

**As Reported by the Committee of Conference  
(CORRECTED VERSION)**

**124th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2001-2002**

**Am. Sub. H. B. No. 445**

**REPRESENTATIVES** Kearns, Clancy, Buehrer, Fessler, Cates, Sulzer,  
Lendrum, Flowers, McGregor, Otterman, Distel, Coates, Hollister, Latell,  
Carano, Niehaus, Britton, Carmichael, Roman, Hagan, Sullivan, Hoops  
**SENATORS** Spada, Harris

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**A B I L L**

To amend sections 107.08, 3501.01, 3501.38, 3501.39,	1
3505.03, 3505.061, 3505.062, 3505.063, 3513.04,	2
3513.041, 3513.05, 3513.23, 3513.251, 3513.253,	3
3513.254, 3513.255, 3513.257, 3513.259, 3513.261,	4
3513.30, 3513.31, 3517.02, 3517.03, 3517.10,	5
3517.106, 3517.11, and 3519.03 and to enact	6
sections 3513.052 and 3599.09 of the Revised Code	7
to require the Ohio Ballot Board or a group of	8
persons designated by the Board to prepare and file	9
arguments in support of or in opposition to each	10
constitutional amendment proposed by the General	11
Assembly, each constitutional amendment or state	12
law proposed by an initiative petition, and each	13
state law, or section or item of state law, subject	14
to a referendum petition, if the persons designated	15
to prepare those arguments fail to timely prepare	16
and file them; to specify that the positions of the	17
four appointed Board members must be considered	18
vacant if the Board fails to have the missing	19
arguments prepared and filed; to require the Board	20
to certify ballot language and explanations to the	21

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Secretary of State at least 80 days prior to an 22  
election; to specify that an election to fill an 23  
unexpired term of certain judicial offices must be 24  
held at the first general election for the office 25  
that occurs more than 40 days after the governor's 26  
appointment to fill the vacant office; to include 27  
members of a board of elections in the definition 28  
of an "election official" for purposes of statutes 29  
relating to elections and political communications; 30  
to prohibit a petition from being withdrawn after 31  
it is filed in a public office; to require the 32  
designation of "nonparty candidate" or "other-party 33  
candidate" to be printed on a ballot under the name 34  
of each nonjudicial candidate who files a 35  
nominating petition and requests that designation; 36  
to specify that no person may seek to be a 37  
candidate for two or more specified offices that 38  
will be voted on at the same election; to require a 39  
board of elections or the Secretary of State to 40  
reject any declaration of candidacy, declaration of 41  
intent to be a write-in candidate, or a nominating 42  
petition filed by a person who is a candidate for a 43  
specified office at the same election; to require a 44  
board of elections or the Secretary of State to 45  
disqualify any such candidate based on certain 46  
criteria; to remove the requirement that a write-in 47  
candidate for the position of committeeperson of a 48  
political party controlling committee receive the 49  
same number of votes as petition signatures 50  
necessary to qualify the person for the printing of 51  
the person's name on the ballot in order to win an 52  
election by receiving the greatest number of votes 53  
cast for the position; to extend the deadline by 54

which certain General Assembly candidates must file 55  
their campaign finance statements by electronic 56  
means of transmission from January 1, 2003, to 57  
March 1, 2004; and to declare an emergency. 58  
59

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 107.08, 3501.01, 3501.38, 3501.39, 60  
3505.03, 3505.061, 3505.062, 3505.063, 3513.04, 3513.041, 3513.05, 61  
3513.23, 3513.251, 3513.253, 3513.254, 3513.255, 3513.257, 62  
3513.259, 3513.261, 3513.30, 3513.31, 3517.02, 3517.03, 3517.10, 63  
3517.106, 3517.11, and 3519.03 be amended and sections 3513.052 64  
and 3599.09 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 65

**Sec. 107.08.** The office of a judge is vacant at the 66  
expiration of the term of the incumbent when no person has been 67  
elected as ~~his~~ the judge's successor. ~~Such~~ The vacancy shall be 68  
filled by appointment by the governor. If the appointment is to a 69  
court of appeals, court of common pleas, or municipal court, the 70  
clerk of the court shall give written notice to the board of 71  
elections responsible for conducting elections for that court of 72  
the name of the appointee. A successor shall be elected for the 73  
unexpired term at the first general election for the office that 74  
occurs more than ~~thirty~~ forty days after ~~such appointment~~ the 75  
vacancy occurs. 76

**Sec. 3501.01.** As used in the sections of the Revised Code 77  
relating to elections and political communications: 78

(A) "General election" means the election held on the first 79  
Tuesday after the first Monday in each November. 80

(B) "Regular municipal election" means the election held on 81

the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each  
odd-numbered year.

(C) "Regular state election" means the election held on the  
first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each  
even-numbered year.

(D) "Special election" means any election other than those  
elections defined in other divisions of this section. A special  
election may be held only on the first Tuesday after the first  
Monday in February, May, August, or November, or on the day  
authorized by a particular municipal or county charter for the  
holding of a primary election, except that in any year in which a  
presidential primary election is held, no special election shall  
be held in February or May, except as authorized by a municipal or  
county charter, but may be held on the first Tuesday after the  
first Monday in March.

(E)(1) "Primary" or "primary election" means an election held  
for the purpose of nominating persons as candidates of political  
parties for election to offices, and for the purpose of electing  
persons as members of the controlling committees of political  
parties and as delegates and alternates to the conventions of  
political parties. Primary elections shall be held on the first  
Tuesday after the first Monday in May of each year except in years  
in which a presidential primary election is held.

(2) "Presidential primary election" means a primary election  
as defined by division (E)(1) of this section at which an election  
is held for the purpose of choosing delegates and alternates to  
the national conventions of the major political parties pursuant  
to section 3513.12 of the Revised Code. Unless otherwise  
specified, presidential primary elections are included in  
references to primary elections. In years in which a presidential  
primary election is held, all primary elections shall be held on  
the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March except as

otherwise authorized by a municipal or county charter. 114

(F) "Political party" means any group of voters meeting the 115  
requirements set forth in section 3517.01 of the Revised Code for 116  
the formation and existence of a political party. 117

(1) "Major political party" means any political party 118  
organized under the laws of this state whose candidate for 119  
governor or nominees for presidential electors received no less 120  
than twenty per cent of the total vote cast for such office at the 121  
most recent regular state election. 122

(2) "Intermediate political party" means any political party 123  
organized under the laws of this state whose candidate for 124  
governor or nominees for presidential electors received less than 125  
twenty per cent but not less than ten per cent of the total vote 126  
cast for such office at the most recent regular state election. 127

(3) "Minor political party" means any political party 128  
organized under the laws of this state whose candidate for 129  
governor or nominees for presidential electors received less than 130  
ten per cent but not less than five per cent of the total vote 131  
cast for such office at the most recent regular state election or 132  
which has filed with the secretary of state, subsequent to any 133  
election in which it received less than five per cent of such 134  
vote, a petition signed by qualified electors equal in number to 135  
at least one per cent of the total vote cast for such office in 136  
the last preceding regular state election, except that a newly 137  
formed political party shall be known as a minor political party 138  
until the time of the first election for governor or president 139  
which occurs not less than twelve months subsequent to the 140  
formation of such party, after which election the status of such 141  
party shall be determined by the vote for the office of governor 142  
or president. 143

(G) "Dominant party in a precinct" or "dominant political 144

party in a precinct" means that political party whose candidate  
for election to the office of governor at the most recent regular  
state election at which a governor was elected received more votes  
than any other person received for election to that office in such  
precinct at such election.

(H) "Candidate" means any qualified person certified in  
accordance with the provisions of the Revised Code for placement  
on the official ballot of a primary, general, or special election  
to be held in this state, or any qualified person who claims to be  
a write-in candidate, or who knowingly assents to being  
represented as a write-in candidate by another at either a  
primary, general, or special election to be held in this state.

(I) "Independent candidate" means any candidate who claims  
not to be affiliated with a political party, and whose name has  
been certified on the office-type ballot at a general or special  
election through the filing of a statement of candidacy and  
nominating petition, as prescribed in section 3513.257 of the  
Revised Code.

(J) "Nonpartisan candidate" means any candidate whose name is  
required, pursuant to section 3505.04 of the Revised Code, to be  
listed on the nonpartisan ballot, including all candidates for  
judicial office, for member of any board of education, for  
municipal or township offices in which primary elections are not  
held for nominating candidates by political parties, and for  
offices of municipal corporations having charters that provide for  
separate ballots for elections for these offices.

(K) "Party candidate" means any candidate who claims to be a  
member of a political party, whose name has been certified on the  
office-type ballot at a general or special election through the  
filing of a declaration of candidacy and petition of candidate,  
and who has won the primary election of the candidate's party for  
the public office the candidate seeks or is selected by party

committee in accordance with section 3513.31 of the Revised Code.	177
(L) "Officer of a political party" includes, but is not	178
limited to, any member, elected or appointed, of a controlling	179
committee, whether representing the territory of the state, a	180
district therein, a county, township, a city, a ward, a precinct,	181
or other territory, of a major, intermediate, or minor political	182
party.	183
(M) "Question or issue" means any question or issue certified	184
in accordance with the Revised Code for placement on an official	185
ballot at a general or special election to be held in this state.	186
	187
(N) "Elector" or "qualified elector" means a person having	188
the qualifications provided by law to be entitled to vote.	189
(O) "Voter" means an elector who votes at an election.	190
(P) "Voting residence" means that place of residence of an	191
elector which shall determine the precinct in which the elector	192
may vote.	193
(Q) "Precinct" means a district within a county established	194
by the board of elections of such county within which all	195
qualified electors having a voting residence therein may vote at	196
the same polling place.	197
(R) "Polling place" means that place provided for each	198
precinct at which the electors having a voting residence in such	199
precinct may vote.	200
(S) "Board" or "board of elections" means the board of	201
elections appointed in a county pursuant to section 3501.06 of the	202
Revised Code.	203
(T) "Political subdivision" means <del>"a county,"</del> "township,"	204
<del>"city,"</del> "village," or "school district."	205
(U) "Election officer" or "election official" means any of	206

the following: 207

(1) Secretary of state; 208

(2) Employees of the secretary of state serving in the 209  
division of elections in the capacity of attorney, administrative 210  
officer, administrative assistant, elections administrator, office 211  
manager, or clerical supervisor; 212

(3) Director of a board of elections; 213

(4) Deputy director of a board of elections; 214

(5) Member of a board of elections; 215

(6) Employees of a board of elections; 216

~~(6)~~(7) Precinct polling place judges and clerks; 217

~~(7)~~(8) Employees appointed by the boards of elections on a 218  
temporary or part-time basis. 219

(V) "Acknowledgment notice" means a notice sent by a board of 220  
elections, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, 221  
informing a voter registration applicant or an applicant who 222  
wishes to change the applicant's residence or name of the status 223  
of the application; the information necessary to complete or 224  
update the application, if any; and if the application is 225  
complete, the precinct in which the applicant is to vote. 226

(W) "Confirmation notice" means a notice sent by a board of 227  
elections, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, to a 228  
registered elector to confirm the registered elector's current 229  
address. 230

(X) "Designated agency" means an office or agency in the 231  
state that provides public assistance or that provides 232  
state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to 233  
persons with disabilities and that is required by the National 234  
Voter Registration Act of 1993 to implement a program designed and 235  
administered by the secretary of state for registering voters, or 236



any other public or government office or agency that implements a  
program designed and administered by the secretary of state for  
registering voters, including the department of job and family  
services, the program administered under section 3701.132 of the  
Revised Code by the department of health, the department of mental  
health, the department of mental retardation and developmental  
disabilities, the rehabilitation services commission, and any  
other agency the secretary of state designates. "Designated  
agency" does not include public high schools and vocational  
schools, public libraries, or the office of a county treasurer.

(Y) "National Voter Registration Act of 1993" means the  
"National Voter Registration Act of 1993," 107 Stat. 77, 42  
U.S.C.A. 1973gg.

(Z) "Voting Rights Act of 1965" means the "Voting Rights Act  
of 1965," 79 Stat. 437, 42 U.S.C.A. 1973, as amended.

**Sec. 3501.38.** All declarations of candidacy, nominating  
petitions, or other petitions presented to or filed with the  
secretary of state or a board of elections or with any other  
public office for the purpose of becoming a candidate for any  
nomination or office or for the holding of an election on any  
issue shall, in addition to meeting the other specific  
requirements prescribed in the sections of the Revised Code  
relating to them, be governed by the following rules:

(A) Only electors qualified to vote on the candidacy or issue  
which is the subject of the petition shall sign a petition. Each  
signer shall be a registered elector pursuant to section 3503.11  
of the Revised Code. The facts of qualification shall be  
determined as of the date when the petition is filed.

(B) Signatures shall be affixed in ink. Each signer may also  
print the signer's name, so as to clearly identify the signer's  
signature.

(C) Each signer shall place on the petition after the 268  
signer's name the date of signing and the location of the signer's 269  
voting residence, including the street and number if in a 270  
municipal corporation or the rural route number, post office 271  
address, or township if outside a municipal corporation. The 272  
voting address given on the petition shall be the address 273  
appearing in the registration records at the board of elections. 274

(D) No person shall write any name other than the person's 275  
own on any petition. No person may authorize another to sign for 276  
the person. Where a petition contains the signature of an elector 277  
two or more times, only the first signature shall be counted. 278

(E) On each petition paper, the circulator shall indicate the 279  
number of signatures contained on it, and shall sign a statement 280  
made under penalty of election falsification that the circulator 281  
witnessed the affixing of every signature, that all signers were 282  
to the best of the circulator's knowledge and belief qualified to 283  
sign, and that every signature is to the best of the circulator's 284  
knowledge and belief the signature of the person whose signature 285  
it purports to be. 286

(F) If a circulator knowingly permits an unqualified person 287  
to sign a petition paper or permits a person to write a name other 288  
than the person's own on a petition paper, that petition paper is 289  
invalid; otherwise, the signature of a person not qualified to 290  
sign shall be rejected but shall not invalidate the other valid 291  
signatures on the paper. 292

(G) The circulator of a petition may, before filing it in a 293  
public office, strike from it any signature the circulator does 294  
not wish to present as a part of the petition. 295

(H) Any signer of a petition may remove the signer's 296  
signature from that petition at any time before the petition is 297  
filed in a public office by striking the signer's name from the 298

petition; no signature may be removed after the petition is filed 299  
in any public office. 300

(I)(1) No alterations, corrections, or additions may be made 301  
to a petition after it is filed in a public office. 302

(2) No petition may be withdrawn after it is filed in a 303  
public office. Nothing in this division prohibits a person from 304  
withdrawing as a candidate as otherwise provided by law. 305

(J) All declarations of candidacy, nominating petitions, or 306  
other petitions under this section shall be accompanied by the 307  
following statement in boldface capital letters: WHOEVER COMMITS 308  
ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE. 309

(K) All separate petition papers shall be filed at the same 310  
time, as one instrument. 311

**Sec. 3501.39.** (A) The secretary of state or a board of 312  
elections shall accept any petition described in section 3501.38 313  
of the Revised Code unless one of the following occurs: 314

(1) A written protest against the petition or candidacy, 315  
naming specific objections, is filed, a hearing is held, and a 316  
determination is made by the election officials with whom the 317  
protest is filed that the petition is invalid, in accordance with 318  
any section of the Revised Code providing a protest procedure. 319

(2) A written protest against the petition or candidacy, 320  
naming specific objections, is filed, a hearing is held, and a 321  
determination is made by the election officials with whom the 322  
protest is filed that the petition violates any requirement 323  
established by law. 324

(3) The candidate's candidacy or the petition violates the 325  
requirements of this chapter, Chapter 3513. of the Revised Code, 326  
or any other requirements established by law. 327

(B) A Except as otherwise provided in section 3513.052 of the 328  
Revised Code, a board of elections shall not invalidate any 329  
declaration of candidacy or nominating petition under division 330  
(A)(3) of this section after the fiftieth day prior to the 331  
election at which the candidate seeks nomination to office, if the 332  
candidate filed a declaration of candidacy, or election to office, 333  
if the candidate filed a nominating petition. 334

**Sec. 3505.03.** On the office type ballot shall be printed the 335  
names of all candidates for election to offices, except judicial 336  
offices, who were nominated at the most recent primary election as 337  
candidates of a political party or who were nominated in 338  
accordance with section 3513.02 of the Revised Code, and the names 339  
of all candidates for election to offices who were nominated by 340  
nominating petitions, except candidates for judicial offices, for 341  
member of the state board of education, for member of a board of 342  
education, for municipal offices, and for township offices. 343

The face of ~~such~~ the ballot below the stub shall be 344  
substantially in the following form: 345

"OFFICIAL OFFICE TYPE BALLOT 346

(A) To vote for a candidate record your vote in the manner 347  
provided next to the name of such candidate. 348

(B) If you tear, soil, deface, or erroneously mark this 349  
ballot, return it to the precinct election officers or, if you 350  
cannot return it, notify the precinct election officers, and 351  
obtain another ballot." 352

The order in which the offices shall be listed on the ballot 353  
shall be prescribed by, and certified to each board of elections 354  
by, the secretary of state; provided that for state, district, and 355  
county offices the order from top to bottom shall be as follows: 356  
governor and lieutenant governor, attorney general, auditor of 357  
state, secretary of state, treasurer of state, United States 358

senator, representative to congress, state senator, state  
representative, county commissioner, county auditor, prosecuting  
attorney, clerk of the court of common pleas, sheriff, county  
recorder, county treasurer, county engineer, and coroner. The  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor shall be printed on  
the ballot in a manner that requires a voter to cast one vote  
jointly for the candidates who have been nominated by the same  
political party or petition.

The names of all candidates for an office shall be arranged  
in a group under the title of that office, and, except for  
absentee ballots or when the number of candidates for a particular  
office is the same as the number of candidates to be elected for  
that office, shall be rotated from one precinct to another. On  
absentee ballots, the names of all candidates for an office shall  
be arranged in a group under the title of that office and shall be  
so alternated that each name shall appear, insofar as may be  
reasonably possible, substantially an equal number of times at the  
beginning, at the end, and in each intermediate place, if any, of  
the group in which such name belongs, unless the number of  
candidates for a particular office is the same as the number of  
candidates to be elected for that office.

The method of printing the ballots to meet the rotation  
requirement of this section shall be as follows: ~~The~~ the least  
common multiple of the number of names in each of the several  
groups of candidates shall be used, and the number of changes made  
in the printer's forms in printing ~~such~~ the ballots shall  
correspond with ~~such~~ that multiple. The board of elections shall  
number all precincts in regular serial sequence. In the first  
precinct, the names of the candidates in each group shall be  
listed in alphabetical order. In each succeeding precinct, the  
name in each group ~~which~~ that is listed first in the preceding  
precinct shall be listed last, and the name of each candidate

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shall be moved up one place. In each precinct using paper ballots,  
the printed ballots shall then be assembled in tablets.

Under the name of each candidate nominated at a primary election and each candidate certified by a party committee to fill a vacancy under section 3513.31 of the Revised Code shall be printed, in less prominent type face than that in which the candidate's name is printed, the name of the political party by which the candidate was nominated or certified. Under the name of each candidate appearing on the ballot who filed a nominating petition and requested a ballot designation as a nonparty candidate under section 3513.257 of the Revised Code shall be printed, in less prominent type face than that in which the candidate's name is printed, the designation of "nonparty candidate." Under the name of each candidate appearing on the ballot who filed a nominating petition and requested a ballot designation as an other-party candidate under section 3513.257 of the Revised Code shall be printed, in less prominent type face than that in which the candidate's name is printed, the designation of "other-party candidate." No designation shall appear under the name of a candidate appearing on the ballot who filed a nominating petition and requested that no ballot designation appear under the candidate's name under section 3513.257 of the Revised Code, or who filed a nominating petition and failed to request a ballot designation either as a nonparty candidate or as an other-party candidate under that section.

