strip mall
OH0026966974	Muskingum	3030 MAPLE AVE	APT 1009	ZANESVILLE	43701	Other	Staples retail building
OH0024188003	Mahoning	143 BOARDMAN CANFIELD RD	APT 211	BOARDMAN	44512	The UPS Store	strip mall
OH0022104048	Butler	3189 PRINCETON RD		HAMILTON	45011	The UPS Store	strip mall
OH0018184218	Cuyahoga	6090 ROYALTON RD	STE 161	NORTH ROYALTON	44133	The UPS Store	strip mall
OH0025685545	Lorain	377 LEAR RD	APT B153	AVON LAKE	44012	The UPS Store	strip mall

In some cases, a commercial mailbox facility has residential units above it. The query results exclude voters registered at multi-story buildings with commercial mailbox facilities on the ground floor if the voter's address includes an apartment number. However, among the 181 records identified, several registrations include an apartment number despite the facility having no actual apartments.

Registration at US Post Offices

[Query 16](#) identifies 112 voters in 45 counties who have been permitted by their board of elections to register using a USPS address as their residential address. Here are a few examples:

SOSID	COUNTY	ADDRESS	SECONDARY ADDR	RESIDENTIAL CITY	ZIP
OH0020230071	Butler	700 WESSEL DR		FAIRFIELD	45014
OH0023754973	Clermont	7 S KLINE AVE	UNIT 241	AMELIA	45102
OH0026905591	Delaware	393 E ORANGE RD	UNIT 172	LEWIS CENTER	43035
OH0026818481	Fairfield	520 HILL RD N	UNIT 825	PICKERINGTON	43147
OH0026071880	Hamilton	9370 FIELDS ERTEL RD		CINCINNATI	45249
OH0026636740	Fairfield	520 HILL RD N	UNIT 773	PICKERINGTON	43147
OH0017767394	Franklin	1499 W BROAD ST		COLUMBUS	43222

In rare cases, some post office facilities may have attached residential units. The query results exclude voter registrations at post offices with potential residential units if the address includes an apartment or unit number. However, when a registration address at a post office lacks a unit number, it becomes indistinguishable from the post office's commercial address, so those records are included in the results. Among the results are numerous examples where an apartment number is used even though the post office building clearly has no residential units.

Have these boards of elections failed to program their voter registration system to flag these commercial mailbox and post office addresses? Did they notice that apartments do not exist at many of these addresses they are supposed to be monitoring? Have they allowed or failed to prevent fictitious registrations from being included in their voter registration systems? Is the Secretary of State taking action to compel compliance with his directives regarding commercial mailbox and post office facilities?

Conclusions

As demonstrated by the official results of the 2008 presidential election, Ohio is not immune to election fraud. Voter registration can serve as a critical tool in preventing such fraud. Both Ohio and federal laws mandate accurate voter rolls to prevent fraud and wrongful disenfranchisement. Just as no one would tolerate a bank statement with invalid transaction dates or duplicate entries, Ohioans should not accept similar errors in election systems—the lifeblood of our republic. Ohio election officials must improve their performance; the law demands it, and so do we.

Frank LaRose, Ohio's Secretary of State, and the election officials working in his office have a duty to zealously guard Ohio's election laws and secretarial directives pertaining to voter registration. Every Ohio board of elections has made errors and may have violated these laws and directives. The number of such faults undermines the reliability of Ohio's voter rolls for ensuring accurate elections.

When we presented our initial report, "Issues Discovered in Ohio's Voter Registration Database," to the Secretary of State's office in early 2022, they asked, "Are you alleging election fraud has been committed?" This report aims to assist Secretary LaRose and his staff in answering this question. [ORC 3599.42](#) states that any violation of Ohio election law or rules constitutes prima facie evidence of fraud. More importantly, this report highlights areas where election officials at all levels may need to strengthen their systems to ensure strict adherence to election laws, thereby safeguarding our elections.

It is crucial for all Ohioans to urge our election officials to focus on improving the quality of Ohio's voter registration databases and to vigilantly follow all election laws, avoiding even the appearance of election fraud.

The foregoing report was prepared by

Chief author:



James Rigano

BIOGRAPHY

James Rigano is a seasoned project analyst and software/database developer with over four decades of professional experience. His expertise encompasses Business Intelligence database development, reporting, and management of data and geographical information systems. Throughout his career, Rigano has designed and implemented database systems and data extraction and transformation processes. He previously held certification as a Microsoft Certified Solution Developer. Notably, Rigano served as the Chief Author of the ["Report of Issues Discovered in Ohio's Voter Registration System"](#), published in September of 2022.

