



**DIRECTIVE 2018-23**

July 19, 2018

To: All County Boards of Elections  
Directors, Deputy Directors, and Board Members

Re: Examination and Verification of Nominating Petitions from Statewide Candidates of  
Newly Formed Minor Political Party

**SUMMARY**

This Directive provides instructions on the examination and verification of the nominating petitions for statewide office that have been filed with the Ohio Secretary of State.

Petition examination and verification must be complete, and the certification forms sent electronically to the Secretary of State's Office **not later than NOON on Tuesday, July 24, 2018**. The original part-petitions must be returned to the Secretary of State's Office via a trackable delivery method and received not later than Thursday, July 26, 2018.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Before checking any petition, the board must review the instructions contained in [Chapter 11 of the Election Official Manual](#) and [Chapter 13 of the Ohio Election Official Manual](#) regarding the review of circulator's statements and signatures and marking signatures.

**Each signature on a petition must be from a qualified elector who has not voted as a member of a different political party at any primary election within the current year or the immediately preceding two calendar years.<sup>1</sup>**

Remember that a signature on a nominating petition "is not valid if it is dated more than one year before the date the nominating petition was filed."<sup>2</sup> The nominating petitions were filed with the Ohio Secretary of State's Office on July 18, 2018.

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3517.012(B)(2)(a).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3517.012 (B)(1) states that "[e]xcept as otherwise provided in this section and sections 3505.03, 3505.08, 3506.11, 3513.31, 3513.311, and 3513.312 of the Revised Code, the provisions of the Revised Code concerning independent candidates who file nominating petitions apply to candidates who file nominating petitions under this section."

### **FULFILLING PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS**

Your board of elections may receive a public records request for copies of the part-petitions. Boards should consult with their statutory legal counsel, the prosecuting attorney before rejecting, fulfilling, or responding to any public records request.

### **CERTIFICATION & RETURN OF PART-PETITIONS**

As soon as the board finishes verifying the signatures on your county's part-petitions, you must return a completed certification form. The certification form must be completed and submitted electronically via Elect Collect by clicking the "Submit" button. It also must be saved and printed. The Director must sign the form and return the signed certification form to Emily Bright-Woeste via email to [ebright@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov](mailto:ebright@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov).

**All certification forms must be received by NOON on July 24, 2018.**

Once the certification form has been submitted, county boards of elections must promptly return the original part-petitions to the Secretary of State's Office, 180 East Broad Street, 15th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215, via a trackable delivery method **not later than Thursday, July 26, 2018**. All part-petitions must be received by the Secretary of State's Office no later than Thursday, July 26, 2018.

If you have any questions concerning this Directive, please contact the Secretary of State's elections counsel assigned to your county at (614) 466-2585.

Sincerely,

  
Jon Husted