Except as provided in this section, no words, designations, or emblems descriptive of a candidate or ~~his~~ the candidate's political affiliation, or indicative of the method by which the candidate was nominated or certified, shall be printed under or after a candidate's name ~~which~~ that is printed on the ballot.

**Sec. 3505.061.** (A) The Ohio ballot board, as authorized by Section 1 of Article XVI, Ohio Constitution, shall consist of the

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secretary of state and four appointed members. No more than two of  
the appointed members shall be of the same political party. One of  
the members shall be appointed by the president of the senate, one  
shall be appointed by the ~~minority~~ minority leader of the senate,  
one shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of  
representatives, and one shall be appointed by the minority leader  
of the house of representatives. The appointments shall be made no  
later than the last Monday in January in the year in which the  
appointments are to be made. If any appointment is not so made,  
the secretary of state, acting in place of the person otherwise  
required to make the appointment, shall appoint as many qualified  
members affiliated with the appropriate political party as are  
necessary.

(B) The initial appointees to the board shall serve until the  
first Monday in February, 1977. Thereafter, terms of office shall  
be for four years, each term ending on the first Monday in  
February. The term of the secretary of state on the board shall  
coincide with ~~his the secretary of state's~~ term of office ~~as~~  
~~secretary of state. Each~~ Except as otherwise provided in division  
(B)(2) of section 3505.063 and division (B)(2) of section 3519.03  
of the Revised Code, each appointed member ~~of the board~~ shall hold  
office from the date of ~~his~~ appointment until the end of the term  
for which ~~he~~ the member was appointed. ~~Any~~ Except as otherwise  
provided in those divisions, any member appointed to fill a  
vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which  
~~his the member's~~ predecessor was appointed shall hold office for  
the remainder of ~~such that~~ term. ~~Any~~ Except as otherwise provided  
in those divisions, any member shall continue in office subsequent  
to the expiration date of ~~his the member's~~ term until ~~his the~~  
member's successor takes office, ~~or until~~ a period of sixty days  
has elapsed, whichever occurs first. Any vacancy occurring on the  
board shall be filled in the manner provided for original  
appointments. A member appointed to fill a vacancy shall be of the

same political party as that required of the member whom ~~he~~ the  
member replaces.

(C) Members of the board shall serve without compensation but  
shall be reimbursed for expenses actually and necessarily incurred  
in the performance of their duties.

(D) The secretary of state shall be the ~~chairman~~ chairperson  
of the board, and ~~he~~ the secretary of state or ~~his~~ the secretary  
of state's representative shall have a vote equal to that of any  
other member. The ~~vice-chairman~~ vice-chairperson shall act as  
~~chairman~~ chairperson in the absence or disability of the ~~chairman~~  
chairperson, or during a vacancy in that office. The board shall  
meet after notice of at least seven days at a time and place  
determined by the ~~chairman~~ chairperson. At its first meeting, the  
board shall elect a ~~vice-chairman~~ vice-chairperson from among its  
members for a term of two years, and it shall adopt rules for its  
procedures. After the first meeting, the board shall meet at the  
call of the ~~chairman~~ chairperson or upon the written request of  
three other members. Three members constitute a quorum. No action  
shall be taken without the concurrence of three members.

(E) The secretary of state shall provide ~~such~~ technical,  
professional, and clerical employees as ~~are~~ necessary for the  
board to carry out its duties.

**Sec. 3505.062.** The Ohio ballot board shall do all of the  
following:

(A) Prescribe the ballot language for constitutional  
amendments proposed by the general assembly to be printed on the  
questions and issues ballot, which language shall properly  
identify the substance of the proposal to be voted upon-;

(B) Prepare an explanation of each constitutional amendment  
proposed by the general assembly, which explanation may include  
the purpose and effects of the proposed amendment-;



(C) Certify the ballot language and explanation, if any, to the secretary of state no later than ~~seventy-five~~ eighty days before the election at which the proposed question or issue is to be submitted to the voters-;i

(D) Prepare, or designate a group of persons to prepare, arguments in support of or in opposition to a constitutional amendment proposed by a resolution of the general assembly, a constitutional amendment or state law proposed by initiative petition, or a state law, or section or item of state law, subject to a referendum petition, if the persons otherwise responsible for the preparation of those arguments fail to timely prepare and file them;

(E) Direct the means by which the secretary of state shall disseminate information concerning proposed constitutional amendments to the voters-;i

~~(E)~~(F) Direct the ~~chairman~~ chairperson to reimburse county boards of elections for public notice costs associated with statewide ballot issues, to the extent that the general assembly appropriates money for ~~such~~ that purpose.

**Sec. 3505.063.** (A) When the general assembly adopts a resolution proposing a constitutional amendment, it may, by resolution, designate a group of members who voted in support of the resolution to prepare arguments for the proposed amendment, and a group of members who voted in opposition to the resolution to prepare arguments against the proposed amendment. If no members voted in opposition to the resolution, or if the general assembly chooses not to designate a group of members to prepare arguments for the proposed amendment or chooses not to designate a group of members to prepare arguments against the proposed amendment, the Ohio ballot board ~~may~~ shall prepare ~~the relevant arguments~~ or designate a group of persons to prepare the relevant arguments.

All arguments prepared under this division shall be filed with the  
secretary of state no later than seventy-five days before the date  
of the election. No argument shall exceed three hundred words.

(B)(1) If the group of members of the general assembly or  
other group of persons designated under division (A) of this  
section fail to prepare and file their arguments in support of or  
in opposition to the proposed amendment by the seventy-fifth day  
before the date of the election, the secretary of state shall  
notify the Ohio ballot board that those arguments have not been so  
prepared and filed. The board then shall prepare the missing  
arguments or designate a group of persons to prepare those  
arguments. All arguments prepared under this division shall be  
filed with the secretary of state no later than seventy days  
before the date of the election. No argument shall exceed three  
hundred words.

(2) If the Ohio ballot board fails to provide for the  
preparation of missing arguments under division (B)(1) of this  
section after being notified by the secretary of state that one or  
more arguments have not been timely prepared and filed, the  
positions of the four appointed members of the board shall be  
considered vacant, and new members shall be appointed in the  
manner provided for original appointments.

(C) The secretary of state shall disseminate information,  
which may include part or all of the official explanation and  
arguments concerning proposed amendments, by means of direct mail  
or other written publication, broadcast, or ~~such~~ other means, or  
combination of means, as the Ohio ballot board may direct, in  
order to inform the voters as fully as possible concerning  
proposed amendments.

**Sec. 3513.04.** Candidates for party nominations to state,

## As Reported by the Committee of Conference

district, county, and municipal offices or positions, for which 549  
party nominations are provided by law, and for election as members 550  
of party controlling committees shall have their names printed on 551  
the official primary ballot by filing a declaration of candidacy 552  
and paying the fees specified for the office under divisions (A) 553  
and (B) of section 3513.10 of the Revised Code, except that the 554  
joint candidates for party nomination to the offices of governor 555  
and lieutenant governor shall, for the two of them, file one 556  
declaration of candidacy. The joint candidates also shall pay the 557  
fees specified for the joint candidates under divisions (A) and 558  
(B) of section 3513.10 of the Revised Code. 559

The secretary of state shall not accept for filing the 560  
declaration of candidacy of a candidate for party nomination to 561  
the office of governor unless the declaration of candidacy also 562  
shows a joint candidate for the same party's nomination to the 563  
office of lieutenant governor, shall not accept for filing the 564  
declaration of candidacy of a candidate for party nomination to 565  
the office of lieutenant governor unless the declaration of 566  
candidacy also shows a joint candidate for the same party's 567  
nomination to the office of governor, and shall not accept for 568  
filing a declaration of candidacy that shows a candidate for party 569  
nomination to the office of governor or lieutenant governor who, 570  
for the same election, has already been shown as a candidate for 571  
party nomination to the office of governor or lieutenant governor 572  
on filed a declaration of candidacy previously filed and accepted 573  
for the same primary election or a declaration of intent to be a 574  
write-in candidate, or has become a candidate by the filling of a 575  
vacancy under section 3513.30 of the Revised Code for any other 576  
state office or any county office. 577

No person who seeks party nomination for an office or 578  
position at a primary election by declaration of candidacy or by 579  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate and no person who 580

is a first choice for president of candidates seeking election as  
delegates and alternates to the national conventions of the  
different major political parties who are chosen by direct vote of  
the electors as provided in this chapter shall be permitted to  
become a candidate by nominating petition or by declaration of  
intent to be a write-in candidate at the following general  
election for any office other than the office of member of the  
state board of education, office of member of a city, local, or  
exempted village board of education, office of member of a  
governing board of an educational service center, or office of  
township trustee.

**Sec. 3513.041.** A write-in space shall be provided on the  
ballot for every office, except in an election for which the board  
of elections has received no valid declarations of intent to be a  
write-in candidate under this section. Write-in votes shall not be  
counted for any candidate who has not filed a declaration of  
intent to be a write-in candidate pursuant to this section. A  
qualified person who has filed a declaration of intent may receive  
write-in votes at either a primary or general election. Any  
candidate, except one whose candidacy is to be submitted to  
electors throughout the entire state, shall file a declaration of  
intent to be a write-in candidate before four p.m. of the fiftieth  
day preceding the election at which such candidacy is to be  
considered. If the election is to be determined by electors of a  
county or a district or subdivision within the county, such  
declaration shall be filed with the board of elections of that  
county. If the election is to be determined by electors of a  
subdivision located in more than one county, such declaration  
shall be filed with the board of elections of the county in which  
the major portion of the population of such subdivision is  
located. If the election is to be determined by electors of a  
district comprised of more than one county but less than all of

the counties of the state, such declaration shall be filed with 613  
the board of elections of the most populous county in such 614  
district. Any candidate for an office to be voted upon by electors 615  
throughout the entire state shall file a declaration of intent to 616  
be a write-in candidate with the secretary of state before four 617  
p.m. of the fiftieth day preceding the election at which such 618  
candidacy is to be considered. In addition, candidates for 619  
president and vice-president of the United States shall also file 620  
with the secretary of state by said fiftieth day a slate of 621  
presidential electors sufficient in number to satisfy the 622  
requirements of the United States constitution. 623

A board of elections shall not accept for filing the 624  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person 625  
seeking to become a candidate if that person, for the same 626  
election, has already filed a declaration of candidacy, a 627  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or a nominating 628  
petition, or has become a candidate through party nomination at a 629  
primary election or by the filling of a vacancy under section 630  
3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code, for any state or county 631  
office, if the declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate is 632  
for a state or county office, or for any municipal or township 633  
office, for member of a city, local, or exempted village board of 634  
education, or for member of a governing board of an educational 635  
service center, if the declaration of intent to be a write-in 636  
candidate is for a municipal or township office, or for member of 637  
a city, local, or exempted village board of education, or for 638  
member of a governing board of an educational service center. 639

No person shall file a declaration of intent to be a write-in 640  
candidate for the office of governor unless the declaration also 641  
shows the intent of another person to be a write-in candidate for 642  
the office of lieutenant governor. No person shall file a 643  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate for the office of 644

lieutenant governor unless the declaration also shows the intent  
of another person to be a write-in candidate for the office of  
governor. No person shall file a declaration of intent to be a  
write-in candidate for the office of governor or lieutenant  
governor if the person has previously filed a declaration of  
intent to be a write-in candidate to the office of governor or  
lieutenant governor at the same primary or general election. A  
write-in vote for the two candidates who file such a declaration  
shall be counted as a vote for them as joint candidates for the  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor.

The secretary of state shall not accept for filing the  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person for  
the office of governor unless the declaration also shows the  
intent of another person to be a write-in candidate for the office  
of lieutenant governor, shall not accept for filing the  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person for  
the office of lieutenant governor unless the declaration also  
shows the intent of another person to be a write-in candidate for  
the office of governor, and shall not accept for filing the  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person to  
the office of governor or lieutenant governor if that person, for  
the same election, has already ~~been shown, on~~ filed a declaration  
of candidacy, a declaration of intent ~~previously filed and~~  
~~accepted for the same primary or general election to be a write-in~~  
~~candidate, or a nominating petition, to be a write-in candidate to~~  
~~the office of governor or lieutenant governor or has become a~~  
~~candidate through party nomination at a primary election or by the~~  
~~filling of a vacancy under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the~~  
Revised Code, for any other state office or any county office.

Protests against the candidacy of any person filing a  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate may be filed by  
any qualified elector who is eligible to vote in the election at

which the candidacy is to be considered. The protest shall be in writing and shall be filed not later than four p.m. of the forty-fifth day before the day of the election. The protest shall be filed with the board of elections with which the declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate was filed. Upon the filing of the protest, the board with which it is filed shall promptly fix the time for hearing it and shall proceed in regard to the hearing in the same manner as for hearings set for protests filed under section 3513.05 of the Revised Code. At the time fixed, the board shall hear the protest and determine the validity or invalidity of the declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate. If the board finds that the candidate is not an elector of the state, district, county, or political subdivision in which the candidate seeks election to office or has not fully complied with the requirements of Title XXXV of the Revised Code in regard to the candidate's candidacy, the candidate's declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate shall be determined to be invalid and shall be rejected; otherwise, it shall be determined to be valid. The determination of the board is final.

The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of the declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate.

**Sec. 3513.05.** Each person desiring to become a candidate for a party nomination or for election to an office or position to be voted for at a primary election, except persons desiring to become joint candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor and except as otherwise provided in section 3513.051 of the Revised Code, shall, not later than four p.m. of the seventy-fifth day before the day of the primary election, or if the primary election is a presidential primary election, not later than four p.m. of the sixtieth day before the day of the presidential primary election, file a declaration of candidacy and petition and pay the fees required under divisions (A) and (B) of

section 3513.10 of the Revised Code. The declaration of candidacy 709  
and all separate petition papers shall be filed at the same time 710  
as one instrument. When the offices are to be voted for at a 711  
primary election, persons desiring to become joint candidates for 712  
the offices of governor and lieutenant governor shall, not later 713  
than four p.m. of the seventy-fifth day before the day of the 714  
primary election, comply with section 3513.04 of the Revised Code. 715  
The prospective joint candidates' declaration of candidacy and all 716  
separate petition papers of candidacies shall be filed at the same 717  
time as one instrument. The secretary of state or a board of 718  
elections shall not accept for filing a declaration of candidacy 719  
and petition of a person seeking to become a candidate if that 720  
person, for the same election, has already filed a declaration of 721  
candidacy or a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, 722  
or has become a candidate by the filling of a vacancy under 723  
section 3513.30 of the Revised Code for any state or county 724  
office, if the declaration of candidacy is for a state or county 725  
office, or for any municipal or township office, if the 726  
declaration of candidacy is for a municipal or township office. 727

If the declaration of candidacy declares a candidacy which is 728  
to be submitted to electors throughout the entire state, the 729  
petition, including a petition for joint candidates for the 730  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor, shall be signed by at 731  
least one thousand qualified electors who are members of the same 732  
political party as the candidate or joint candidates, and the 733  
declaration of candidacy and petition shall be filed with the 734  
secretary of state; provided that the secretary of state shall not 735  
accept or file any such petition appearing on its face to contain 736  
signatures of more than three thousand electors. 737

Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, if the 738  
declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be submitted only to 739  
electors within a district, political subdivision, or portion 740



thereof, the petition shall be signed by not less than fifty  
qualified electors who are members of the same political party as  
the political party of which the candidate is a member. If the  
declaration of candidacy is for party nomination as a candidate  
for member of the legislative authority of a municipal corporation  
elected by ward, the petition shall be signed by not less than  
twenty-five qualified electors who are members of the political  
party of which the candidate is a member.

No such petition, except the petition for a candidacy that is  
to be submitted to electors throughout the entire state, shall be  
accepted for filing if it appears to contain on its face  
signatures of more than three times the minimum number of  
signatures. When a petition of a candidate has been accepted for  
filing by a board of elections, the petition shall not be deemed  
invalid if, upon verification of signatures contained in the  
petition, the board of elections finds the number of signatures  
accepted exceeds three times the minimum number of signatures  
required. A board of elections may discontinue verifying  
signatures on petitions when the number of verified signatures  
equals the minimum required number of qualified signatures.

If the declaration of candidacy declares a candidacy for  
party nomination or for election as a candidate of an intermediate  
or minor party, the minimum number of signatures on such petition  
is one-half the minimum number provided in this section, except  
that, when the candidacy is one for election as a member of the  
state central committee or the county central committee of a  
political party, the minimum number shall be the same for an  
intermediate or minor party as for a major party.

If a declaration of candidacy is one for election as a member  
of the state central committee or the county central committee of  
a political party, the petition shall be signed by five qualified  
electors of the district, county, ward, township, or precinct

within which electors may vote for such candidate. The electors  
signing such petition shall be members of the same political party  
as the political party of which the candidate is a member.

For purposes of signing or circulating a petition of  
candidacy for party nomination or election, an elector is  
considered to be a member of a political party if the elector  
voted in that party's primary election within the preceding two  
calendar years, or if the elector did not vote in any other  
party's primary election within the preceding two calendar years.

If the declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be  
submitted only to electors within a county, or within a district  
or subdivision or part thereof smaller than a county, the petition  
shall be filed with the board of elections of the county. If the  
declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be submitted only to  
electors of a district or subdivision or part thereof that is  
situated in more than one county, the petition shall be filed with  
the board of elections of the county within which the major  
portion of the population thereof, as ascertained by the next  
preceding federal census, is located.

A petition shall consist of separate petition papers, each of  
which shall contain signatures of electors of only one county.  
Petitions or separate petition papers containing signatures of  
electors of more than one county shall not thereby be declared  
invalid. In case petitions or separate petition papers containing  
signatures of electors of more than one county are filed, the  
board shall determine the county from which the majority of  
signatures came, and only signatures from such county shall be  
counted. Signatures from any other county shall be invalid.

Each separate petition paper shall be circulated by one  
person only, who shall be the candidate or a joint candidate or a  
member of the same political party as the candidates, and each  
separate petition paper shall be governed by the rules set forth

in section 3501.38 of the Revised Code.

The secretary of state shall promptly transmit to each board such separate petition papers of each petition accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with the secretary of state as purport to contain signatures of electors of the county of such board. The board of the most populous county of a district shall promptly transmit to each board within such district such separate petition papers of each petition accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with it as purport to contain signatures of electors of the county of each such board. The board of a county within which the major portion of the population of a subdivision, situated in more than one county, is located, shall promptly transmit to the board of each other county within which a portion of such subdivision is located such separate petition papers of each petition accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with it as purport to contain signatures of electors of the portion of such subdivision in the county of each such board.

All petition papers so transmitted to a board and all petitions accompanying declarations of candidacy filed with such board shall, under proper regulations, be open to public inspection until four p.m. of the seventieth day before the day of the next primary election, or if that next primary election is a presidential primary election, the fifty-fifth day before that presidential primary election. Each board shall, not later than the sixty-eighth day before the day of such primary election, or if the primary election is a presidential primary election, not later than the fifty-third day before such presidential primary election, examine and determine the validity or invalidity of the signatures on the petition papers so transmitted to or filed with it and shall return to the secretary of state all petition papers transmitted to it by the secretary of state, together with its certification of its determination as to the validity or

invalidity of signatures thereon, and shall return to each other  
board all petition papers transmitted to it by such board,  
together with its certification of its determination as to the  
validity or invalidity of the signatures thereon. All other  
matters affecting the validity or invalidity of such petition  
papers shall be determined by the secretary of state or the board  
with whom such petition papers were filed.