Appendix 1 – SQL Queries

QUERY 1 – Registered Before Law Permits

```
SELECT a.SOS_VOTERID as SOSID, b.[County Name] as COUNTY, a.REGISTRATION_DATE
, a.DATE_OF_BIRTH, datediff(year,a.DATE_OF_BIRTH,a.REGISTRATION_DATE) as AGE_AT_REGISTRATION
FROM dbo.SWVF_080324 a INNER JOIN OH_Counties b on a.COUNTY_NUMBER=b.County_Number
WHERE datediff(year,a.DATE_OF_BIRTH,a.REGISTRATION_DATE) < 17
AND REGISTRATION_DATE > '1900-01-01'
```

QUERY 2 – Unknown Registration Dates

```
SELECT a.SOS_VOTERID as SOSID, b.[County Name] as COUNTY, a.REGISTRATION_DATE
FROM dbo.SWVF_080324 a INNER JOIN OH_Counties b on a.COUNTY_NUMBER=b.County_Number
WHERE REGISTRATION_DATE <= '1900-01-01'
```

QUERY 3 – Registered on January 1

```
SELECT a.SOS_VOTERID as SOSID, b.[County Name] as COUNTY, a.REGISTRATION_DATE
FROM dbo.SWVF_080324 a inner join dbo.OH_Counties b on a.COUNTY_NUMBER=b.County_Number
WHERE MONTH(REGISTRATION_DATE)=1 and Day(REGISTRATION_DATE)=1 and
REGISTRATION_DATE <> '1900-01-01' AND REGISTRATION_DATE < '2017-01-01'
```

QUERY 4 - Duplicate Registrations Based on First Name, Last Name, Middle Initial, and DOB

```
/* NOTE: the fnStripString function removes non-alphanumeric characters from the string */
SELECT SOS_VOTERID, [County Name], LAST_NAME, FIRST_NAME, MIDDLE_NAME, SUFFIX, DATE_OF_BIRTH,
REGISTRATION_DATE, VOTER_STATUS
FROM dbo.SWVF_080324 a inner join OH_Counties b on a.COUNTY_NUMBER=b.County_Number
WHERE dbo.fnStripString(LAST_NAME + FIRST_NAME + left(MIDDLE_NAME,1) + cast(DATE_OF_BIRTH as
varchar(15))) IN
(SELECT dbo.fnStripString(LAST_NAME + FIRST_NAME + left(MIDDLE_NAME,1) +
cast(DATE_OF_BIRTH as varchar(15))) as hash
FROM dbo.SWVF_080324
GROUP BY dbo.fnStripString(LAST_NAME + FIRST_NAME + left(MIDDLE_NAME,1) +
cast(DATE_OF_BIRTH as varchar(15)))
HAVING COUNT(*)>1)
ORDER BY LAST_NAME, FIRST_NAME
```

QUERY 5 – Duplicate Registrations Based on First Name, Address, and DOB

```
/* NOTE: the fnStripString function removes non-alphanumeric characters from the string */
SELECT SOS_VOTERID, [County Name], LAST_NAME, FIRST_NAME, MIDDLE_NAME, SUFFIX, DATE_OF_BIRTH,
VOTER_STATUS,
RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1 + ', ' + RESIDENTIAL_CITY + ', OH ' + RESIDENTIAL_ZIP as
FullAddress
, dbo.fnStripString(FIRST_NAME + RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1 + RESIDENTIAL_ZIP +cast
(DATE_OF_BIRTH as varchar(15))) as [Hash]
FROM SWVF_080324 a inner join OH_Counties b on a.COUNTY_NUMBER=b.County_Number
WHERE dbo.fnStripString(FIRST_NAME + RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1 + RESIDENTIAL_ZIP +cast (DATE_OF_BIRTH
as varchar(15))) in
(SELECT dbo.fnStripString(FIRST_NAME + RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1 + RESIDENTIAL_ZIP +cast
(DATE_OF_BIRTH as varchar(15))) as hash
FROM SWVF_080324 a inner join OH_Counties b on a.COUNTY_NUMBER=b.County_Number
GROUP BY dbo.fnStripString(FIRST_NAME + RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1 + RESIDENTIAL_ZIP +cast
(DATE_OF_BIRTH as varchar(15)))
HAVING count(*)>1)
ORDER BY FIRST_NAME, RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1, RESIDENTIAL_ZIP
```

QUERY 6 – Duplicate Registrations Based on Full Name and Address

```
/* NOTE: the fnStripString function removes non-alphanumeric characters from the string */
SELECT SOS_VOTERID, [County Name], LAST_NAME, FIRST_NAME, MIDDLE_NAME, SUFFIX, DATE_OF_BIRTH,
VOTER_STATUS, RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1 + ', ' + RESIDENTIAL_CITY + ', OH ' + RESIDENTIAL_ZIP
as FullAddress, dbo.fnStripString(FIRST_NAME + Middle_Name + Last_Name + SUFFIX +
RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1 + RESIDENTIAL_ZIP) as [Hash]
FROM SWVF_080324 a inner join OH_Counties b on a.COUNTY_NUMBER=b.County_Number
WHERE dbo.fnStripString(FIRST_NAME + Middle_Name + Last_Name + SUFFIX + RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1 +
RESIDENTIAL_ZIP) in
(SELECT dbo.fnStripString(FIRST_NAME + Middle_Name + Last_Name + SUFFIX +
RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1 + RESIDENTIAL_ZIP) as hash
FROM SWVF_080324 a inner join OH_Counties b on a.COUNTY_NUMBER=b.County_Number
GROUP BY dbo.fnStripString(FIRST_NAME + Middle_Name + Last_Name + SUFFIX +
RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1 + RESIDENTIAL_ZIP)
HAVING count(*)>1)
ORDER BY LAST_NAME, FIRST_NAME, RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1, RESIDENTIAL_ZIP
```

QUERY 7 – Dead Voters

```
SELECT
c.[County Name] as SOS_COUNTY, b.SOS_VOTERID,b.FIRST_NAME as SOS_FName,b.MIDDLE_NAME as
SOS_MName, b.LAST_NAME as SOS_LName, b.SUFFIX as SOS_Suffix,
b.DATE_OF_BIRTH as SOS_DOB,
[FName] as ODH_FName,[MName] as ODH_MName,[LName] as ODH_LName,a.[Suffix] as ODH_Suffix,
a.[DOD] as ODH_DOD,a.[DOB] as ODH_DOB
FROM dbo.[Deaths_2000_2021] a inner join SWVF_080324 b ON
a.[DECEDANT_ID]=replace(replace(concat(b.LAST_NAME,left(b.first_name,1),b.date_of_birth),'
','),'.','')
inner join dbo.OH_Counties c ON c.County_Number=b.COUNTY_NUMBER
WHERE replace(a.Fname,' ','') like replace(b.FIRST_NAME,' ','')
and (MName=null or MName = '' or left(MName,1) like left(b.middle_name,1)) --474 rows
UNION
SELECT c.[County Name] as SOS_COUNTY, b.SOS_VOTERID,b.FIRST_NAME as SOS_FName,b.MIDDLE_NAME as
SOS_MName, b.LAST_NAME as SOS_LName, b.SUFFIX as SOS_Suffix,
b.DATE_OF_BIRTH as SOS_DOB,
[FName] as ODH_FName,[MName] as ODH_MName,[LName] as ODH_LName,a.[Suffix] as ODH_Suffix,
a.[DOD] as ODH_DOD,a.[DOB] as ODH_DOB
FROM dbo.[Deaths_Nov2021_May2023] a inner join SWVF_080324 b ON
a.[DECEDANT_ID]=replace(replace(concat(b.LAST_NAME,left(b.first_name,1),b.date_of_birth),'
','),'.','')
inner join dbo.OH_Counties c ON c.County_Number=b.COUNTY_NUMBER
WHERE replace(a.Fname,' ','') like replace(b.FIRST_NAME,' ','')
and (MName=null or MName = '' or left(MName,1) like left(b.middle_name,1)) --919 rows
UNION
SELECT c.[County Name] as SOS_COUNTY,b.SOS_VOTERID,b.FIRST_NAME as SOS_FName,b.MIDDLE_NAME as
SOS_MName,b.LAST_NAME as SOS_LName, b.SUFFIX as SOS_Suffix,
b.DATE_OF_BIRTH as SOS_DOB,
[FName] as ODH_FName,[MName] as ODH_MName,[LName] as ODH_LName,a.[Suffix] as ODH_Suffix,
a.[DOD] as ODH_DOD,a.[DOB] as ODH_DOB
FROM dbo.[Deaths_Jun2023_Dec2023] a inner join SWVF_080324 b ON
a.[DECEDANT_ID]=replace(replace(concat(b.LAST_NAME,left(b.first_name,1),b.date_of_birth),'
','),'.','')
inner join dbo.OH_Counties c ON c.County_Number=b.COUNTY_NUMBER
WHERE replace(a.Fname,' ','') like replace(b.FIRST_NAME,' ','')
and (MName=null or MName = '' or left(MName,1) like left(b.middle_name,1))
```