Protests against the candidacy of any person filing a  
declaration of candidacy for party nomination or for election to  
an office or position, as provided in this section, may be filed  
by any qualified elector who is a member of the same political  
party as the candidate and who is eligible to vote at the primary  
election for the candidate whose declaration of candidacy the  
elector objects to, or by the controlling committee of such party.  
Such protest must be in writing, and must be filed not later than  
four p.m. of the sixty-fourth day before the day of the primary  
election, or if the primary election is a presidential primary  
election, not later than four p.m. of the forty-ninth day before  
the day of the presidential primary election. Such protest shall  
be filed with the election officials with whom the declaration of  
candidacy and petition was filed. Upon the filing of such protest,  
the election officials with whom it is filed shall promptly fix  
the time for hearing it, and shall forthwith mail notice of the  
filing of such protest and the time fixed for hearing to the  
person whose candidacy is so protested. They shall also forthwith  
mail notice of the time fixed for such hearing to the person who  
filed the protest. At the time fixed, such election officials  
shall hear the protest and determine the validity or invalidity of  
the declaration of candidacy and petition. If they find that such  
candidate is not an elector of the state, district, county, or  
political subdivision in which the candidate seeks a party  
nomination or election to an office or position, or has not fully

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complied with this chapter, the candidate's declaration of  
candidacy and petition shall be determined to be invalid and shall  
be rejected, otherwise it shall be determined to be valid. Such  
determination shall be final.

A protest against the candidacy of any persons filing a  
declaration of candidacy for joint party nomination to the offices  
of governor and lieutenant governor shall be filed, heard, and  
determined in the same manner as a protest against the candidacy  
of any person filing a declaration of candidacy singly.

The secretary of state shall, on the sixtieth day before the  
day of a primary election, or if the primary election is a  
presidential primary election, on the forty-fifth day before the  
day of the presidential primary election, certify to each board in  
the state the forms of the official ballots to be used at such  
primary election, together with the names of the candidates to be  
printed thereon whose nomination or election is to be determined  
by electors throughout the entire state and who filed valid  
declarations of candidacy and petitions.

The board of the most populous county in a district comprised  
of more than one county but less than all of the counties of the  
state shall on the sixtieth day before the day of a primary  
election, or if the primary election is a presidential primary  
election, on the forty-fifth day before the day of a presidential  
primary election, certify to the board of each county in the  
district the names of the candidates to be printed on the official  
ballots to be used at such primary election, whose nomination or  
election is to be determined only by electors within such district  
and who filed valid declarations of candidacy and petitions.

The board of a county within which the major portion of the  
population of a subdivision smaller than the county and situated  
in more than one county is located shall, on the sixtieth day  
before the day of a primary election, or if the primary election

is a presidential primary election, on the forty-fifth day before  
the day of a presidential primary election, certify to the board  
of each county in which a portion of such subdivision is located  
the names of the candidates to be printed on the official ballots  
to be used at such primary election, whose nomination or election  
is to be determined only by electors within such subdivision and  
who filed valid declarations of candidacy and petitions.

Sec. 3513.052. (A) No person shall seek nomination or  
election to any of the following offices or positions at the same  
election by filing a declaration of candidacy and petition, a  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or a nominating  
petition, or by becoming a candidate through party nomination in a  
primary election, or by the filling of a vacancy under section  
3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code:

(1) Two or more state offices;

(2) Two or more county offices;

(3) A state office and a county office;

(4) Any combination of two or more municipal or township  
offices, positions as a member of a city, local, or exempted  
village board of education, or positions as a member of a  
governing board of an educational service center.

(B) The secretary of state or a board of elections shall not  
accept for filing a declaration of candidacy and petition, a  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or a nominating  
petition of a person seeking to become a candidate if that person,  
for the same election, has already filed a declaration of  
candidacy, a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or  
a nominating petition, or has become a candidate through party  
nomination at a primary election or by the filling of a vacancy  
under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code for:

(1) Any state or county office, if the declaration of 931  
candidacy, declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or 932  
nominating petition is for a state or county office; 933

(2) Any municipal or township office, or for member of a 934  
city, local, or exempted village board of education, or for member 935  
of a governing board of an educational service center, if the 936  
declaration of candidacy, declaration of intent to be a write-in 937  
candidate, or nominating petition is for a municipal or township 938  
office, or for member of a city, local, or exempted village board 939  
of education, or for member of a governing board of an educational 940  
service center. 941

(C)(1) If the secretary of state determines, before the day 942  
of the primary election, that a person is seeking nomination to 943  
more than one office at that election in violation of division (A) 944  
of this section, the secretary of state shall do one of the 945  
following: 946

(a) If each office or the district for each office for which 947  
the person is seeking nomination is wholly within a single county, 948  
the secretary of state shall notify the board of elections of that 949  
county. The board then shall determine the date on which the 950  
person first sought to become a candidate for each of those 951  
offices by filing a declaration of candidacy or a declaration of 952  
intent to be a write-in candidate or by the filling of a vacancy 953  
under section 3513.30 of the Revised Code. The board shall vote 954  
promptly to disqualify that person as a candidate for each office 955  
for which the person sought to become a candidate after the date 956  
on which the person first sought to become a candidate for any of 957  
those offices. If the board determines that the person sought to 958  
become a candidate for more than one of those offices on the same 959  
date, the board shall vote promptly to disqualify that person as a 960  
candidate for each office that would be listed on the ballot below 961  
the highest office for which that person seeks nomination, 962

according to the ballot order prescribed under section 3505.03 of  
the Revised Code.

(b) If one or more of the offices for which the person is  
seeking nomination is a state office or an office with a district  
larger than a single county, the secretary of state shall  
determine the date on which the person first sought to become a  
candidate for each of those offices by filing a declaration of  
candidacy or a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate or  
by the filling of a vacancy under section 3513.30 of the Revised  
Code. The secretary of state shall order the board of elections of  
each county in which the person is seeking to appear on the ballot  
to disqualify that person as a candidate for each office for which  
the person sought to become a candidate after the date on which  
the person first sought to become a candidate for any of those  
offices. If the secretary of state determines that the person  
sought to become a candidate for more than one of those offices on  
the same date, the secretary of state shall order the board of  
elections of each county in which the person is seeking to appear  
on the ballot to disqualify that person as a candidate for each  
office that would be listed on the ballot below the highest office  
for which that person seeks nomination, according to the ballot  
order prescribed under section 3505.03 of the Revised Code. Each  
board of elections so notified shall vote promptly to disqualify  
the person as a candidate in accordance with the order of the  
secretary of state.

(2) If a board of elections determines, before the day of the  
primary election, that a person is seeking nomination to more than  
one office at that election in violation of division (A) of this  
section, the board shall do one of the following:

(a) If each office or the district for each office for which  
the person is seeking nomination is wholly within that county, the  
board shall determine the date on which the person first sought to



become a candidate for each of those offices by filing a  
declaration of candidacy or a declaration of intent to be a  
write-in candidate or by the filling of a vacancy under section  
3513.30 of the Revised Code. The board shall vote promptly to  
disqualify that person as a candidate for each office for which  
the person sought to become a candidate after the date on which  
the person first sought to become a candidate for any of those  
offices. If the board determines that the person sought to become  
a candidate for more than one of those offices on the same date,  
the board shall vote promptly to disqualify that person as a  
candidate for each office that would be listed on the ballot below  
the highest office for which that person seeks nomination,  
according to the ballot order prescribed under section 3505.03 of  
the Revised Code.

(b) If one or more of the offices for which the person is  
seeking nomination is a state office or an office with a district  
larger than a single county, the board shall notify the secretary  
of state. The secretary of state then shall determine the date on  
which the person first sought to become a candidate for each of  
those offices by filing a declaration of candidacy or a  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate or by the filling  
of a vacancy under section 3513.30 of the Revised Code. The  
secretary of state shall order the board of elections of each  
county in which the person is seeking to appear on the ballot to  
disqualify that person as a candidate for each office for which  
the person sought to become a candidate after the date on which  
the person first sought to become a candidate for any of those  
offices. If the secretary of state determines that the person  
sought to become a candidate for more than one of those offices on  
the same date, the secretary of state shall order the board of  
elections of each county in which the person is seeking to appear  
on the ballot to disqualify that person as a candidate for each

office that would be listed on the ballot below the highest office  
for which that person seeks nomination, according to the ballot  
order prescribed under section 3505.03 of the Revised Code. Each  
board of elections so notified shall vote promptly to disqualify  
the person as a candidate in accordance with the order of the  
secretary of state.

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(D)(1) If the secretary of state determines, after the day of  
the primary election and before the day of the general election,  
that a person is seeking election to more than one office at that  
election in violation of division (A) of this section, the  
secretary of state shall do one of the following:

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(a) If each office or the district for each office for which  
the person is seeking election is wholly within a single county,  
the secretary of state shall notify the board of elections of that  
county. The board then shall determine the offices for which the  
person seeks to appear as a candidate on the ballot. The board  
shall vote promptly to disqualify that person as a candidate for  
each office that would be listed on the ballot below the highest  
office for which that person seeks election, according to the  
ballot order prescribed under section 3505.03 of the Revised Code.  
If the person sought nomination at a primary election and has not  
yet been issued a certificate of nomination, the board shall not  
issue that certificate for that person for any office that would  
be listed on the ballot below the highest office for which that  
person seeks election, according to the ballot order prescribed  
under section 3505.03 of the Revised Code.

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(b) If one or more of the offices for which the person is  
seeking election is a state office or an office with a district  
larger than a single county, the secretary of state shall promptly  
investigate and determine the offices for which the person seeks  
to appear as a candidate on the ballot. The secretary of state  
shall order the board of elections of each county in which the

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person is seeking to appear on the ballot to disqualify that  
person as a candidate for each office that would be listed on the  
ballot below the highest office for which that person seeks  
election, according to the ballot order prescribed under section  
3505.03 of the Revised Code. Each board of elections so notified  
shall vote promptly to disqualify the person as a candidate in  
accordance with the order of the secretary of state. If the person  
sought nomination at a primary election and has not yet been  
issued a certificate of nomination, the board shall not issue that  
certificate for that person for any office that would be listed on  
the ballot below the highest office for which that person seeks  
election, according to the ballot order prescribed under section  
3505.03 of the Revised Code.

(2) If a board of elections determines, after the day of the  
primary election and before the day of the general election, that  
a person is seeking election to more than one office at that  
election in violation of division (A) of this section, the board  
of elections shall do one of the following:

(a) If each office or the district for each office for which  
the person is seeking election is wholly within that county, the  
board shall determine the offices for which the person seeks to  
appear as a candidate on the ballot. The board shall vote promptly  
to disqualify that person as a candidate for each office that  
would be listed on the ballot below the highest office for which  
that person seeks election, according to the ballot order  
prescribed under section 3505.03 of the Revised Code. If the  
person sought nomination at a primary election and has not yet  
been issued a certificate of nomination, the board shall not issue  
that certificate for that person for any office that would be  
listed on the ballot below the highest office for which that  
person seeks election, according to the ballot order prescribed  
under section 3505.03 of the Revised Code.

(b) If one or more of the offices for which the person is seeking election is a state office or an office with a district larger than a single county, the board shall notify the secretary of state. The secretary of state promptly shall investigate and determine the offices for which the person seeks to appear as a candidate on the ballot. The secretary of state shall order the board of elections of each county in which the person is seeking to appear on the ballot to disqualify that person as a candidate for each office that would be listed on the ballot below the highest office for which that person seeks election, according to the ballot order prescribed under section 3505.03 of the Revised Code. Each board of elections so notified shall vote promptly to disqualify the person as a candidate in accordance with the order of the secretary of state. If the person sought nomination at a primary election and has not yet been issued a certificate of nomination, the board shall not issue that certificate for that person for any office that would be listed on the ballot below the highest office for which that person seeks election, according to the ballot order prescribed under section 3505.03 of the Revised Code.

(E) When a person is disqualified as a candidate under division (C) or (D) of this section, that person's name shall not appear on the ballots for any office for which that person has been disqualified as a candidate. If the ballots have already been prepared, the board of elections shall remove the name of the disqualified candidate from the ballots to the extent practicable in the time remaining before the election and according to the directions of the secretary of state. If the name is not removed from the ballots before the day of the election, the votes for the disqualified candidate are void and shall not be counted.

(F) Any vacancy created by the disqualification of a person as a candidate under division (C) or (D) of this section may be

filled in the manner provided for in sections 3513.30 and 3513.31  
of the Revised Code.

(G) Nothing in this section or section 3513.04, 3513.041,  
3513.05, 3513.251, 3513.253, 3513.254, 3513.255, 3513.257,  
3513.259, or 3513.261 of the Revised Code prohibits, and the  
secretary of state or a board of elections shall not disqualify, a  
person from being a candidate to fill a vacant office as otherwise  
provided by law.

(H) Nothing in this section or section 3513.04, 3513.041,  
3513.05, 3513.251, 3513.253, 3513.254, 3513.255, 3513.257,  
3513.259, or 3513.261 of the Revised Code prohibits, and the  
secretary of state or a board of elections shall not disqualify, a  
person from being a candidate for an office, if that person timely  
withdraws as a candidate for any offices specified in division (A)  
of this section for which that person first sought to become a  
candidate by filing a declaration of candidacy and petition, a  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or a nominating  
petition, by party nomination in a primary election, or by the  
filling of a vacancy under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the  
Revised Code.

(I) As used in this section:

(1) "State office" means the offices of governor, lieutenant  
governor, secretary of state, auditor of state, treasurer of  
state, attorney general, member of the state board of education,  
member of the general assembly, chief justice of the supreme  
court, and justice of the supreme court.

(2) "Timely withdraws" means either of the following:

(a) Withdrawing as a candidate before the applicable deadline  
for filing a declaration of candidacy, declaration of intent to be  
a write-in candidate, or nominating petition for the subsequent  
office for which the person is seeking to become a candidate at

the same election;

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(b) Withdrawing as a candidate before the applicable deadline  
for the filling of a vacancy under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of  
the Revised Code, if the person is seeking to become a candidate  
for a subsequent office at the same election under either of those  
sections.

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**Sec. 3513.23.** (A) If an elector voting at a primary election  
writes in a blank space provided ~~therefor~~ for that purpose on the  
ballot of one political party under the title of an office for  
which a nomination is to be made the name of a person other than  
the persons whose names are printed on the ballot as candidates  
for ~~such the~~ that nomination, and if ~~such that~~ that elector records the vote  
in the manner provided on the ballot next to the name written,  
~~such that~~ that ballot shall be counted as a vote for the nomination of  
the person whose name is so written ~~thereon~~ if that person has  
filed a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate under  
section 3513.041 of the Revised Code, ~~but in.~~

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(B) In no event shall a person, whose name is written on a  
primary election ballot, be nominated as a candidate for election  
to an office if the name of no person living on the day of ~~such~~  
that primary election is printed on ~~such the~~ that ballot as a candidate  
for ~~such that~~ that nomination, unless the total number of votes cast  
for the person whose name is written on the ballot is not less  
than that number of petition signatures that would have been  
required for the printing of the person's name on the primary  
ballot pursuant to section 3513.05 of the Revised Code.

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**Sec. 3513.251.** Nominations of candidates for election as  
officers of a municipal corporation having a population of less  
than two thousand as ascertained by the next preceding federal  
census shall be made only by nominating petition and their

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election shall occur only in nonpartisan elections, unless a 1184  
majority of the electors of such municipal corporation have 1185  
petitioned for a primary election. Nominations of candidates for 1186  
election as officers of a municipal corporation having a 1187  
population of two thousand or more shall be made either by primary 1188  
election in conjunction with a partisan general election or by 1189  
nominating petition in conjunction with a nonpartisan general 1190  
election, as determined under section 3513.01 of the Revised Code. 1191

The nominating petitions of nonpartisan candidates for 1192  
election as officers of a municipal corporation having a 1193  
population of less than two thousand, as ascertained by the most 1194  
recent federal census, shall be signed by not less than ten 1195  
qualified electors of the municipal corporation. Any nominating 1196  
petition filed under this section shall be filed with the board of 1197  
elections not later than four p.m. of the seventy-fifth day before 1198  
the day of the general election, provided that no such nominating 1199  
petition shall be accepted for filing if it appears to contain 1200  
signatures aggregating in number more than three times the minimum 1201  
number of signatures required by this section. A board of 1202  
elections shall not accept for filing a nominating petition of a 1203  
person if that person, for the same election, has already filed a 1204  
declaration of candidacy, a declaration of intent to be a write-in 1205  
candidate, or a nominating petition, or has become a candidate 1206  
through party nomination at a primary election or by the filling 1207  
of a vacancy under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code 1208  
for any other municipal office, or for a township office, for 1209  
member of a city, local, or exempted village board of education, 1210  
or for member of a governing board of an educational service 1211  
center. When a petition of a candidate has been accepted for 1212  
filing by a board of elections, the petition shall not be deemed 1213  
invalid if, upon verification of signatures contained in the 1214  
petition, the board of elections finds the number of signatures 1215  
accepted exceeds three times the minimum number of signatures 1216

required. A board of elections may discontinue verifying 1217  
signatures when the number of verified signatures on a petition 1218  
equals the minimum required number of qualified signatures. 1219

Nomination of nonpartisan candidates for election as officers 1220  
of a municipal corporation having a population of two thousand or 1221  
more, as ascertained by the next preceding federal census, shall 1222  
be made only by nominating petition. Nominating petitions of 1223  
nonpartisan candidates for election as officers of a municipal 1224  
corporation having a population of two thousand or more but less 1225  
than five thousand, as ascertained by the next preceding federal 1226  
census, shall be signed by not less than fifty qualified electors 1227  
of the municipal corporation or ward thereof in the case of the 1228  
nominating petition of a candidate for election as councilman from 1229  
such ward. Nominating petitions of nonpartisan candidates for 1230  
election as officers of a municipal corporation having a 1231  
population of five thousand or more, as ascertained by the next 1232  
preceding federal census, shall be signed by not less than fifty 1233  
qualified electors of the municipal corporation or ward thereof in 1234  
the case of the nominating petition of a candidate for election as 1235  
~~councilman~~ councilperson from such ward. 1236

**Sec. 3513.253.** Nominations of candidates for election as 1237  
officers of a township shall be made only by nominating petitions, 1238  
unless a majority of the electors of such township have petitioned 1239  
for a primary election. The nominating petitions of nonpartisan 1240  
candidates for township trustee and township clerk shall be signed 1241  
by not less than twenty-five qualified electors of the township. 1242  
Such petition shall be filed with the board of elections not later 1243  
than four p.m. of the seventy-fifth day before the day of the 1244  
general election, provided that no such nominating petition shall 1245  
be accepted for filing if it appears to contain signatures 1246  
aggregating in number more than three times the minimum number of 1247  
signatures required by this section. A board of elections shall 1248



not accept for filing a nominating petition of a person if that 1249  
person, for the same election, has already filed a declaration of 1250  
candidacy, a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or 1251  
a nominating petition, or has become a candidate through party 1252  
nomination at a primary election or by the filling of a vacancy 1253  
under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code for any other 1254  
township office, or for a municipal office, for member of a city, 1255  
local, or exempted village board of education, or for member of a 1256  
governing board of an educational service center. When a petition 1257  
of a candidate has been accepted for filing by a board of 1258  
elections, the petition shall not be deemed invalid if, upon 1259  
verification of signatures contained in the petition, the board of 1260  
elections finds the number of signatures accepted exceeds three 1261  
times the minimum number of signatures required. A board of 1262  
elections may discontinue verifying signatures when the number of 1263  
verified signatures on a petition equals the minimum required 1264  
number of qualified signatures. 1265

**Sec. 3513.254.** The name of each candidate for member of a 1266  
city, local, or exempted village board of education or for member 1267  
of a governing board of an educational service center described in 1268  
section 3311.051 of the Revised Code shall appear on the 1269  
nonpartisan ballot. Nominating petitions of candidates for member 1270  
of a board of education of a local or exempted village school 1271  
district or for member of a governing board of an educational 1272  
service center described in section 3311.051 of the Revised Code 1273  
shall be signed by twenty-five qualified electors of the school 1274  
district or educational service center service area. Nominating 1275  
petitions for candidates for member of a board of education of a 1276  
city school district having a population of less than twenty 1277  
thousand, as ascertained by the next preceding federal census, 1278  
shall be signed by twenty-five qualified electors of the school 1279  
district. Nominating petitions for candidates for member of a 1280

board of education of a city school district having a population 1281  
of twenty thousand or more but less than fifty thousand, as 1282  
ascertained by the next preceding federal census, shall be signed 1283  
by seventy-five qualified electors of the school district. 1284  
Nominating petitions for candidates for member of a board of 1285  
education of a city school district having a population of fifty 1286  
thousand or more but less than one hundred thousand, as 1287  
ascertained by the next preceding federal census, shall be signed 1288  
by one hundred fifty qualified electors of the school district. 1289  
Nominating petitions for candidates for member of a board of 1290  
education of a city school district having a population of one 1291  
hundred thousand or more, as ascertained by the next preceding 1292  
federal census, shall be signed by three hundred qualified 1293  
electors of the school district. ~~Nominating~~ 1294

Nominating petitions shall be filed with the board of 1295  
elections not later than four p.m. of the seventy-fifth day before 1296  
the day of the general election, provided that no such petition 1297  
shall be accepted for filing if it appears to contain signatures 1298  
aggregating in number more than three times the minimum number of 1299  
signatures required by this section. A board of elections shall 1300  
not accept for filing a nominating petition of a person if that 1301  
person, for the same election, has already filed a declaration of 1302  
candidacy, a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or 1303  
a nominating petition, or has become a candidate through party 1304  
nomination at a primary election or by the filling of a vacancy 1305  
under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code for any other 1306  
position as a member of a city, local, or exempted village board 1307  
of education or position as a member of a governing board of an 1308  
educational service center, or for a municipal or township office. 1309  
When a petition of a candidate has been accepted for filing by a 1310  
board of elections, the petition shall not be deemed invalid if, 1311  
upon verification of signatures contained in the petition, the 1312  
board of elections finds the number of signatures accepted exceeds 1313

three times the minimum number of signatures required. A board of  
elections may discontinue verifying petitions when the number of  
verified signatures equals the minimum required number of  
qualified signatures.

**Sec. 3513.255.** This section does not apply to candidates for  
election to a governing board of an educational service center  
described in section 3311.051 of the Revised Code. The name of  
each candidate for election as a member of a governing board of an  
educational service center shall appear on the nonpartisan ballot.  
Each nominating petition shall be signed by fifty qualified  
electors who reside in one of the following, as applicable:

(A) The school districts over which the educational service  
center governing board has jurisdiction, in the case of any  
candidate running for a position on any educational service center  
governing board other than a governing board established in  
accordance with section 3311.054 of the Revised Code;

(B) The subdistrict in which the candidate is running, in the  
case of a position on a governing board of an educational service  
center established in accordance with section 3311.054 of the  
Revised Code.

Each nominating petition shall be filed with the board of  
elections of the county in which the central administrative  
offices of the educational service center governing board are  
located not later than four p.m. of the seventy-fifth day before  
the day of the general election, provided that no such petition  
shall be accepted for filing if it appears to contain signatures  
aggregating in number more than three times the minimum number of  
signatures required by this section. A board of elections shall  
not accept for filing a nominating petition of a person if that  
person, for the same election, has already filed a declaration of  
candidacy, a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or

a nominating petition, or has become a candidate through party 1345  
nomination at a primary election or by the filling of a vacancy 1346  
under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code for any other 1347  
position as a member of a governing board of an educational 1348  
service center or position as a member of a city, local, or 1349  
exempted village board of education, or for a municipal or 1350  
township office. When a petition of a candidate has been accepted 1351  
for filing by a board of elections, the petition shall not be 1352  
deemed invalid if, upon verification of signatures contained in 1353  
the petition, the board of elections finds the number of 1354  
signatures accepted exceeds three times the minimum signatures 1355  
required. A board of elections may discontinue verifying petitions 1356  
when the number of verified signatures equals the minimum required 1357  
number of qualified signatures. 1358

**Sec. 3513.257.** Each person desiring to become an independent 1359  
candidate for an office for which candidates may be nominated at a 1360  
primary election, except persons desiring to become independent 1361  
joint candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant 1362  
governor and for the offices of president and vice-president of 1363  
the United States, shall file no later than four p.m. of the day 1364  
before the day of the primary election immediately preceding the 1365  
general election at which such candidacy is to be voted for by the 1366  
voters, a statement of candidacy and nominating petition as 1367  
provided in section 3513.261 of the Revised Code. Persons desiring 1368  
to become independent joint candidates for the offices of governor 1369  
and lieutenant governor shall file, not later than four p.m. of 1370  
the day before the day of the primary election, one statement of 1371  
candidacy and one nominating petition for the two of them. Persons 1372  
desiring to become independent joint candidates for the offices of 1373  
president and vice-president of the United States shall file, not 1374  
later than four p.m. of the seventy-fifth day before the day of 1375  
the general election at which the president and vice-president are 1376

to be elected, one statement of candidacy and one nominating 1377  
petition for the two of them. The prospective independent joint 1378  
candidates' statement of candidacy shall be filed with the 1379  
nominating petition as one instrument. 1380

The statement of candidacy and separate petition papers of 1381  
each candidate or pair of joint candidates shall be filed at the 1382  
same time as one instrument. 1383

The nominating petition shall contain signatures of qualified 1384  
electors of the district, political subdivision, or portion of a 1385  
political subdivision in which the candidacy is to be voted on in 1386  
an amount to be determined as follows: 1387

(A) If the candidacy is to be voted on by electors throughout 1388  
the entire state, the nominating petition, including the 1389  
nominating petition of independent joint candidates for the 1390  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor, shall be signed by no 1391  
less than five thousand qualified electors, provided that no 1392  
petition shall be accepted for filing if it purports to contain 1393  
more than fifteen thousand signatures. 1394

(B) If the candidacy is to be voted on by electors in any 1395  
district, political subdivision, or part thereof in which less 1396  
than five thousand electors voted for the office of governor at 1397  
the most recent election for that office, the nominating petition 1398  
shall contain signatures of not less than twenty-five qualified 1399  
electors of the district, political subdivision, or part thereof, 1400  
or a number of qualified signatures equal to at least five per 1401  
cent of that vote, if this number is less than twenty-five. 1402

(C) If the candidacy is to be voted on by electors in any 1403  
district, political subdivision, or part thereof in which five 1404  
thousand or more electors voted for the office of governor at the 1405  
most recent election for that office, the nominating petition 1406  
shall contain a number of signatures equal to at least one per 1407  
cent of those electors. 1408

All nominating petitions of candidates for offices to be 1409  
voted on by electors throughout the entire state shall be filed in 1410  
the office of the secretary of state. No nominating petition for 1411  
the offices of president and vice-president of the United States 1412  
shall be accepted for filing unless there is submitted to the 1413  
secretary of state, at the time of filing the petition, a slate of 1414  
presidential electors sufficient in number to satisfy the 1415  
requirement of the United States Constitution. The secretary of 1416  
state shall not accept for filing the statement of candidacy of a 1417  
person who desires to be an independent candidate for the office 1418  
of governor unless it also shows the joint candidacy of a person 1419  
who desires to be an independent candidate for the office of 1420  
lieutenant governor, shall not accept for filing the statement of 1421  
candidacy of a person who desires to be an independent candidate 1422  
for the office of lieutenant governor unless it also shows the 1423  
joint candidacy of a person who desires to be an independent 1424  
candidate for the office of governor, and shall not accept for 1425  
filing the statement of candidacy of a person who desires to be an 1426  
independent candidate to the office of governor or lieutenant 1427  
governor who, for the same election, has already ~~been shown as an~~ 1428  
~~independent candidate for governor or lieutenant governor on filed~~ 1429  
a declaration of candidacy, a declaration of intent to be a 1430  
write-in candidate, or a statement of candidacy previously filed 1431  
and accepted during the filing period preceding the same primary 1432  
election, or has become a candidate by the filling of a vacancy 1433  
under section 3513.30 of the Revised Code for any other state 1434  
office or any county office. 1435

Nominating petitions of candidates for offices to be voted on 1436  
by electors within a district or political subdivision comprised 1437  
of more than one county but less than all counties of the state 1438  
shall be filed with the boards of elections of that county or part 1439  
of a county within the district or political subdivision which had 1440

a population greater than that of any other county or part of a  
county within the district or political subdivision according to  
the last federal decennial census.

Nominating petitions for offices to be voted on by electors  
within a county or district smaller than a county shall be filed  
with the board of elections for such county.

No petition other than the petition of a candidate whose  
candidacy is to be considered by electors throughout the entire  
state shall be accepted for filing if it appears on its face to  
contain more than three times the minimum required number of  
signatures. A board of elections shall not accept for filing a  
nominating petition of a person seeking to become a candidate if  
that person, for the same election, has already filed a  
declaration of candidacy, a declaration of intent to be a write-in  
candidate, or a nominating petition, or has become a candidate by  
the filling of a vacancy under section 3513.30 of the Revised Code  
for any state or county office, if the nominating petition is for  
a state or county office, or for any municipal or township office,  
for member of a city, local, or exempted village board of  
education, or for member of a governing board of an educational  
service center, if the nominating petition is for a municipal or  
township office, or for member of a city, local, or exempted  
village board of education, or for member of a governing board of  
an educational service center. When a petition of a candidate has  
been accepted for filing by a board of elections, the petition  
shall not be deemed invalid if, upon verification of signatures  
contained in the petition, the board of elections finds the number  
of signatures accepted exceeds three times the minimum number of  
signatures required. A board of elections may discontinue  
verifying signatures when the number of verified signatures on a  
petition equals the minimum required number of qualified  
signatures.

Any nonjudicial candidate who files a nominating petition may 1473  
request, at the time of filing, that the candidate be designated 1474  
on the ballot as a nonparty candidate or as an other-party 1475  
candidate, or may request that the candidate's name be placed on 1476  
the ballot without any designation. Any such candidate who fails 1477  
to request a designation either as a nonparty candidate or as an 1478  
other-party candidate shall have the candidate's name placed on 1479  
the ballot without any designation. 1480

The purpose of establishing a filing deadline for independent 1481  
candidates prior to the primary election immediately preceding the 1482  
general election at which the candidacy is to be voted on by the 1483  
voters is to recognize that the state has a substantial and 1484  
compelling interest in protecting its electoral process by 1485  
encouraging political stability, ensuring that the winner of the 1486  
election will represent a majority of the community, providing the 1487  
electorate with an understandable ballot, and enhancing voter 1488  
education, thus fostering informed and educated expressions of the 1489  
popular will in a general election. The filing deadline for 1490  
independent candidates required in this section prevents 1491  
splintered parties and unrestrained factionalism, avoids political 1492  
fragmentation, and maintains the integrity of the ballot. The 1493  
deadline, one day prior to the primary election, is the least 1494  
drastic or restrictive means of protecting these state interests. 1495  
The general assembly finds that the filing deadline for 1496  
independent candidates in primary elections required in this 1497  
section is reasonably related to the state's purpose of ensuring 1498  
fair and honest elections while leaving unimpaired the political, 1499  
voting, and associational rights secured by the first and 1500  
fourteenth amendments to the United States Constitution. 1501

**Sec. 3513.259.** Nominations of candidates for the office of 1502  
member of the state board of education shall be made only by 1503  
nominating petition. The nominating petition of a candidate for 1504



the office of member of the state board of education shall be 1505  
signed by not less than one hundred qualified electors. 1506

No such nominating petition shall be accepted for filing if 1507  
it appears on its face to contain signatures aggregating in number 1508  
more than three times the minimum number of signatures required by 1509  
this section. A board of elections shall not accept for filing a 1510  
nominating petition of a person if that person, for the same 1511  
election, has already filed a declaration of candidacy, a 1512  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or a nominating 1513  
petition, or has become a candidate through party nomination at a 1514  
primary election or by the filling of a vacancy under section 1515  
3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code, to be a candidate for any 1516  
other state office or any county office. When a petition of a 1517  
candidate has been accepted for filing by a board of elections, 1518  
the petition shall not be deemed invalid if, upon verification of 1519  
signatures contained in the petition, the board of elections finds 1520  
the number of signatures accepted exceeds three times the minimum 1521  
number of signatures required. A board of elections may 1522  
discontinue verifying signatures when the number of verified 1523  
signatures equals the minimum required number of signatures. Such 1524  
petition shall be filed with the board of elections of the most 1525  
populous county in such district not later than four p.m. of the 1526  
seventy-fifth day before the day of the general election at which 1527  
state board of education members are elected. 1528

Each nominating petition shall be signed by qualified 1529  
electors residing in the district in which the candidate 1530  
designated therein would be a candidate for election to the office 1531  
of member of the state board of education. Each candidate shall be 1532  
a qualified elector residing in the district in which ~~he~~ the 1533  
candidate seeks election to such office. 1534

As the word "district" is used in this section, it refers to 1535  
a district created under section 3301.01 of the Revised Code. 1536

Sec. 3513.261. A nominating petition may consist of one or 1537  
more separate petition papers, each of which shall be 1538  
substantially in the form prescribed in this section. If the 1539  
petition consists of more than one separate petition paper, the 1540  
statement of candidacy of the candidate or joint candidates named 1541  
need be signed by the candidate or joint candidates on only one of 1542  
such separate petition papers, but the statement of candidacy so 1543  
signed shall be copied on each other separate petition paper 1544  
before the signatures of electors are placed on it. Each 1545  
nominating petition containing signatures of electors of more than 1546  
one county shall consist of separate petition papers each of which 1547  
shall contain signatures of electors of only one county; provided 1548  
that petitions containing signatures of electors of more than one 1549  
county shall not thereby be declared invalid. In case petitions 1550  
containing signatures of electors of more than one county are 1551  
filed, the board of elections shall determine the county from 1552  
which the majority of the signatures came, and only signatures 1553  
from this county shall be counted. Signatures from any other 1554  
county shall be invalid. 1555

All signatures on nominating petitions shall be written in 1556  
ink or indelible pencil. 1557

At the time of filing a nominating petition, the candidate 1558  
designated in the nominating petition, and joint candidates for 1559  
governor and lieutenant governor, shall pay to the election 1560  
officials with whom it is filed the fees specified for the office 1561  
under divisions (A) and (B) of section 3513.10 of the Revised 1562  
Code. The fees shall be disposed of by those election officials in 1563  
the manner that is provided in section 3513.10 of the Revised Code 1564  
for the disposition of other fees, and in no case shall a fee 1565  
required under that section be returned to a candidate. 1566

Candidates or joint candidates whose names are written on the 1567

ballot, and who are elected, shall pay the same fees under section 1568  
3513.10 of the Revised Code that candidates who file nominating 1569  
petitions pay. Payment of these fees shall be a condition 1570  
precedent to the granting of their certificates of election. 1571

Each nominating petition shall contain a statement of 1572  
candidacy that shall be signed by the candidate or joint 1573  
candidates named in it. Such statement of candidacy shall contain 1574  
a declaration made under penalty of election falsification that 1575  
the candidate desires to be a candidate for the office named in 1576  
it, and that the candidate is an elector qualified to vote for the 1577  
office the candidate seeks. 1578

The form of the nominating petition and statement of 1579  
candidacy shall be substantially as follows: 1580

"STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY 1581

I, ..... (Name of candidate), 1582  
the undersigned, hereby declare under penalty of election 1583  
falsification that my voting residence is in ..... 1584  
..... Precinct of the ..... (Township) or 1585  
(Ward and City, or Village) in the county of ..... Ohio; 1586  
that my post-office address is ..... 1587  
(Street and Number, if any, or Rural Route and Number) of the 1588  
..... (City, Village, or post office) of 1589  
....., Ohio; and that I am a qualified elector in 1590  
the precinct in which my voting residence is located. I hereby 1591  
declare that I desire to be a candidate for election to the office 1592  
of ..... in the ..... (State, 1593  
District, County, City, Village, Township, or School District) for 1594  
the ..... (Full term or unexpired 1595  
term ending .....) at the General Election to be held 1596  
on the ..... day of ....., .... 1597

I further declare that I am an elector qualified to vote for 1598  
the office I seek. Dated this ..... day of ....., .... 1599

.....	1600
(Signature of candidate)	1601

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY 1602  
OF THE FIFTH DEGREE. 1603

I, ....., hereby constitute the 1604  
persons named below a committee to represent me: 1605

Name	Residence
------	-----------

1606

..... 1607

..... 1608

..... 1609

..... 1610

..... 1611

NOMINATING PETITION 1612

We, the undersigned, qualified electors of the state of Ohio,  
whose voting residence is in the County, City, Village, Ward,  
Township or Precinct set opposite our names, hereby nominate  
..... as a candidate for election to the office of  
..... in the .....  
(State, District, County, City, Village, Township, or School  
District) for the ..... (Full term or unexpired term  
ending ..... ) to be voted for at the general  
election next hereafter to be held, and certify that this person  
is, in our opinion, well qualified to perform the duties of the  
office or position to which the person desires to be elected.

Street	1625
Address	1626
or R.F.D.	1627
(Must use	1628
address on	1629
file with City,	1630

the board of Village or	Date of	1631
Signature elections) Township Ward Precinct County Signing		1632
<hr/>		1633
.....		1634
.....		1635
.....		1636
....., declares under penalty of election		1637
falsification that such person is a qualified elector of the state		1638
of Ohio and resides at the address appearing below such person's		1639
signature hereto; that such person is the circulator of the		1640
foregoing petition paper containing ..... signatures;		1641
that such person witnessed the affixing of every signature; that		1642
all signers were to the best of such person's knowledge and belief		1643
qualified to sign; and that every signature is to the best of such		1644
person's knowledge and belief the signature of the person whose		1645
signature it purports to be.		1646
.....		1647
(Signature of circulator)		1648
.....		1649
(Address)		1650
WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY		1651
OF THE FIFTH DEGREE."		1652
The secretary of state shall prescribe a form of nominating		1653
petition for a group of candidates for the office of member of a		1654
board of education, township office, and offices of municipal		1655
corporations of under two thousand population.		1656
The secretary of state shall prescribe a form of statement of		1657
candidacy and nominating petition, which shall be substantially		1658
similar to the form of statement of candidacy and nominating		1659
petition set forth in this section, that will be suitable for		1660
joint candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant		1661

governor.

If such petition nominates a candidate whose election is to be determined by the electors of a county or a district or subdivision within the county, it shall be filed with the board of such county. If the petition nominates a candidate whose election is to be determined by the voters of a subdivision located in more than one county, it shall be filed with the board of the county in which the major portion of the population of such subdivision is located.

If the petition nominates a candidate whose election is to be determined by the electors of a district comprised of more than one county but less than all of the counties of the state, it shall be filed with the board of elections of the most populous county in such district. If the petition nominates a candidate whose election is to be determined by the electors of the state at large, it shall be filed with the secretary of state.

The secretary of state or a board of elections shall not accept for filing a nominating petition of a person seeking to become a candidate if that person, for the same election, has already filed a declaration of candidacy, a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or a nominating petition, or has become a candidate through party nomination at a primary election or by the filling of a vacancy under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code for any state or county office, if the nominating petition is for a state or county office, or for any municipal or township office, for member of a city, local, or exempted village board of education, or for member of a governing board of an educational service center, if the nominating petition is for a municipal or township office, or for member of a city, local, or exempted village board of education, or for member of a governing board of an educational service center.

Sec. 3513.30. (A)(1) Where only one valid declaration of  
candidacy is filed for nomination as a candidate of a political  
party for an office and such candidate dies prior to the tenth day  
before the primary election, both of the following may occur:

(a) The political party whose candidate died may fill the  
vacancy so created as provided in division (A)(2) of this section.

(b) Any major political party other than the one whose  
candidate died may select a candidate as provided in division  
(A)(2) of this section under either of the following  
circumstances:

(i) No person has filed a valid declaration of candidacy for  
nomination as that party's candidate at the primary election.

(ii) Only one person has filed a valid declaration of  
candidacy for nomination as that party's candidate at the primary  
election, that person has withdrawn ~~or, died, or been disqualified~~  
under section 3513.052 of the Revised Code, and the vacancy so  
created has not been filled.