QUERY 8 – SOS Registrations Missing from Cuyahoga County Records

```
SELECT SOS_VOTERID FROM SWVF_080324
WHERE COUNTY_NUMBER=18 and
SOS_VOTERID not in
(SELECT state_id FROM Cuyahoga_voterfile_080324)
```

QUERY 9 - Cuyahoga County Registrations Missing from SOS Records

```
SELECT state_id FROM Cuyahoga_voterfile_080324
WHERE state_id not in
```

```
(SELECT SOS_VOTERID FROM SWVF_080324 WHERE COUNTY_NUMBER=18)
```

QUERY 10 – Disagreement Between SOS and County for Voter’s Name

```
SELECT b.SOS_VOTERID as SOSID_SOS
, COUNTY_ID as COUNTYID_SOS
,a.[name_last] as LNAME_COUNTY,a.[name_first] as FNAME_COUNTY,a.[name_middle] as MNAME_COUNTY
,b.LAST_NAME as LNAME_SOS,b.FIRST_NAME as FNAME_SOS,b.MIDDLE_NAME as MNAME_SOS
FROM Cuyahoga_voterfile_080324 a join dbo.SWVF_080324 b on a.[state_id] = b.SOS_VOTERID
WHERE b.county_number=18 and
a.Name_last <> b.LAST_NAME or
a.[name_first] <> b.FIRST_NAME or
left(a.[name_middle],1) <> left(b.MIDDLE_NAME,1)
```

QUERY 11 – Disagreement Between SOS and County for Voter’s Registration Date

```
SELECT a.[state_id] as SOSID_COUNTY,b.SOS_VOTERID as SOSID_SOS
,a.voter_id_org as COUNTYID_COUNTY,b.COUNTY_ID as COUNTYID_SOS
,cast(a.[registration date] as date) as RegDate_COUNTY
,cast(a.[last registration date] as date) as LastRegDate_COUNTY
,b.REGISTRATION_DATE as RegDate_SOS
FROM Cuyahoga_voterfile_080324 a join SWVF_080324 b on a.[state_id] = b.SOS_VOTERID
WHERE b.county_number=18 and
cast(a.[registration date] as date) <> b.REGISTRATION_DATE and
cast(a.[last registration date] as date) <> b.REGISTRATION_DATE
```

QUERY 12 – Disagreement Between SOS and County for Voter’s Address

```
SELECT b.SOS_VOTERID as SOSID_SOS
,a.voter_id_org as COUNTYID_COUNTY
,a.house_no as HOUSE_NO_COUNTY, a.pre_dir as PRE_DIR_COUNTY, a.street as STREET_COUNTY
,a.apartment as APARTMENT_COUNTY, a.zip as ZIP_COUNTY
,b.RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1 as ADDRESS_SOS, b.RESIDENTIAL_SECONDARY_ADDR as APARTMENT_SOS,
b.RESIDENTIAL_ZIP as ZIP_SOS
FROM Cuyahoga_voterfile_080324 a join SWVF_080324 b on a.[state_id] = b.SOS_VOTERID
WHERE b.county_number=18 and
charindex(dbo.fnStripString(a.house_no),b.RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1)=0 or
charindex(dbo.fnStripString(a.street),dbo.fnStripString(b.residential_address1))=0
or dbo.fnStripString(a.apartment) <> dbo.fnStripString(b.RESIDENTIAL_SECONDARY_ADDR)
or trim(left(a.zip,5)) <> b.RESIDENTIAL_ZIP
```