(2) A vacancy may be filled under division (A)(1)(a) and a  
selection may be made under division (A)(1)(b) of this section by  
the appropriate committee of the political party in the same  
manner as provided in divisions (A) ~~through~~ to (E) of section  
3513.31 of the Revised Code for the filling of similar vacancies  
created by withdrawals or disqualifications under section 3513.052  
of the Revised Code after the primary election, except that the  
certification required under that section may not be filed with  
the secretary of state, or with a board of the most populous  
county of a district, or with the board of a county in which the  
major portion of the population of a subdivision is located, later  
than four p.m. of the tenth day before the day of such primary  
election, or with any other board later than four p.m. of the  
fifth day before the day of such primary election.

(3) If only one valid declaration of candidacy is filed for 1724  
nomination as a candidate of a political party for an office and 1725  
that candidate dies on or after the tenth day before the day of 1726  
the primary election, that candidate is considered to have 1727  
received the nomination of that candidate's political party at 1728  
that primary election, and, for purposes of filling the vacancy so 1729  
created, that candidate's death shall be treated as if that 1730  
candidate died on the day after the day of the primary election. 1731

(B) Any person filing a declaration of candidacy may withdraw 1732  
as such candidate at any time prior to the primary election, or, 1733  
if the primary election is a presidential primary election, at any 1734  
time prior to the fiftieth day before the presidential primary 1735  
election. The withdrawal shall be effected and the statement of 1736  
withdrawal shall be filed in accordance with the procedures 1737  
prescribed in division (D) of this section for the withdrawal of 1738  
persons nominated in a primary election or by nominating petition. 1739  
1740

(C) A person who is the first choice for president of the 1741  
United States by a candidate for delegate or alternate to a 1742  
national convention of a political party may withdraw consent for 1743  
the selection of the person as such first choice no later than 1744  
four p.m. of the thirtieth day before the day of the presidential 1745  
primary election. Withdrawal of consent shall be for the entire 1746  
slate of candidates for delegates and alternates who named such 1747  
person as their presidential first choice and shall constitute 1748  
withdrawal from the primary election by such delegates and 1749  
alternates. The withdrawal shall be made in writing and delivered 1750  
to the secretary of state. The boards of elections shall remove 1751  
both the name of the withdrawn first choice and the names of such 1752  
withdrawn candidates from the ballots to the extent practicable in 1753  
the time remaining before the election and according to the 1754  
directions of the secretary of state. If such names are not 1755



removed from all ballots before the day of the election, the votes  
for the withdrawn first choice or candidates are void and shall  
not be counted.

(D) Any person nominated in a primary election or by  
nominating petition as a candidate for election at the next  
general election may withdraw as such candidate at any time prior  
to the general election. Such withdrawal may be effected by the  
filing of a written statement by such candidate announcing the  
candidate's withdrawal and requesting that the candidate's name  
not be printed on the ballots. If such candidate's declaration of  
candidacy or nominating petition was filed with the secretary of  
state, the candidate's statement of withdrawal shall be addressed  
to and filed with the secretary of state. If such candidate's  
declaration of candidacy or nominating petition was filed with a  
board of elections, the candidate's statement of withdrawal shall  
be addressed to, and filed with such board.

(E) When a person withdraws under division (B) or (D) of this  
section, the board of elections shall remove the name of the  
withdrawn candidate from the ballots to the extent practicable in  
the time remaining before the election and according to the  
directions of the secretary of state. If the name is not removed  
from all ballots before the day of the election, the votes for the  
withdrawn candidate are void and shall not be counted.

**Sec. 3513.31.** (A) If a person nominated in a primary election  
as a candidate for election at the next general election, whose  
candidacy is to be submitted to the electors of the entire state,  
withdraws as that candidate or is disqualified as that candidate  
under section 3513.052 of the Revised Code, the vacancy in the  
party nomination so created may be filled by the state central  
committee of the major political party that made the nomination at  
the primary election, if the committee's chairperson and secretary

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certify the name of the person selected to fill the vacancy by the  
time specified in this division, at a meeting called for that  
purpose. The meeting shall be called by the chairperson of that  
committee, who shall give each member of the committee at least  
two days' notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.  
If a majority of the members of the committee are present at the  
meeting, a majority of those present may select a person to fill  
the vacancy. The chairperson and secretary of the meeting shall  
certify in writing and under oath to the secretary of state, not  
later than the seventy-sixth day before the day of the general  
election, the name of the person selected to fill the vacancy. The  
certification must be accompanied by the written acceptance of the  
nomination by the person whose name is certified. A vacancy that  
may be filled by an intermediate or minor political party shall be  
filled in accordance with the party's rules by authorized  
officials of the party. Certification must be made as in the  
manner provided for a major political party.

(B) If a person nominated in a primary election as a party  
candidate for election at the next general election, whose  
candidacy is to be submitted to the electors of a district  
comprised of more than one county but less than all of the  
counties of the state, withdraws as that candidate or is  
disqualified as that candidate under section 3513.052 of the  
Revised Code, the vacancy in the party nomination so created may  
be filled by a district committee of the major political party  
that made the nomination at the primary election, if the  
committee's chairperson and secretary certify the name of the  
person selected to fill the vacancy by the time specified in this  
division, at a meeting called for that purpose. The district  
committee shall consist of the chairperson and secretary of the  
county central committee of such political party in each county in  
the district. The district committee shall be called by the

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chairperson of the county central committee of such political 1820  
party of the most populous county in the district, who shall give 1821  
each member of the district committee at least two days' notice of 1822  
the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. If a majority of the 1823  
members of the district committee are present at the district 1824  
committee meeting, a majority of those present may select a person 1825  
to fill the vacancy. The chairperson and secretary of the meeting 1826  
shall certify in writing and under oath to the board of elections 1827  
of the most populous county in the district, not later than four 1828  
p.m. of the seventy-sixth day before the day of the general 1829  
election, the name of the person selected to fill the vacancy. The 1830  
certification must be accompanied by the written acceptance of the 1831  
nomination by the person whose name is certified. A vacancy that 1832  
may be filled by an intermediate or minor political party shall be 1833  
filled in accordance with the party's rules by authorized 1834  
officials of the party. Certification must be made as in the 1835  
manner provided for a major political party. 1836

(C) If a person nominated in a primary election as a party 1837  
candidate for election at the next general election, whose 1838  
candidacy is to be submitted to the electors of a county, 1839  
withdraws as that candidate or is disqualified as that candidate 1840  
under section 3513.052 of the Revised Code, the vacancy in the 1841  
party nomination so created may be filled by the county central 1842  
committee of the major political party that made the nomination at 1843  
the primary election, or by the county executive committee if so 1844  
authorized, if the committee's chairperson and secretary certify 1845  
the name of the person selected to fill the vacancy by the time 1846  
specified in this division, at a meeting called for that purpose. 1847  
The meeting shall be called by the chairperson of that committee, 1848  
who shall give each member of the committee at least two days' 1849  
notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. If a 1850  
majority of the members of the committee are present at the 1851  
meeting, a majority of those present may select a person to fill 1852

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the vacancy. The chairperson and secretary of the meeting shall 1853  
certify in writing and under oath to the board of that county, not 1854  
later than four p.m. of the seventy-sixth day before the day of 1855  
the general election, the name of the person selected to fill the 1856  
vacancy. The certification must be accompanied by the written 1857  
acceptance of the nomination by the person whose name is 1858  
certified. A vacancy that may be filled by an intermediate or 1859  
minor political party shall be filled in accordance with the 1860  
party's rules by authorized officials of the party. Certification 1861  
must be made as in the manner provided for a major political 1862  
party. 1863

(D) If a person nominated in a primary election as a party 1864  
candidate for election at the next general election, whose 1865  
candidacy is to be submitted to the electors of a district within 1866  
a county, withdraws as that candidate or is disqualified as that 1867  
candidate under section 3513.052 of the Revised Code, the vacancy 1868  
in the party nomination so created may be filled by a district 1869  
committee consisting of those members of the county central 1870  
committee or, if so authorized, those members of the county 1871  
executive committee in that county of the major political party 1872  
that made the nomination at the primary election who represent the 1873  
precincts or the wards and townships within the district, if the 1874  
committee's chairperson and secretary certify the name of the 1875  
person selected to fill the vacancy by the time specified in this 1876  
division, at a meeting called for that purpose. The district 1877  
committee meeting shall be called by the chairperson of the county 1878  
central committee or executive committee, as appropriate, who 1879  
shall give each member of the district committee at least two 1880  
days' notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. If a 1881  
majority of the members of the district committee are present at 1882  
the district committee meeting, a majority of those present may 1883  
select a person to fill the vacancy. The chairperson and secretary 1884  
of the district committee meeting shall certify in writing and 1885

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under oath to the board of the county, not later than four p.m. of 1886  
the seventy-sixth day before the day of the general election, the 1887  
name of the person selected to fill the vacancy. The certification 1888  
must be accompanied by the written acceptance of the nomination by 1889  
the person whose name is certified. A vacancy that may be filled 1890  
by an intermediate or minor political party shall be filled in 1891  
accordance with the party's rules by authorized officials of the 1892  
party. Certification must be made as in the manner provided for a 1893  
major political party. 1894

(E) If a person nominated in a primary election as a party 1895  
candidate for election at the next general election, whose 1896  
candidacy is to be submitted to the electors of a subdivision 1897  
within a county, withdraws as that candidate or is disqualified as 1898  
that candidate under section 3513.052 of the Revised Code, the 1899  
vacancy in the party nomination so created may be filled by a 1900  
subdivision committee consisting of those members of the county 1901  
central committee or, if so authorized, those members of the 1902  
county executive committee in that county of the major political 1903  
party that made the nomination at that primary election who 1904  
represent the precincts or the wards and townships within that 1905  
subdivision, if the committee's chairperson and secretary certify 1906  
the name of the person selected to fill the vacancy by the time 1907  
specified in this division, at a meeting called for that purpose. 1908

The subdivision committee meeting shall be called by the 1909  
chairperson of the county central committee or executive 1910  
committee, as appropriate, who shall give each member of the 1911  
subdivision committee at least two days' notice of the time, 1912  
place, and purpose of the meeting. If a majority of the members of 1913  
the subdivision committee are present at the subdivision committee 1914  
meeting, a majority of those present may select a person to fill 1915  
the vacancy. The chairperson and secretary of the subdivision 1916  
committee meeting shall certify in writing and under oath to the 1917

board of the county, not later than four p.m. of the seventy-sixth 1918  
day before the day of the general election, the name of the person 1919  
selected to fill the vacancy. The certification must be 1920  
accompanied by the written acceptance of the nomination by the 1921  
person whose name is certified. A vacancy that may be filled by an 1922  
intermediate or minor political party shall be filled in 1923  
accordance with the party's rules by authorized officials of the 1924  
party. Certification must be made in the manner provided for a 1925  
major political party. 1926

(F) If a person nominated by petition as an independent or 1927  
nonpartisan candidate for election at the next general election 1928  
withdraws as that candidate or is disqualified as that candidate 1929  
under section 3513.052 of the Revised Code, the vacancy so created 1930  
may be filled by a majority of the committee of five, as 1931  
designated on the candidate's nominating petition, if a member of 1932  
that committee certifies in writing and under oath to the election 1933  
officials with whom the candidate filed the candidate's nominating 1934  
petition, not later than the seventy-sixth day before the day of 1935  
the general election, the name of the person selected to fill the 1936  
vacancy. The certification shall be accompanied by the written 1937  
acceptance of the nomination by the person whose name is certified 1938  
and shall be made in the manner provided for a major political 1939  
party. 1940

(G) If a person nominated in a primary election as a party 1941  
candidate for election at the next general election dies, the 1942  
vacancy so created may be filled by the same committee in the same 1943  
manner as provided in this section for the filling of similar 1944  
vacancies created by withdrawals or disqualifications under 1945  
section 3513.052 of the Revised Code, except that the 1946  
certification, when filling a vacancy created by death, may not be 1947  
filed with the secretary of state, or with a board of the most 1948  
populous county of a district, or with the board of a county in 1949

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which the major portion of the population of a subdivision is 1950  
located, later than four p.m. of the tenth day before the day of 1951  
such general election, or with any other board later than four 1952  
p.m. of the fifth day before the day of such general election. 1953

(H) If a person nominated by petition as an independent or 1954  
nonpartisan candidate for election at the next general election 1955  
dies prior to the tenth day before the day of that general 1956  
election, the vacancy so created may be filled by a majority of 1957  
the committee of five designated in the nominating petition to 1958  
represent the candidate named in it. To fill the vacancy a member 1959  
of the committee shall, not later than four p.m. of the fifth day 1960  
before the day of the general election, file with the election 1961  
officials with whom the petition nominating the person was filed, 1962  
a certificate signed and sworn to under oath by a majority of the 1963  
members, designating the person they select to fill the vacancy. 1964  
The certification must be accompanied by the written acceptance of 1965  
the nomination by the person whose name is so certified. 1966

(I) If a person holding an elective office dies or resigns 1967  
subsequent to the one-hundredth day before the day of a primary 1968  
election and prior to the seventy-sixth day before the day of the 1969  
next general election, and if, under the laws of this state, a 1970  
person may be elected at that general election to fill the 1971  
unexpired term of the person who has died or resigned, the 1972  
appropriate committee of each political party, acting as in the 1973  
case of a vacancy in a party nomination, as provided in divisions 1974  
(A) to (D) of this section, may select a person as the party 1975  
candidate for election for such unexpired term at that general 1976  
election, and certify the person's name to the appropriate 1977  
election official not later than four p.m. on the seventy-sixth 1978  
day before the day of that general election, or on the tenth day 1979  
following the day on which the vacancy occurs, whichever is later. 1980  
When the vacancy occurs on or subsequent to the seventy-sixth day 1981

and six or more days prior to the fortieth day before the general  
election, the appropriate committee may select a person as the  
party candidate and certify the person's name, as provided in the  
preceding sentence, not later than four p.m. on the tenth day  
following the day on which the vacancy occurs. When the vacancy  
occurs fewer than six days before the fortieth day before the  
general election, the deadline for filing shall be four p.m. on  
the thirty-sixth day before the general election. Thereupon the  
name shall be printed as the party candidate under proper titles  
and in the proper place on the proper ballots for use at the  
election. If a person has been nominated in a primary election,  
the authorized committee of that political party shall not select  
and certify a person as the party candidate.

(J) Each person desiring to become an independent candidate  
to fill the unexpired term shall file a statement of candidacy and  
nominating petition, as provided in section 3513.261 of the  
Revised Code, with the appropriate election official not later  
than four p.m. on the tenth day following the day on which the  
vacancy occurs, provided that when the vacancy occurs fewer than  
six days before the fortieth day before the general election, the  
deadline for filing shall be four p.m. on the thirty-sixth day  
before the general election. The nominating petition shall contain  
at least seven hundred fifty signatures and no more than one  
thousand five hundred signatures of qualified electors of the  
district, political subdivision, or portion of a political  
subdivision in which the office is to be voted upon, or the amount  
provided for in section 3513.257 of the Revised Code, whichever is  
less.

(K) When a person nominated as a candidate by a political  
party in a primary election or by nominating petition for an  
elective office for which candidates are nominated at a party  
primary election withdraws ~~or~~, dies, or is disqualified under



section 3513.052 of the Revised Code prior to the general 2014  
election, the appropriate committee of any other major political 2015  
party or committee of five that has not nominated a candidate for 2016  
that office, or whose nominee as a candidate for that office has 2017  
withdrawn ~~or, died, or been disqualified~~ without the vacancy so 2018  
created having been filled, may, acting as in the case of a 2019  
vacancy in a party nomination or nomination by petition as 2020  
provided in divisions (A) to (F) of this section, whichever is 2021  
appropriate, select a person as a candidate of that party or of 2022  
that committee of five for election to the office. 2023

**Sec. 3517.02.** All members of controlling committees of a 2024  
major or intermediate political party shall be elected by direct 2025  
vote of the members of the party, except as otherwise provided in 2026  
section 3517.05 of the Revised Code. Their names shall be placed 2027  
upon the official ballot, and, notwithstanding division (B) of 2028  
section 3513.23 of the Revised Code, the persons receiving the 2029  
highest number of votes for ~~committeemen~~ committeepersons shall be 2030  
the members of ~~such~~ those controlling committees. Each member of 2031  
~~such~~ a controlling committee shall be a resident and qualified 2032  
elector of the district, ward, or precinct ~~which he~~ that the 2033  
member is elected to represent. All members of controlling 2034  
committees of a minor political party shall be determined in 2035  
accordance with party rules. 2036

Each political party shall file with the office of the 2037  
secretary of state a copy of its constitution and bylaws, if any, 2038  
within thirty days of adoption or amendment. Each ~~such~~ party shall 2039  
also file with the office of the secretary of state a list of 2040  
members of its controlling committees, and other party officials 2041  
within thirty days of their election or appointment. 2042

**Sec. 3517.03.** The controlling committees of each major 2043  
political party or organization shall be a state central committee 2044

## As Reported by the Committee of Conference

consisting of two members, one a man and one a woman, representing 2045  
either each congressional district in the state or each senatorial 2046  
district in the state, as the outgoing committee determines; a 2047  
county central committee consisting of one member from each 2048  
election precinct in the county, or of one member from each ward 2049  
in each city and from each township in the county, as the outgoing 2050  
committee determines; and such district, city, township, or other 2051  
committees as the rules of the party provide. 2052

All the members of such committees shall be members of the 2053  
party and shall be elected for terms of either two or four years, 2054  
as determined by party rules, by direct vote at the primary held 2055  
in an even-numbered year. Candidates Except as otherwise provided 2056  
in section 3517.02 of the Revised Code, candidates for election as 2057  
state central committee members shall be elected at primaries in 2058  
the same manner as provided in sections 3513.01 to 3513.32 of the 2059  
Revised Code, for the nomination of candidates for office in a 2060  
county. Candidates for election as members of the county central 2061  
committee shall be elected at primaries in the same manner as 2062  
provided in such those sections for the nomination of candidates 2063  
for county offices, except as otherwise provided in section 2064  
sections 3513.051 and 3517.02 of the ~~of the~~ Revised Code. 2065

Each major party controlling committee shall elect an 2066  
executive committee ~~which that~~ shall have such the powers ~~as are~~ 2067  
granted to it by the party controlling committee, and ~~as are~~ 2068  
provided to it by law. When a judicial, senatorial, or 2069  
congressional district is comprised of more than one county, the 2070  
chairperson and secretary of the county central committee from 2071  
each county in ~~such that~~ district shall constitute the judicial, 2072  
senatorial, or congressional committee of ~~such the~~ district. When 2073  
a judicial, senatorial, or congressional district is included 2074  
within a county, the county central committee shall constitute the 2075  
judicial, senatorial, or congressional committee of ~~such the~~ 2076

district. 2077

The controlling committee of each intermediate political 2078  
party or organization shall be a state central committee 2079  
consisting of two members, one a man and one a woman, from each 2080  
congressional district in the state. All members of ~~such the~~ 2081  
committee shall be members of the party and shall be elected by 2082  
direct vote at the primary held in the even-numbered years. 2083  
~~Candidates~~ Except as otherwise provided in section 3517.02 of the 2084  
Revised Code, candidates for election shall be elected at the 2085  
primary in the same manner as provided in sections 3513.01 to 2086  
3513.32 of the Revised Code. An intermediate political party may 2087  
have such other party organization as its rules provide. Each 2088  
intermediate party shall file the names and addresses of its 2089  
officers with the secretary of state. 2090

A minor political party may elect controlling committees at a 2091  
primary election in the even-numbered year by filing a plan for 2092  
party organization with the secretary of state on or before the 2093  
ninetieth day before the day of the primary election. ~~Such The~~ 2094  
plan shall specify which offices are to be elected and provide the 2095  
procedure for qualification of candidates for ~~such those~~ offices. 2096  
Candidates to be elected pursuant to ~~such the~~ plan shall be 2097  
~~required to be~~ designated and qualified on or before the ninetieth 2098  
day before the day of the election. Such parties may, in lieu of 2099  
electing a controlling committee or other officials, choose such 2100  
committee or other officials in accordance with party rules. Each 2101  
such party shall file the names and addresses of members of its 2102  
controlling committee and party officers with the secretary of 2103  
state. 2104

**Sec. 3517.10.** (A) Except as otherwise provided in this 2105  
division, every campaign committee, political action committee, 2106  
legislative campaign fund, political party, and political 2107  
contributing entity that made or received a contribution or made 2108

an expenditure in connection with the nomination or election of 2109  
any candidate or in connection with any ballot issue or question 2110  
at any election held or to be held in this state shall file, on a 2111  
form prescribed under this section, by electronic means of 2112  
transmission as provided in this section and section 3517.106 of 2113  
the Revised Code, or, until ~~January~~ March 1, ~~2003~~ 2004, on 2114  
computer disk as provided in section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, 2115  
a full, true, and itemized statement, made under penalty of 2116  
election falsification, setting forth in detail the contributions 2117  
and expenditures, no later than four p.m. of the following dates: 2118

(1) The twelfth day before the election to reflect 2119  
contributions received and expenditures made from the close of 2120  
business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed 2121  
statement, if any, to the close of business on the twentieth day 2122  
before the election; 2123

(2) The thirty-eighth day after the election to reflect the 2124  
contributions received and expenditures made from the close of 2125  
business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed 2126  
statement, if any, to the close of business on the seventh day 2127  
before the filing of the statement; 2128

(3) The last business day of January of every year to reflect 2129  
the contributions received and expenditures made from the close of 2130  
business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed 2131  
statement, if any, to the close of business on the last day of 2132  
December of the previous year. 2133

A campaign committee shall only be required to file the 2134  
statements prescribed under divisions (A)(1) and (2) of this 2135  
section in connection with the nomination or election of the 2136  
committee's candidate. 2137

The statement required under division (A)(1) of this section 2138  
shall not be required of any campaign committee, political action 2139  
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 2140

political contributing entity that has received contributions of 2141  
less than one thousand dollars and has made expenditures of less 2142  
than one thousand dollars at the close of business on the 2143  
twentieth day before the election. Those contributions and 2144  
expenditures shall be reported in the statement required under 2145  
division (A)(2) of this section. 2146

If an election to select candidates to appear on the general 2147  
election ballot is held within sixty days before a general 2148  
election, the campaign committee of a successful candidate in the 2149  
earlier election may file the statement required by division 2150  
(A)(1) of this section for the general election instead of the 2151  
statement required by division (A)(2) of this section for the 2152  
earlier election if the pregeneral election statement reflects the 2153  
status of contributions and expenditures for the period twenty 2154  
days before the earlier election to twenty days before the general 2155  
election. 2156

If a person becomes a candidate less than twenty days before 2157  
an election, the candidate's campaign committee is not required to 2158  
file the statement required by division (A)(1) of this section. 2159

No statement under division (A)(3) of this section shall be 2160  
required for any year in which a campaign committee, political 2161  
action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 2162  
political contributing entity is required to file a postgeneral 2163  
election statement under division (A)(2) of this section. However, 2164  
such a statement may be filed, at the option of the campaign 2165  
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, 2166  
political party, or political contributing entity. 2167

No statement under division (A)(3) of this section shall be 2168  
required if the campaign committee, political action committee, 2169  
legislative campaign fund, political party, or political 2170  
contributing entity has no contributions that it has received and 2171  
no expenditures that it has made since the last date reflected in 2172

its last previously filed statement. However, the campaign  
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund,  
political party, or political contributing entity shall file a  
statement to that effect, on a form prescribed under this section  
and made under penalty of election falsification, on the date  
required in division (A)(3) of this section.

The campaign committee of a statewide candidate shall file a  
monthly statement of contributions received during each of the  
months of July, August, and September in the year of the general  
election in which the candidate seeks office. The campaign  
committee of a statewide candidate shall file the monthly  
statement not later than three business days after the last day of  
the month covered by the statement. During the period beginning on  
the nineteenth day before the general election in which a  
statewide candidate seeks election to office and extending through  
the day of that general election, each time the campaign committee  
of the joint candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant  
governor or of a candidate for the office of secretary of state,  
auditor of state, treasurer of state, or attorney general receives  
a contribution from a contributor that causes the aggregate amount  
of contributions received from that contributor during that period  
to equal or exceed two thousand five hundred dollars and each time  
the campaign committee of a candidate for the office of chief  
justice or justice of the supreme court receives a contribution  
from a contributor that causes the aggregate amount of  
contributions received from that contributor during that period to  
exceed five hundred dollars, the campaign committee shall file a  
two-business-day statement reflecting that contribution. During  
the period beginning on the nineteenth day before a primary  
election in which a candidate for statewide office seeks  
nomination to office and extending through the day of that primary  
election, each time either the campaign committee of a statewide

candidate in that primary election that files a notice under 2205  
division (C)(1) of section 3517.103 of the Revised Code or the 2206  
campaign committee of a statewide candidate in that primary 2207  
election to which, in accordance with division (D) of section 2208  
3517.103 of the Revised Code, the contribution limitations 2209  
prescribed in section 3517.102 of the Revised Code no longer apply 2210  
receives a contribution from a contributor that causes the 2211  
aggregate amount of contributions received from that contributor 2212  
during that period to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars, 2213  
the campaign committee shall file a two-business-day statement 2214  
reflecting that contribution. Contributions reported on a 2215  
two-business-day statement required to be filed by a campaign 2216  
committee of a statewide candidate in a primary election shall 2217  
also be included in the postprimary election statement required to 2218  
be filed by that campaign committee under division (A)(2) of this 2219  
section. A two-business-day statement required by this paragraph 2220  
shall be filed not later than two business days after receipt of 2221  
the contribution. The statements required by this paragraph shall 2222  
be filed in addition to any other statements required by this 2223  
section. 2224

~~The secretary of state may permit the filing of~~ 2225  
~~two-business-day statements by facsimile or other electronic means~~ 2226  
~~of transmission until January 1, 2001.~~ Subject to the secretary of 2227  
state having implemented, tested, and verified the successful 2228  
operation of any system the secretary of state prescribes pursuant 2229  
to divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of this section and division 2230  
(H)(1) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code for the filing of 2231  
campaign finance statements by electronic means of transmission, 2232  
~~on and after January 1, 2001,~~ a campaign committee of a statewide 2233  
candidate shall file a two-business-day statement under the 2234  
preceding paragraph by electronic means of transmission if the 2235  
campaign committee is required to file a preelection, 2236

postelection, or monthly statement of contributions and 2237  
expenditures by electronic means of transmission under this 2238  
section or section 3517.106 of the Revised Code. 2239

If a campaign committee or political action committee has no 2240  
balance on hand and no outstanding obligations and desires to 2241  
terminate itself, it shall file a statement to that effect, on a 2242  
form prescribed under this section and made under penalty of 2243  
election falsification, with the official with whom it files a 2244  
statement under division (A) of this section after filing a final 2245  
statement of contributions and a final statement of expenditures, 2246  
if contributions have been received or expenditures made since the 2247  
period reflected in its last previously filed statement. 2248

(B) Except as otherwise provided in division (C)(7) of this 2249  
section, each statement required by division (A) of this section 2250  
shall contain the following information: 2251

(1) The full name and address of each campaign committee, 2252  
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 2253  
party, or political contributing entity, including any treasurer 2254  
of the committee, fund, party, or entity, filing a contribution 2255  
and expenditure statement; 2256

(2)(a) In the case of a campaign committee, the candidate's 2257  
full name and address; 2258

(b) In the case of a political action committee, the 2259  
registration number assigned to the committee under division 2260  
(D)(1) of this section. 2261

(3) The date of the election and whether it was or will be a 2262  
general, primary, or special election; 2263

(4) A statement of contributions received, which shall 2264  
include the following information: 2265

(a) The month, day, and year of the contribution; 2266



(b)(i) The full name and address of each person, political 2267  
party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political 2268  
action committee, or political contributing entity from whom 2269  
contributions are received and the registration number assigned to 2270  
the political action committee under division (D)(1) of this 2271  
section. The requirement of filing the full address does not apply 2272  
to any statement filed by a state or local committee of a 2273  
political party, to a finance committee of such committee, or to a 2274  
committee recognized by a state or local committee as its 2275  
fund-raising auxiliary. Notwithstanding division (F)(1) of this 2276  
section, the requirement of filing the full address shall be 2277  
considered as being met if the address filed is the same address 2278  
the contributor provided under division (E)(1) of this section. 2279

(ii) If a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or 2280  
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly 2281  
receives a contribution from an individual that exceeds one 2282  
hundred dollars, the name of the individual's current employer, if 2283  
any, or, if the individual is self-employed, the individual's 2284  
occupation; 2285

(iii) If a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or 2286  
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly 2287  
receives a contribution transmitted pursuant to section 3599.031 2288  
of the Revised Code from amounts deducted from the wages and 2289  
salaries of two or more employees that exceeds in the aggregate 2290  
one hundred dollars during any one filing period under division 2291  
(A)(1), (2), or (3) of this section, the full name of the 2292  
employees' employer and the full name of the labor organization of 2293  
which the employees are members, if any. 2294

(c) A description of the contribution received, if other than 2295  
money; 2296

(d) The value in dollars and cents of the contribution; 2297

(e) A separately itemized account of all contributions and expenditures regardless of the amount, except a receipt of a contribution from a person in the sum of twenty-five dollars or less at one social or fund-raising activity and a receipt of a contribution transmitted pursuant to section 3599.031 of the Revised Code from amounts deducted from the wages and salaries of employees if the contribution from the amount deducted from the wages and salary of any one employee is twenty-five dollars or less aggregated in a calendar year. An account of the total contributions from each social or fund-raising activity shall include a description of and the value of each in-kind contribution received at that activity from any person who made one or more such contributions whose aggregate value exceeded two hundred fifty dollars and shall be listed separately, together with the expenses incurred and paid in connection with that activity. A campaign committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity shall keep records of contributions from each person in the amount of twenty-five dollars or less at one social or fund-raising activity and contributions from amounts deducted under section 3599.031 of the Revised Code from the wages and salary of each employee in the amount of twenty-five dollars or less aggregated in a calendar year. No continuing association that is recognized by a state or local committee of a political party as an auxiliary of the party and that makes a contribution from funds derived solely from regular dues paid by members of the auxiliary shall be required to list the name or address of any members who paid those dues.

Contributions that are other income shall be itemized separately from all other contributions. The information required under division (B)(4) of this section shall be provided for all other income itemized. As used in this paragraph, "other income"

means a loan, investment income, or interest income. 2330

(f) In the case of a campaign committee of a state elected 2331  
officer, if a person doing business with the state elected officer 2332  
in the officer's official capacity makes a contribution to the 2333  
campaign committee of that officer, the information required under 2334  
division (B)(4) of this section in regard to that contribution, 2335  
which shall be filed together with and considered a part of the 2336  
committee's statement of contributions as required under division 2337  
(A) of this section but shall be filed on a separate form provided 2338  
by the secretary of state. As used in division (B)(4)(f) of this 2339  
section: 2340

(i) "State elected officer" has the same meaning as in 2341  
section 3517.092 of the Revised Code. 2342

(ii) "Person doing business" means a person or an officer of 2343  
an entity who enters into one or more contracts with a state 2344  
elected officer or anyone authorized to enter into contracts on 2345  
behalf of that officer to receive payments for goods or services, 2346  
if the payments total, in the aggregate, more than five thousand 2347  
dollars during a calendar year. 2348

(5) A statement of expenditures which shall include the 2349  
following information: 2350

(a) The month, day, and year of the expenditure; 2351

(b) The full name and address of each person, political 2352  
party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political 2353  
action committee, or political contributing entity to whom the 2354  
expenditure was made and the registration number assigned to the 2355  
political action committee under division (D)(1) of this section; 2356

(c) The object or purpose for which the expenditure was made; 2357  
2358

(d) The amount of each expenditure. 2359

(C)(1) The statement of contributions and expenditures shall 2360  
be signed by the person completing the form. If a statement of 2361  
contributions and expenditures is filed by electronic means of 2362  
transmission pursuant to this section or section 3517.106 of the 2363  
Revised Code, the electronic signature of the person who executes 2364  
the statement and transmits the statement by electronic means of 2365  
transmission, as provided in division (H) of section 3517.106 of 2366  
the Revised Code, shall be attached to or associated with the 2367  
statement and shall be binding on all persons and for all purposes 2368  
under the campaign finance reporting law as if the signature had 2369  
been handwritten in ink on a printed form. 2370

(2) The person filing the statement, under penalty of 2371  
election falsification, shall include with it a list of each 2372  
anonymous contribution, the circumstances under which it was 2373  
received, and the reason it cannot be attributed to a specific 2374  
donor. 2375

(3) Each statement of a campaign committee of a candidate who 2376  
holds public office shall contain a designation of each 2377  
contributor who is an employee in any unit or department under the 2378  
candidate's direct supervision and control. In a space provided in 2379  
the statement, the person filing the statement shall affirm that 2380  
each such contribution was voluntarily made. 2381

(4) A campaign committee that did not receive contributions 2382  
or make expenditures in connection with the nomination or election 2383  
of its candidate shall file a statement to that effect, on a form 2384  
prescribed under this section and made under penalty of election 2385  
falsification, on the date required in division (A)(2) of this 2386  
section. 2387

(5) The campaign committee of any person who attempts to 2388  
become a candidate and who, for any reason, does not become 2389  
certified in accordance with Title XXXV of the Revised Code for 2390  
placement on the official ballot of a primary, general, or special 2391

election to be held in this state, and who, at any time prior to  
or after an election, receives contributions or makes  
expenditures, or has given consent for another to receive  
contributions or make expenditures, for the purpose of bringing  
about the person's nomination or election to public office, shall  
file the statement or statements prescribed by this section and a  
termination statement, if applicable. This paragraph does not  
apply to any person with respect to an election to the offices of  
member of a county or state central committee, presidential  
elector, or delegate to a national convention or conference of a  
political party.

(6)(a) The statements required to be filed under this section  
shall specify the balance in the hands of the campaign committee,  
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political  
party, or political contributing entity and the disposition  
intended to be made of that balance.

(b) The secretary of state shall prescribe the form for all  
statements required to be filed under this section and shall  
furnish the forms to the boards of elections in the several  
counties. The boards of elections shall supply printed copies of  
those forms without charge. The secretary of state shall prescribe  
the appropriate methodology, protocol, and data file structure for  
statements required or permitted to be filed by electronic means  
of transmission under division (A) of this section and divisions  
(E), (F), and (G) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code and for  
statements permitted to be filed on computer disk under division  
(F) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code. Subject to division  
(A) of this section and divisions (E), (F), and (G) of section  
3517.106 of the Revised Code, the statements required to be stored  
on computer by the secretary of state under division (B) of  
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code shall be filed in whatever  
format the secretary of state considers necessary to enable the

secretary of state to store the information contained in the 2424  
statements on computer. Any such format shall be of a type and 2425  
nature that is readily available to whoever is required to file 2426  
the statements in that format. 2427

(c) The secretary of state shall assess the need for training 2428  
regarding the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic 2429  
means of transmission and regarding associated technologies for 2430  
candidates, campaign committees, political action committees, 2431  
legislative campaign funds, political parties, political 2432  
contributing entities, or individuals, partnerships, or other 2433  
entities required or permitted to file statements by electronic 2434  
means of transmission under this section or section 3517.105 or 2435  
3517.106 of the Revised Code. If, in the opinion of the secretary 2436  
of state, training in these areas is necessary, the secretary of 2437  
state shall arrange for the provision of voluntary training 2438  
programs for candidates, campaign committees, political action 2439  
committees, legislative campaign funds, political parties, 2440  
political contributing entities, and individuals, partnerships, 2441  
and other entities. 2442

(7) Each monthly statement and each two-business-day 2443  
statement required by division (A) of this section shall contain 2444  
the information required by divisions (B)(1) to (4), (C)(2), and, 2445  
if appropriate, (C)(3) of this section. Each statement shall be 2446  
signed as required by division (C)(1) of this section. 2447

(D)(1) Prior to receiving a contribution or making an 2448  
expenditure, every campaign committee, political action committee, 2449  
legislative campaign fund, political party, or political 2450  
contributing entity shall appoint a treasurer and shall file, on a 2451  
form prescribed by the secretary of state, a designation of that 2452  
appointment, including the full name and address of the treasurer 2453  
and of the campaign committee, political action committee, 2454  
legislative campaign fund, political party, or political 2455

contributing entity. That designation shall be filed with the  
official with whom the campaign committee, political action  
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or  
political contributing entity is required to file statements under  
section 3517.11 of the Revised Code. The name of a campaign  
committee shall include at least the last name of the campaign  
committee's candidate. The secretary of state shall assign a  
registration number to each political action committee that files  
a designation of the appointment of a treasurer under division  
(D)(1) of this section if the political action committee is  
required by division (A)(1) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code  
to file the statements prescribed by this section with the  
secretary of state.

(2) The treasurer appointed under division (D)(1) of this  
section shall keep a strict account of all contributions, from  
whom received and the purpose for which they were disbursed.

(3)(a) Except as otherwise provided in section 3517.108 of  
the Revised Code, a campaign committee shall deposit all monetary  
contributions received by the committee into an account separate  
from a personal or business account of the candidate or campaign  
committee.

(b) A political action committee shall deposit all monetary  
contributions received by the committee into an account separate  
from all other funds.

(c) A state or county political party may establish a state  
candidate fund that is separate from an account that contains the  
public moneys received from the Ohio political party fund under  
section 3517.17 of the Revised Code and from all other funds. A  
state or county political party may deposit into its state  
candidate fund any amounts of monetary contributions that are made  
to or accepted by the political party subject to the applicable  
limitations, if any, prescribed in section 3517.102 of the Revised

Code. A state or county political party shall deposit all other  
monetary contributions received by the party into one or more  
accounts that are separate from its state candidate fund and from  
its account that contains the public moneys received from the Ohio  
political party fund under section 3517.17 of the Revised Code.

(d) Each state political party shall have only one  
legislative campaign fund for each house of the general assembly.  
Each such fund shall be separate from any other funds or accounts  
of that state party. A legislative campaign fund is authorized to  
receive contributions and make expenditures for the primary  
purpose of furthering the election of candidates who are members  
of that political party to the house of the general assembly with  
which that legislative campaign fund is associated. Each  
legislative campaign fund shall be administered and controlled in  
a manner designated by the caucus. As used in division (D)(3)(d)  
of this section, "caucus" has the same meaning as in section  
3517.01 of the Revised Code and includes, as an ex officio member,  
the chairperson of the state political party with which the caucus  
is associated or that chairperson's designee.

(4) Every expenditure in excess of twenty-five dollars shall  
be vouched for by a receipted bill, stating the purpose of the  
expenditures, that shall be filed with the statement of  
expenditures. A canceled check with a notation of the purpose of  
the expenditure is a receipted bill for purposes of division  
(D)(4) of this section.

(5) The secretary of state or the board of elections, as the  
case may be, shall issue a receipt for each statement filed under  
this section and shall preserve a copy of the receipt for a period  
of at least six years. All statements filed under this section  
shall be open to public inspection in the office where they are  
filed and shall be carefully preserved for a period of at least  
six years after the year in which they are filed.