QUERY 13 – Disagreement Between SOS and County for Voter’s Activity in Nov 2022

```
SELECT b.SOS_VOTERID
,a.voter_id_org as COUNTYID
,a.G_11_08_2022 as VOTED_110822_COUNTY, b.GENERAL_11_08_2022 as VOTED_110822_SOS
FROM Cuyahoga_voterfile_080324 a join
SWVF_080324 b on a.state_id = b.SOS_VOTERID
WHERE b.county_number=18 and
(a.G_11_08_2022 = '' and b.GENERAL_11_08_2022 = 'X') or (a.G_11_08_2022 <> '' and
b.GENERAL_11_08_2022 = '')
```

QUERY 14 – Disagreement Between SOS and County for Voter’s Activity in Nov 2020

```
SELECT a.state_id as SOSID_COUNTY,b.SOS_VOTERID as SOSID_SOS
,a.voter_id_org as COUNTYID_COUNTY,b.COUNTY_ID as COUNTYID_SOS
,a.G_11_03_2020 as GEN_110320_COUNTY,b.GENERAL_11_03_2020 as GEN_110320_SOS
FROM Cuyahoga_voterfile_080324 a join
SWVF_080324 b on a.state_id = b.SOS_VOTERID
WHERE b.county_number=18 and
(a.G_11_03_2020 = '' and b.GENERAL_11_03_2020 = 'X') or (a.G_11_03_2020 <> '' and
b.GENERAL_11_03_2020 = '')
```

QUERY 15 – Registered at Commercial Mailbox Facility

```
SELECT a.SOS_VOTERID as SOSID, b.[County Name] as COUNTY, a.RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1 as ADDRESS,
a.RESIDENTIAL_SECONDARY_ADDR
,a.RESIDENTIAL_CITY, a.RESIDENTIAL_ZIP as ZIP, c.Franchise, c.Building_Type
```

```

FROM dbo.SWVF_080324 a INNER JOIN OH_Counties b on a.COUNTY_NUMBER=b.County_Number
INNER JOIN dbo.CommercialMailboxStores c on (a.RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1=c.ST_ADDRESS and
a.RESIDENTIAL_ZIP=c.ZIP)
Where c.Building_Type<> 'multi-story bldg' or (c.Building_Type = 'multi-story bldg' and
a.RESIDENTIAL_SECONDARY_ADDR = '')

```

QUERY 16 – Registered at Post Office

```

SELECT a.SOS_VOTERID as SOSID, b.[County Name] as COUNTY, a.RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1 as ADDRESS,
a.RESIDENTIAL_SECONDARY_ADDR
,a.RESIDENTIAL_CITY, a.RESIDENTIAL_ZIP as ZIP, c.PO_Street + ' ' + c.PO_City + ' ' + c.PO_Zip as
USPS_ADDRESS
,a.GENERAL_11_08_2022, a.GENERAL_11_07_2023
FROM dbo.SWVF_080324 a INNER JOIN OH_Counties b on a.COUNTY_NUMBER=b.County_Number
INNER JOIN dbo.OHPostoffices c on (a.RESIDENTIAL_ADDRESS1=c.PO_Street and
a.RESIDENTIAL_ZIP=c.PO_ZIP)
WHERE
c.PO_BuildingType <> 'multi-story' or (c.PO_BuildingType = 'multi-story' and
a.RESIDENTIAL_SECONDARY_ADDR = '')