(6) The secretary of state, by rule adopted pursuant to 2520  
section 3517.23 of the Revised Code, shall prescribe the manner of 2521  
immediately acknowledging, with date and time received, and 2522  
preserving the receipt of statements that are transmitted by 2523  
electronic means of transmission to the secretary of state 2524  
pursuant to this section or section 3517.106 of the Revised Code 2525  
and the manner of preserving the contribution and expenditure 2526  
information in those statements. The secretary of state shall 2527  
preserve the contribution and expenditure information in those 2528  
statements for at least ten years after the year in which they are 2529  
filed by electronic means of transmission. 2530

(7) The secretary of state, pursuant to division (I) of 2531  
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, shall make available online 2532  
to the public through the internet the contribution and 2533  
expenditure information in all statements, all addenda, 2534  
amendments, or other corrections to statements, and all amended 2535  
statements filed with the secretary of state by electronic or 2536  
other means of transmission under this section, division (B)(2)(b) 2537  
or (C)(2)(b) of section 3517.105, or section 3517.106 or 3517.11 2538  
of the Revised Code. The secretary of state may remove the 2539  
information from the internet after a reasonable period of time. 2540

(E)(1) Any person, political party, campaign committee, 2541  
legislative campaign fund, political action committee, or 2542  
political contributing entity that makes a contribution in 2543  
connection with the nomination or election of any candidate or in 2544  
connection with any ballot issue or question at any election held 2545  
or to be held in this state shall provide its full name and 2546  
address to the recipient of the contribution at the time the 2547  
contribution is made. The political action committee also shall 2548  
provide the registration number assigned to the committee under 2549  
division (D)(1) of this section to the recipient of the 2550  
contribution at the time the contribution is made. 2551

(2) Any individual who makes a contribution that exceeds one 2552  
hundred dollars to a campaign committee of a statewide candidate 2553  
or candidate for the office of member of the general assembly 2554  
shall provide the name of the individual's current employer, if 2555  
any, or, if the individual is self-employed, the individual's 2556  
occupation to the recipient of the contribution at the time the 2557  
contribution is made. Sections 3599.39 and 3599.40 of the Revised 2558  
Code do not apply to division (E)(2) of this section. 2559

(3) If a campaign committee shows that it has exercised its 2560  
best efforts to obtain, maintain, and submit the information 2561  
required under divisions (B)(4)(b)(ii) and (iii) of this section, 2562  
that committee is considered to have met the requirements of those 2563  
divisions. A campaign committee shall not be considered to have 2564  
exercised its best efforts unless, in connection with written 2565  
solicitations, it regularly includes a written request for the 2566  
information required under division (B)(4)(b)(ii) of this section 2567  
from the contributor or the information required under division 2568  
(B)(4)(b)(iii) of this section from whoever transmits the 2569  
contribution. 2570

(4) Any check that a political action committee uses to make 2571  
a contribution or an expenditure shall contain the full name and 2572  
address of the committee and the registration number assigned to 2573  
the committee under division (D)(1) of this section. 2574

(F) As used in this section: 2575

(1) "Address" means all of the following if they exist: 2576  
apartment number, street, road, or highway name and number, rural 2577  
delivery route number, city or village, state, and zip code as 2578  
used in a person's post-office address, but not post-office box. 2579  
If an address is required in this section, a post-office box and 2580  
office, room, or suite number may be included in addition to but 2581  
not in lieu of an apartment, street, road, or highway name and 2582  
number. If an address is required in this section, a campaign 2583

committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, 2584  
political party, or political contributing entity may use the 2585  
business or residence address of its treasurer or deputy 2586  
treasurer. The post-office box number of the campaign committee, 2587  
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 2588  
party, or political contributing entity may be used in addition to 2589  
that address. 2590

(2) "Statewide candidate" means the joint candidates for the 2591  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor or a candidate for the 2592  
office of secretary of state, auditor of state, treasurer of 2593  
state, attorney general, member of the state board of education, 2594  
chief justice of the supreme court, or justice of the supreme 2595  
court. 2596

(3) "Internet" has the same meaning as in section 3517.106 of 2597  
the Revised Code. 2598

(G) An independent expenditure shall be reported whenever and 2599  
in the same manner that an expenditure is required to be reported 2600  
under this section and shall be reported pursuant to division 2601  
(B)(2)(a) or (C)(2)(a) of section 3517.105 of the Revised Code. 2602  
2603

(H)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (H)(2) of 2604  
this section, if, during the combined preelection and postelection 2605  
reporting periods for an election, a campaign committee has 2606  
received contributions of five hundred dollars or less and has 2607  
made expenditures in the total amount of five hundred dollars or 2608  
less, it may file a statement to that effect, under penalty of 2609  
election falsification, in lieu of the statement required by 2610  
division (A)(2) of this section. The statement shall indicate the 2611  
total amount of contributions received and the total amount of 2612  
expenditures made during those combined reporting periods. 2613

(2) In the case of a successful candidate at a primary 2614

election, if either the total contributions received by or the  
total expenditures made by the candidate's campaign committee  
during the preprimary, postprimary, pregeneral, and postgeneral  
election periods combined equal more than five hundred dollars,  
the campaign committee may file the statement under division  
(H)(1) of this section only for the primary election. The first  
statement that the campaign committee files in regard to the  
general election shall reflect all contributions received and all  
expenditures made during the preprimary and postprimary election  
periods.

(3) Divisions (H)(1) and (2) of this section do not apply if  
a campaign committee receives contributions or makes expenditures  
prior to the first day of January of the year of the election at  
which the candidate seeks nomination or election to office or if  
the campaign committee does not file a termination statement with  
its postprimary election statement in the case of an unsuccessful  
primary election candidate or with its postgeneral election  
statement in the case of other candidates.

(I) In the case of a contribution made by a partnership or  
unincorporated business, all of the following apply:

(1) The recipient of the contribution shall report the  
contribution by listing both the partnership or unincorporated  
business and the name of the partner or owner making the  
contribution.

(2) For purposes of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code, the  
contribution shall be considered to have been made by the partner  
or owner reported under division (I)(1) of this section.

(3) No contribution from a partnership or unincorporated  
business shall be accepted unless the recipient reports the  
contribution under division (I)(1) of this section.

(J) A candidate shall have only one campaign committee at any

given time for all of the offices for which the person is a  
candidate or holds office.

(K)(1) In addition to filing a designation of appointment of  
a treasurer under division (D)(1) of this section, the campaign  
committee of any candidate for an elected municipal office that  
pays an annual amount of compensation of five thousand dollars or  
less, the campaign committee of any candidate for member of a  
board of education except member of the state board of education,  
or the campaign committee of any candidate for township trustee or  
township clerk may sign, under penalty of election falsification,  
a certificate attesting that the committee will not accept  
contributions during an election period that exceed in the  
aggregate two thousand dollars from all contributors and one  
hundred dollars from any one individual, and that the campaign  
committee will not make expenditures during an election period  
that exceed in the aggregate two thousand dollars.

The certificate shall be on a form prescribed by the  
secretary of state and shall be filed not later than ten days  
after the candidate files a declaration of candidacy and petition,  
a nominating petition, or a declaration of intent to be a write-in  
candidate.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (K)(3) of this  
section, a campaign committee that files a certificate under  
division (K)(1) of this section is not required to file the  
statements required by division (A) of section 3517.10 of the  
Revised Code.

(3) If, after filing a certificate under division (K)(1) of  
this section, a campaign committee exceeds any of the limitations  
described in that division during an election period, the  
certificate is void and thereafter the campaign committee shall  
file the statements required by division (A) of section 3517.10 of  
the Revised Code. If the campaign committee has not previously

filed a statement, then on the first statement the campaign  
committee is required to file under division (A) of section  
3517.10 of the Revised Code after the committee's certificate is  
void, the committee shall report all contributions received and  
expenditures made from the time the candidate filed the  
candidate's declaration of candidacy and petition, nominating  
petition, or declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate.

(4) As used in division (K) of this section, "election  
period" means the period of time beginning on the day a person  
files a declaration of candidacy and petition, nominating  
petition, or declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate  
through the day of the election at which the person seeks  
nomination to office if the person is not elected to office, or,  
if the candidate was nominated in a primary election, the day of  
the election at which the candidate seeks office.

(L) Notwithstanding division (B)(4) of this section, a  
political contributing entity that receives contributions from the  
dues, membership fees, or other assessments of its members or from  
its officers, shareholders, and employees may report the aggregate  
amount of contributions received from those contributors and the  
number of individuals making those contributions, for each filing  
period identified under divisions (A)(1), (2), and (3) of this  
section. Division (B)(4) of this section applies to a political  
contributing entity with regard to contributions it receives from  
all other contributors.

**Sec. 3517.106.** (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Internet" means the international computer network of  
both federal and nonfederal interoperable packet switched data  
networks, including the graphical subnetwork called the world wide  
web.

(2) "Statewide office" means any of the offices of governor,

lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of state, 2709  
treasurer of state, attorney general, chief justice of the supreme 2710  
court, and justice of the supreme court. 2711

(3) "Addendum to a statement" includes an amendment or other 2712  
correction to that statement. 2713

(B) The secretary of state shall store on computer the 2714  
information contained in statements of contributions and 2715  
expenditures and monthly statements required to be filed under 2716  
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code and in statements of 2717  
independent expenditures required to be filed under section 2718  
3517.105 of the Revised Code by any of the following: 2719

(1) The campaign committees of candidates for statewide 2720  
office; 2721

(2) The political action committees and political 2722  
contributing entities described in division (A)(1) of section 2723  
3517.11 of the Revised Code; 2724

(3) Legislative campaign funds; 2725

(4) State political parties; 2726

(5) Individuals, partnerships, corporations, labor 2727  
organizations, or other entities that make independent 2728  
expenditures in support of or opposition to a statewide candidate 2729  
or a statewide ballot issue or question; 2730

(6) The campaign committees of candidates for the office of 2731  
member of the general assembly. 2732

(C)(1) The secretary of state shall make available to the 2733  
campaign committees, political action committees, political 2734  
contributing entities, legislative campaign funds, political 2735  
parties, individuals, partnerships, corporations, labor 2736  
organizations, and other entities described in division (B) of 2737  
this section, and to members of the news media and other 2738

interested persons, for a reasonable fee, computer programs that  
are compatible with the secretary of state's method of storing the  
information contained in the statements.

(2) The secretary of state shall make the information  
required to be stored under division (B) of this section available  
on computer at the secretary of state's office so that, to the  
maximum extent feasible, individuals may obtain at the secretary  
of state's office any part or all of that information for any  
given year, subject to the limitation expressed in division (D) of  
this section.

(D) The secretary of state shall keep the information stored  
on computer under division (B) of this section for at least six  
years.

(E)(1) Subject to the secretary of state having implemented,  
tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the  
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this  
section and divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of  
the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by  
electronic means of transmission, ~~on and after January 1, 2001,~~  
the campaign committee of each candidate for statewide office may  
file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised  
Code by electronic means of transmission or, if the total amount  
of the contributions received or the total amount of the  
expenditures made by the campaign committee for the applicable  
reporting period as specified in division (A) of section 3517.10  
of the Revised Code exceeds ten thousand dollars, shall file those  
statements by electronic means of transmission.

Except as otherwise provided in this division, within five  
business days after a statement filed by a campaign committee of a  
candidate for statewide office is received by the secretary of  
state by electronic or other means of transmission, the secretary  
of state shall make available online to the public through the



internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, the  
contribution and expenditure information in that statement. The  
secretary of state shall not make available online to the public  
through the internet any contribution or expenditure information  
contained in a statement for any candidate until the secretary of  
state is able to make available online to the public through the  
internet the contribution and expenditure information for all  
candidates for a particular office. As soon as the secretary of  
state has available all of that information, the secretary of  
state shall simultaneously make available online to the public  
through the internet the information for all candidates for a  
particular office.

If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is  
found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the  
statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division  
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the campaign  
committee shall file by electronic means of transmission any  
addendum to the statement that provides the information necessary  
to complete or correct the statement or, if required by the  
secretary of state under that division, an amended statement.

Within five business days after the secretary of state  
receives from a campaign committee of a candidate for statewide  
office an addendum to the statement or an amended statement by  
electronic or other means of transmission under this division or  
division (B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the  
secretary of state shall make the contribution and expenditure  
information in the addendum or amended statement available online  
to the public through the internet as provided in division (I) of  
this section.

(2) Subject to division (E)(3) of this section and subject to  
the secretary of state having implemented, tested, and verified  
the successful operation of any system the secretary of state

prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this section and  
divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised  
Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic  
means of transmission, ~~on and after January 1, 2001~~, a political  
action committee and a political contributing entity described in  
division (B)(2) of this section, a legislative campaign fund, and  
a state political party may file the statements prescribed by  
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code by electronic means of  
transmission.

Within five business days after a statement filed by a  
political action committee or a political contributing entity  
described in division (B)(2) of this section, a legislative  
campaign fund, or a state political party is received by the  
secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission,  
the secretary of state shall make available online to the public  
through the internet, as provided in division (I) of this section,  
the contribution and expenditure information in that statement.

If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is  
found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the  
statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division  
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the political  
action committee, political contributing entity, legislative  
campaign fund, or state political party shall file by electronic  
means of transmission any addendum to the statement that provides  
the information necessary to complete or correct the statement or,  
if required by the secretary of state under that division, an  
amended statement.

Within five business days after the secretary of state  
receives from a political action committee or a political  
contributing entity described in division (B)(2) of this section,  
a legislative campaign fund, or a state political party an  
addendum to the statement or an amended statement by electronic or

other means of transmission under this division or division 2835  
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of 2836  
state shall make the contribution and expenditure information in 2837  
the addendum or amended statement available online to the public 2838  
through the internet as provided in division (I) of this section. 2839

(3) Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, 2840  
tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the 2841  
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this 2842  
section and divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of 2843  
the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by 2844  
electronic means of transmission, ~~on and after January 1, 2002,~~ a 2845  
political action committee and a political contributing entity 2846  
described in division (B)(2) of this section, a legislative 2847  
campaign fund, and a state political party shall file the 2848  
statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code by 2849  
electronic means of transmission if the total amount of the 2850  
contributions received or the total amount of the expenditures 2851  
made by the political action committee, political contributing 2852  
entity, legislative campaign fund, or political party for the 2853  
applicable reporting period as specified in division (A) of 2854  
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code exceeds ten thousand dollars. 2855

Within five business days after a statement filed by a 2856  
political action committee or a political contributing entity 2857  
described in division (B)(2) of this section, a legislative 2858  
campaign fund, or a state political party is received by the 2859  
secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission, 2860  
the secretary of state shall make available online to the public 2861  
through the internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, 2862  
the contribution and expenditure information in that statement. 2863

If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is 2864  
found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the 2865  
statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division 2866

(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the political  
action committee, political contributing entity, legislative  
campaign fund, or state political party shall file by electronic  
means of transmission any addendum to the statement that provides  
the information necessary to complete or correct the statement or,  
if required by the secretary of state under that division, an  
amended statement.

Within five business days after the secretary of state  
receives from a political action committee or a political  
contributing entity described in division (B)(2) of this section,  
a legislative campaign fund, or a state political party an  
addendum to the statement or an amended statement by electronic or  
other means of transmission under this division or division  
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of  
state shall make the contribution and expenditure information in  
the addendum or amended statement available online to the public  
through the internet as provided in division (I) of this section.

(F)(1) Subject to division (F)(4) of this section and subject  
to the secretary of state having implemented, tested, and verified  
the successful operation of any system the secretary of state  
prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this section and  
divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised  
Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic  
means of transmission or on computer disk, ~~on and after January 1,~~  
~~2001,~~ a campaign committee of a candidate for the office of member  
of the general assembly may file the statements prescribed by  
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code by electronic means of  
transmission to the office of the secretary of state or, until  
~~January~~ March 1, ~~2003~~ 2004, on computer disk with the appropriate  
board of elections specified in division (A)(2) of section 3517.11  
of the Revised Code.

Except as otherwise provided in this division, within five

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business days after a statement filed by a campaign committee of a candidate for the office of member of the general assembly is received by the secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission, the secretary of state shall make available online to the public through the internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, the contribution and expenditure information in that statement. The secretary of state shall not make available online to the public through the internet any contribution or expenditure information contained in a statement for any candidate until the secretary of state is able to make available online to the public through the internet the contribution and expenditure information for all candidates for a particular office. As soon as the secretary of state has available all of that information, the secretary of state shall simultaneously make available online to the public through the internet the information for all candidates for a particular office.

If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission or on computer disk is found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division (B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the campaign committee shall file by electronic means of transmission to the office of the secretary of state, or, until ~~January~~ March 1, 2003 2004, on computer disk with the appropriate board of elections if the original statement was filed on computer disk, any addendum to the statement that provides the information necessary to complete or correct the statement or, if required by the secretary of state under that division, an amended statement.

Within five business days after the secretary of state receives from a campaign committee of a candidate for the office of member of the general assembly an addendum to the statement or an amended statement by electronic or other means of transmission under this division or division (B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of

the Revised Code, the secretary of state shall make the  
contribution and expenditure information in the addendum or  
amended statement available online to the public through the  
internet as provided in division (I) of this section.

(2) Until ~~January~~ March 1, ~~2003~~ 2004, if a campaign committee  
of a candidate for the office of member of the general assembly  
files a statement of contributions and expenditures, an addendum  
to the statement, or an amended statement by electronic means of  
transmission or on computer disk pursuant to division (F)(1) of  
this section, the campaign committee shall file as prescribed by  
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code with the appropriate board of  
elections specified in division (A)(2) of section 3517.11 of the  
Revised Code a printed version of the statement, addendum, or  
amended statement filed by electronic means of transmission or on  
computer disk, in the format that the secretary of state shall  
prescribe. If a statement, addendum, or amended statement is not  
filed by electronic means of transmission or on computer disk but  
is filed by printed version only, the campaign committee shall  
file two copies of the printed version of the statement, addendum,  
or amended statement with the appropriate board of elections. The  
board of elections shall send one of those copies by overnight  
delivery service to the secretary of state before the close of  
business on the day the board of elections receives the statement,  
addendum, or amended statement.

(3)(a) Subject to division (F)(4) of this section and subject  
to the secretary of state having implemented, tested, and verified  
the successful operation of any system the secretary of state  
prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this section and  
divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised  
Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic  
means of transmission or on computer disk, ~~on and after January 1,~~  
~~2001,~~ the secretary of state shall assess, and a campaign

committee of a candidate for the office of member of the general 2963  
assembly shall pay, a fee as provided in this division if the 2964  
campaign committee has not filed the campaign finance statements 2965  
prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code by electronic 2966  
means of transmission or on computer disk pursuant to division 2967  
(F)(1) of this section. The fee shall be calculated on the total 2968  
contributions received for the applicable reporting period 2969  
specified in division (A) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code 2970  
as follows: 2971

(i) No fee for total contributions up to and including ten 2972  
thousand dollars; 2973

(ii) A fee of fifty dollars for total contributions of over 2974  
ten thousand dollars up to and including twenty-five thousand 2975  
dollars; 2976

(iii) A fee of one hundred fifty dollars for total 2977  
contributions over twenty-five thousand dollars up to and 2978  
including fifty thousand dollars; 2979

(iv) A fee of two hundred dollars for total contributions 2980  
over fifty thousand dollars. 2981

(b) No campaign committee of a candidate for the office of 2982  
member of the general assembly shall be required to pay the fee 2983  
prescribed by division (F)(3)(a) of this section in connection 2984  
with the filing of an addendum to a statement of contributions and 2985  
expenditures or in connection with the filing of an amended 2986  
statement. 2987

(c) The fee prescribed by division (F)(3)(a) of this section 2988  
shall be made payable to the secretary of state and shall be 2989  
collected by the appropriate board of elections at the time the 2990  
campaign committee of a candidate for the office of member of the 2991  
general assembly files the statement of contributions and 2992  
expenditures. The fee shall be sent along with the statement, 2993

before the close of business on the day it is received, to the  
secretary of state by overnight delivery service.

(4) Subject to the secretary of state having implemented,  
tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the  
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this  
section and divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of  
the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by  
electronic means of transmission, on and after ~~January~~ March 1,  
~~2003~~ 2004, a campaign committee of a candidate for the office of  
member of the general assembly shall file the statements  
prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code by electronic  
means of transmission to the secretary of state if the total  
amount of the contributions received by the campaign committee for  
the applicable reporting period as specified in division (A) of  
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code exceeds ten thousand dollars.