```

Appendix 2 – Summary Query Results by County

County / Category	Query 1	Query 2	Query 3	Query 4	Query 5	Query 6	Query 7	Query 15	Query 16
	Reg before law permits	Unknown Reg Date	January 1 Reg Date	Dups matching FN, LN, DOB	Dups matching FN, ADDR, DOB	Dups matching Full Name, ADDR	Deceased Voters	Comm. Mailbox	Post Office
Adams	-	-	347	20	1	2	2	-	-
Allen	-	-	270	42	2	12	19	8	-
Ashland	-	-	5	33	-	10	6	7	3
Ashtabula	1	-	114	35	-	28	8	-	-
Athens	-	-	8	111	2	12	11	-	-
Auglaize	-	-	-	13	-	16	3	-	-
Belmont	-	-	4	27	-	14	-	-	-
Brown	1	-	-	32	-	10	18	-	2
Butler	-	-	21	167	10	124	5	-	7
Carroll	-	-	2	9	-	2	-	-	-
Champaign	5	-	1	30	-	6	5	-	-
Clark	1	-	4	91	6	30	15	-	-
Clermont	-	1	11	136	50	104	4	1	5
Clinton	-	-	2	28	4	8	6	-	-
Columbiana	2	-	13	62	2	28	4	2	1
Coshocton	-	-	1	13	-	8	-	1	-
Crawford	-	-	-	24	4	10	4	-	-
Cuyahoga	1	51,036	40	888	364	1,230	67	3	-
Darke	-	-	2	23	2	2	4	-	1
Defiance	-	-	3	19	-	6	1	7	-
Delaware	-	-	8	166	4	30	39	1	2
Erie	-	-	16	50	-	20	3	-	-
Fairfield	-	34	13	113	8	40	164	1	4
Fayette	-	-	1	42	-	2	2	-	-
Franklin	61	83	161,477	835	152	314	100	38	3
Fulton	-	-	1	26	-	10	-	-	1
Gallia	1	-	3	21	2	8	5	-	-
Geauga	-	-	8	72	2	32	4	-	2
Greene	-	1	15	155	2	44	64	13	1
Guernsey	-	-	1	23	-	8	3	-	-
Hamilton	-	-	486	405	138	280	175	20	8
Hancock	-	-	4	47	6	6	76	1	2
Hardin	-	-	-	8	-	2	-	-	-
Harrison	1	-	-	9	-	16	2	-	-
Henry	-	-	4	25	-	2	2	-	-
Highland	-	-	22	57	2	8	14	-	2
Hocking	-	-	-	29	2	8	4	-	1

Holmes	-	-	4	9	-	-	-	-	1
Huron	-	-	1,079	34	18	18	2	-	1
Jackson	-	-	4	12	-	6	2	-	-
Jefferson	-	-	32	30	-	12	10	7	1
Knox	-	-	-	38	2	34	299	-	1
Lake	-	-	58	135	10	87	132	-	11
Lawrence	-	-	6	22	-	14	1	-	-
Licking	-	-	54	100	2	34	10	-	-
Logan	-	-	29	16	-	-	2	-	1
Lorain	4	-	44	162	20	158	8	2	-
Lucas	210	-	384	273	16	172	36	5	2
Madison	2	-	4	37	-	2	6	-	-
Mahoning	54	3	29	137	14	132	66	11	5
Marion	-	-	-	33	-	2	2	-	1
Medina	-	-	35	111	8	56	10	4	2
Meigs	-	-	-	15	4	2	7	-	-
Mercer	-	-	7	20	2	8	1	-	-
Miami	-	-	133	133	-	12	8	-	3
Monroe	-	-	1	10	-	-	31	-	-
Montgomery	208	-	283	381	18	122	122	7	1
Morgan	-	-	-	17	-	6	1	-	-
Morrow	3	-	-	36	4	18	2	-	-
Muskingum	5	-	56	60	-	4	2	1	3
Noble	-	-	-	11	-	4	-	-	-
Ottawa	-	-	2	28	-	4	1	-	2
Paulding	-	-	6	8	-	-	1	-	-
Perry	-	-	18	20	-	6	-	-	-
Pickaway	-	-	4	41	-	6	1	-	2
Pike	-	-	2	23	-	8	4	-	1
Portage	1	-	20	128	2	24	17	-	-
Preble	-	-	4	21	-	20	30	-	1
Putnam	-	-	5	5	-	-	-	-	-
Richland	-	-	4	45	-	22	4	3	1
Ross	-	-	61	47	-	14	5	-	1
Sandusky	-	-	4	31	6	16	2	5	-
Scioto	-	-	3	31	1	20	40	-	3
Seneca	-	-	3	27	-	4	5	-	2
Shelby	26	-	112	27	-	10	5	1	-
Stark	2	-	26	210	46	128	52	7	6
Summit	95	-	40	398	14	160	40	17	-
Trumbull	2	-	21	96	40	102	55	1	7
Tuscarawas	-	-	1	32	-	16	9	2	3
Union	-	-	20	37	-	18	3	-	-
Van Wert	-	1	2	16	-	4	10	-	-

Vinton	-	-	-	18	6	4	22	-	-
Warren	-	-	6	149	-	56	23	-	-
Washington	-	-	19	17	-	8	2	1	1
Wayne	-	-	6	43	2	18	10	-	3
Williams	1	-	4	26	-	8	-	-	-
Wood	-	-	63	222	30	78	2	-	1
Wyandot	-	-	-	20	-	8	2	-	-
State Total	687	51,159	165,605	7,484	1,030	4,157	1,944	177	112