Except as otherwise provided in this division, within five  
business days after a statement filed by a campaign committee of a  
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly is  
received by the secretary of state by electronic or other means of  
transmission, the secretary of state shall make available online  
to the public through the internet, as provided in division (I) of  
this section, the contribution and expenditure information in that  
statement. The secretary of state shall not make available online  
to the public through the internet any contribution or expenditure  
information contained in a statement for any candidate until the  
secretary of state is able to make available online to the public  
through the internet the contribution and expenditure information  
for all candidates for a particular office. As soon as the  
secretary of state has available all of that information, the  
secretary of state shall simultaneously make available online to  
the public through the internet the information for all candidates  
for a particular office.



If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is 3026  
found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the 3027  
statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division 3028  
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the campaign 3029  
committee of a candidate for the office of member of the general 3030  
assembly shall file by electronic means of transmission any 3031  
addendum to the statement that provides the information necessary 3032  
to complete or correct the statement or, if required by the 3033  
secretary of state under that division, an amended statement. 3034

Within five business days after the secretary of state 3035  
receives from a campaign committee of a candidate for the office 3036  
of member of the general assembly an addendum to the statement or 3037  
an amended statement by electronic or other means of transmission 3038  
under this division or division (B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of 3039  
the Revised Code, the secretary of state shall make the 3040  
contribution and expenditure information in the addendum or 3041  
amended statement available online to the public through the 3042  
internet as provided in division (I) of this section. 3043

(G)(1) Subject to division (G)(2) of this section and subject 3044  
to the secretary of state having implemented, tested, and verified 3045  
the successful operation of any system the secretary of state 3046  
prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this section and 3047  
divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised 3048  
Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic 3049  
means of transmission, ~~on and after January 1, 2001,~~ any 3050  
individual, partnership, or other entity that makes independent 3051  
expenditures in support of or opposition to a statewide candidate 3052  
or a statewide ballot issue or question as provided in division 3053  
(B)(2)(b) or (C)(2)(b) of section 3517.105 of the Revised Code may 3054  
file the statement specified in that division by electronic means 3055  
of transmission. 3056

Within five business days after a statement filed by an 3057

individual, partnership, or other entity is received by the  
secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission,  
the secretary of state shall make available online to the public  
through the internet, as provided in division (I) of this section,  
the expenditure information in that statement.

If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is  
found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the  
statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division  
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the individual,  
partnership, or other entity shall file by electronic means of  
transmission any addendum to the statement that provides the  
information necessary to complete or correct the statement or, if  
required by the secretary of state under that division, an amended  
statement.

Within five business days after the secretary of state  
receives from an individual, partnership, or other entity  
described in division (B)(2)(b) or (C)(2)(b) of section 3517.105  
of the Revised Code an addendum to the statement or an amended  
statement by electronic or other means of transmission under this  
division or division (B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised  
Code, the secretary of state shall make the expenditure  
information in the addendum or amended statement available online  
to the public through the internet as provided in division (I) of  
this section.

(2) Subject to the secretary of state having implemented,  
tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the  
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H)(1) of this  
section and divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of  
the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by  
electronic means of transmission, ~~on and after January 1, 2002,~~  
any individual, partnership, or other entity that makes  
independent expenditures in support of or opposition to a

statewide candidate or a statewide ballot issue or question as 3090  
provided in division (B)(2)(b) or (C)(2)(b) of section 3517.105 of 3091  
the Revised Code shall file the statement specified in that 3092  
division by electronic means of transmission if the total amount 3093  
of the independent expenditures made during the reporting period 3094  
under that division exceeds ten thousand dollars. 3095

Within five business days after a statement filed by an 3096  
individual, partnership, or other entity is received by the 3097  
secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission, 3098  
the secretary of state shall make available online to the public 3099  
through the internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, 3100  
the expenditure information in that statement. 3101

If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is 3102  
found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the 3103  
statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division 3104  
(B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the individual, 3105  
partnership, or other entity shall file by electronic means of 3106  
transmission any addendum to the statement that provides the 3107  
information necessary to complete or correct the statement or, if 3108  
required by the secretary of state under that division, an amended 3109  
statement. 3110

Within five business days after the secretary of state 3111  
receives from an individual, partnership, or other entity 3112  
described in division (B)(2)(b) or (C)(2)(b) of section 3517.105 3113  
of the Revised Code an addendum to the statement or an amended 3114  
statement by electronic or other means of transmission under this 3115  
division or division (B)(3)(a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised 3116  
Code, the secretary of state shall make the expenditure 3117  
information in the addendum or amended statement available online 3118  
to the public through the internet as provided in division (I) of 3119  
this section. 3120

(H)(1) The secretary of state, by rule adopted pursuant to 3121

section 3517.23 of the Revised Code, shall prescribe one or more 3122  
techniques by which a person who executes and transmits by 3123  
electronic means a statement of contributions and expenditures, a 3124  
statement of independent expenditures, an addendum to either 3125  
statement, an amended statement of contributions and expenditures, 3126  
or an amended statement of independent expenditures under this 3127  
section or section 3517.10 or 3517.105 of the Revised Code shall 3128  
electronically sign the statement, addendum, or amended statement. 3129  
Any technique prescribed by the secretary of state pursuant to 3130  
this division shall create an electronic signature that satisfies 3131  
all of the following: 3132

(a) It is unique to the signer. 3133

(b) It objectively identifies the signer. 3134

(c) It involves the use of a signature device or other means 3135  
or method that is under the sole control of the signer and that 3136  
cannot be readily duplicated or compromised. 3137

(d) It is created and linked to the electronic record to 3138  
which it relates in a manner that, if the record or signature is 3139  
intentionally or unintentionally changed after signing, the 3140  
electronic signature is invalidated. 3141

(2) An electronic signature prescribed by the secretary of 3142  
state under division (H)(1) of this section shall be attached to 3143  
or associated with the statement of contributions and 3144  
expenditures, the statement of independent expenditures, the 3145  
addendum to either statement, the amended statement of 3146  
contributions and expenditures, or the amended statement of 3147  
independent expenditures that is executed and transmitted by 3148  
electronic means by the person to whom the electronic signature is 3149  
attributed. The electronic signature that is attached to or 3150  
associated with the statement, addendum, or amended statement 3151  
under this division shall be binding on all persons and for all 3152

purposes under the campaign finance reporting law as if the  
signature had been handwritten in ink on a printed form of the  
statement, addendum, or amended statement.

(I) The secretary of state shall make the contribution and  
expenditure information in all statements, all addenda to the  
statements, and all amended statements that are filed with the  
secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission  
under this section or section 3517.10, 3517.105, or 3517.11 of the  
Revised Code available online to the public by any means that are  
searchable, viewable, and accessible through the internet.

(J)(1) As used in this division, "library" means a library  
that is open to the public and that is one of the following:

(a) A library that is maintained and regulated under section  
715.13 of the Revised Code;

(b) A library that is created, maintained, and regulated  
under Chapter 3375. of the Revised Code.

(2) The secretary of state shall notify all libraries of the  
location on the internet at which the contribution and expenditure  
information in campaign finance statements required to be made  
available online to the public through the internet pursuant to  
division (I) of this section may be accessed.

~~On and after January 1, 2001, if~~ If that location is part of  
the graphical subnetwork called the world wide web and if the  
secretary of state has notified a library of that world wide web  
location as required by this division, the library shall include a  
link to that world wide web location on each internet-connected  
computer it maintains that is accessible to the public.

(3) If the system the secretary of state prescribes for the  
filing of campaign finance statements by electronic means of  
transmission pursuant to division (H)(1) of this section and  
divisions (C)(6)(b) and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised

Code includes filing those statements through the internet via an 3184  
interactive location on the graphical subnetwork called the world 3185  
wide web, the secretary of state shall notify all libraries of the 3186  
world wide web location at which those statements may be filed. 3187

~~On and after January 1, 2001, if~~ If those statements may be 3188  
filed through the internet via an interactive location on the 3189  
graphical subnetwork called the world wide web and if the 3190  
secretary of state has notified a library of that world wide web 3191  
location as required by this division, the library shall include a 3192  
link to that world wide web location on each internet-connected 3193  
computer it maintains that is accessible to the public. 3194

(K) It is an affirmative defense to a complaint or charge 3195  
brought against any campaign committee, political action 3196  
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, political 3197  
contributing entity, or individual, partnership, or other entity 3198  
for the failure to file by electronic means of transmission a 3199  
campaign finance statement as required by this section or section 3200  
3517.10 or 3517.105 of the Revised Code that all of the following 3201  
apply to the campaign committee, political action committee, 3202  
legislative campaign fund, political party, political contributing 3203  
entity, or individual, partnership, or other entity that failed to 3204  
file the required statement: 3205

(1) The campaign committee, political action committee, 3206  
legislative campaign fund, political party, political contributing 3207  
entity, or individual, partnership, or other entity attempted to 3208  
file by electronic means of transmission the required statement 3209  
prior to the deadline set forth in the applicable section. 3210

(2) The campaign committee, political action committee, 3211  
legislative campaign fund, political party, political contributing 3212  
entity, or individual, partnership, or other entity was unable to 3213  
file by electronic means of transmission due to an expected or 3214  
unexpected shutdown of the whole or part of the electronic 3215

## As Reported by the Committee of Conference

campaign finance statement-filing system, such as for maintenance 3216  
or because of hardware, software, or network connection failure. 3217

(3) The campaign committee, political action committee, 3218  
legislative campaign fund, political party, political contributing 3219  
entity, or individual, partnership, or other entity filed by 3220  
electronic means of transmission the required statement within a 3221  
reasonable period of time after being unable to so file it under 3222  
the circumstance described in division (K)(2) of this section. 3223

**Sec. 3517.11.** (A)(1) Campaign committees of candidates for 3224  
statewide offices or the state board of education, political 3225  
action committees or political contributing entities that make 3226  
contributions to campaign committees of candidates that are 3227  
required to file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of 3228  
the Revised Code with the secretary of state, political action 3229  
committees or political contributing entities that make 3230  
contributions to campaign committees of candidates for member of 3231  
the general assembly, political action committees or political 3232  
contributing entities that make contributions to state and 3233  
national political parties and to legislative campaign funds, 3234  
political action committees or political contributing entities 3235  
that receive contributions or make expenditures in connection with 3236  
a statewide ballot issue, political action committees or political 3237  
contributing entities that make contributions to other political 3238  
action committees or political contributing entities, political 3239  
parties, and campaign committees, except as set forth in division 3240  
(A)(3) of this section, legislative campaign funds, and state and 3241  
national political parties shall file the statements prescribed by 3242  
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code with the secretary of state. 3243

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (F) of section 3244  
3517.106 of the Revised Code, campaign committees of candidates 3245  
for all other offices shall file the statements prescribed by 3246

section 3517.10 of the Revised Code with the board of elections 3247  
where their candidates are required to file their petitions or 3248  
other papers for nomination or election. 3249

A campaign committee of a candidate for office of member of 3250  
the general assembly shall file two copies of the printed version 3251  
of any statement, addendum, or amended statement if the committee 3252  
does not file by electronic means of transmission or on computer 3253  
disk pursuant to division (F)(1) of section 3517.106 of the 3254  
Revised Code but files by printed version only with the 3255  
appropriate board of elections. The board of elections shall send 3256  
one of those copies by overnight delivery service to the secretary 3257  
of state before the close of business on the day the board of 3258  
elections receives the statement, addendum, or amended statement. 3259

(3) Political action committees or political contributing 3260  
entities that only contribute to a county political party, 3261  
contribute to campaign committees of candidates whose nomination 3262  
or election is to be submitted only to electors within a county, 3263  
subdivision, or district, excluding candidates for member of the 3264  
general assembly, and receive contributions or make expenditures 3265  
in connection with ballot questions or issues to be submitted only 3266  
to electors within a county, subdivision, or district shall file 3267  
the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code 3268  
with the board of elections in that county or in the county 3269  
contained in whole or part within the subdivision or district 3270  
having a population greater than that of any other county 3271  
contained in whole or part within that subdivision or district, as 3272  
the case may be. 3273

(4) County political parties shall file the statements 3274  
prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code with the board 3275  
of elections of their respective counties. 3276

(B)(1) The official with whom petitions and other papers for 3277  
nomination or election to public office are filed shall furnish 3278



each candidate at the time of that filing a copy of sections 3279  
3517.01, 3517.08 to 3517.11, 3517.13 to 3517.993, 3599.03, and 3280  
3599.031 of the Revised Code and any other materials that the 3281  
secretary of state may require. Each candidate receiving the 3282  
materials shall acknowledge their receipt in writing. - 3283

(2) On or before the tenth day before the dates on which 3284  
statements are required to be filed by section 3517.10 of the 3285  
Revised Code, every candidate subject to the provisions of this 3286  
section and sections 3517.10 and 3517.106 of the Revised Code 3287  
shall be notified of the requirements and applicable penalties of 3288  
those sections. The secretary of state, by certified mail, return 3289  
receipt requested, shall notify all candidates required to file 3290  
those statements with the secretary of state's office. The board 3291  
of elections of every county shall notify by first class mail any 3292  
candidate who has personally appeared at the office of the board 3293  
on or before the tenth day before the statements are required to 3294  
be filed and signed a form, to be provided by the secretary of 3295  
state, attesting that the candidate has been notified of the 3296  
candidate's obligations under the campaign finance law. The board 3297  
shall forward the completed form to the secretary of state. The 3298  
board shall use certified mail, return receipt requested, to 3299  
notify all other candidates required to file those statements with 3300  
it. 3301

(3)(a) Any statement required to be filed under sections 3302  
3517.081 to 3517.17 of the Revised Code that is found to be 3303  
incomplete or inaccurate by the officer to whom it is submitted 3304  
shall be accepted on a conditional basis, and the person who filed 3305  
it shall be notified by certified mail as to the incomplete or 3306  
inaccurate nature of the statement. The secretary of state may 3307  
examine statements filed for candidates for the office of member 3308  
of the general assembly for completeness and accuracy. ~~On and~~ 3309  
~~after January 1, 2001, the~~ The secretary of state shall examine 3310

for completeness and accuracy statements that campaign committees 3311  
of candidates for the office of member of the general assembly 3312  
file by electronic means of transmission pursuant to division (F) 3313  
of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code. If an officer at the 3314  
board of elections where a statement filed for a candidate for the 3315  
office of member of the general assembly was submitted finds the 3316  
statement to be incomplete or inaccurate, the officer shall 3317  
immediately notify the secretary of state of its incomplete or 3318  
inaccurate nature. If either an officer at the board of elections 3319  
or the secretary of state finds a statement filed for a candidate 3320  
for the office of member of the general assembly to be incomplete 3321  
or inaccurate, only the secretary of state shall send the 3322  
notification as to the incomplete or inaccurate nature of the 3323  
statement. 3324

Within twenty-one days after receipt of the notice, in the 3325  
case of a ~~pre-election~~ pre-election statement, a postelection 3326  
statement, a monthly statement, or an annual statement prescribed 3327  
by section 3517.10, an annual statement prescribed by section 3328  
3517.101, or a statement prescribed by division (B)(2)(b) or 3329  
(C)(2)(b) of section 3517.105 or section 3517.107 of the Revised 3330  
Code, the recipient shall file an addendum, amendment, or other 3331  
correction to the statement providing the information necessary to 3332  
complete or correct the statement. The secretary of state may 3333  
require that, in lieu of filing an addendum, amendment, or other 3334  
correction to a statement that is filed by electronic means of 3335  
transmission to the office of the secretary of state or on 3336  
computer disk with the appropriate board of elections pursuant to 3337  
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, the recipient of the notice 3338  
described in this division file by electronic means of 3339  
transmission, or, until ~~January~~ March 1, 2003 2004, on computer 3340  
disk with the appropriate board of elections if the original 3341  
statement was filed on computer disk, an amended statement that 3342  
incorporates the information necessary to complete or correct the 3343

statement. The secretary of state shall determine by rule when an 3344  
addendum, amendment, or other correction to a two-business-day 3345  
statement prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code or an 3346  
amended two-business-day statement shall be filed. An addendum, 3347  
amendment, or other correction to a statement that is filed by 3348  
electronic means of transmission or on computer disk pursuant to 3349  
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code shall be filed in the same 3350  
manner as the statement. The provisions of sections 3517.10 and 3351  
3517.106 of the Revised Code pertaining to the filing of 3352  
statements of contributions and expenditures and statements of 3353  
independent expenditures by electronic means of transmission or on 3354  
computer disk apply to the filing of addenda, amendments, or other 3355  
corrections to those statements by electronic means of 3356  
transmission or, until ~~January~~ March 1, ~~2003~~ 2004, on computer 3357  
disk and the filing of amended statements by electronic means of 3358  
transmission or, until ~~January~~ March 1, ~~2003~~ 2004, on computer 3359  
disk. 3360

(b) Within five business days after the secretary of state 3361  
receives, by electronic or other means of transmission, an 3362  
addendum, amendment, or other correction to a statement or an 3363  
amended statement under division (B)(3)(a) of this section, the 3364  
secretary of state, pursuant to divisions (E), (F), (G), and (I) 3365  
of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, shall make the 3366  
contribution and expenditure information in that addendum, 3367  
amendment, correction, or amended statement available online to 3368  
the public through the internet. As used in this division, 3369  
"internet" has the same meaning as in section 3517.106 of the 3370  
Revised Code. 3371

(4)(a) The secretary of state or the board of elections shall 3372  
examine all statements for compliance with sections 3517.08 to 3373  
3517.17 of the Revised Code. 3374

(b) The secretary of state may contract with an individual or 3375

entity not associated with the secretary of state and experienced 3376  
in interpreting the campaign finance law of this state to conduct 3377  
examinations of statements filed by any statewide candidate, as 3378  
defined in section 3517.103 of the Revised Code. 3379

(c) The examination shall be conducted by a person or entity 3380  
qualified to conduct it. The results of the examination shall be 3381  
available to the public, and, when the examination is conducted by 3382  
an individual or entity not associated with the secretary of 3383  
state, the results of the examination shall be reported to the 3384  
secretary of state. 3385

(C)(1) In the event of a failure to file or a late filing of 3386  
a statement required to be filed under sections 3517.081 to 3387  
3517.17 of the Revised Code or if a filed statement or any 3388  
addendum to the statement, if an addendum is required to be filed, 3389  
is incomplete or inaccurate or appears to disclose a failure to 3390  
comply with or a violation of law, the official whose duty it is 3391  
to examine the statement shall promptly file a complaint with the 3392  
Ohio elections commission under section 3517.153 of the Revised 3393  
Code if the law is one over which the commission has jurisdiction 3394  
to hear complaints, or the official shall promptly report the 3395  
failure or violation to the board of elections and the board shall 3396  
promptly report it to the prosecuting attorney in accordance with 3397  
division (J) of section 3501.11 of the Revised Code. If the 3398  
official files a complaint with the commission, the commission 3399  
shall proceed in accordance with sections 3517.154 to 3517.157 of 3400  
the Revised Code. 3401

(2) For purposes of division (C)(1) of this section, a 3402  
statement or an addendum to a statement required to be filed under 3403  
sections 3517.081 to 3517.17 of the Revised Code is incomplete or 3404  
inaccurate under this section if the statement or addendum fails 3405  
to disclose substantially all contributions that are received from 3406  
a source and that are required to be reported under sections 3407

3517.10, 3517.107, and 3517.108 of the Revised Code or if the  
statement or addendum fails to disclose at least ninety per cent  
of the total contributions received or of the total expenditures  
made during the reporting period.

(D) No certificate of nomination or election shall be issued  
to a person, and no person elected to an office shall enter upon  
the performance of the duties of that office, until that person or  
that person's campaign committee, as appropriate, has fully  
complied with this section and sections 3517.08, 3517.081,  
3517.10, and 3517.13 of the Revised Code.

**Sec. 3519.03.** (A) The committee named in a initiative  
petition may prepare the argument or explanation, or both, in  
favor of the measure proposed, and the committee named in a  
referendum petition may prepare the argument or explanation, or  
both, against any law, or section, or item of law. The persons who  
prepare the argument or explanation, or both, in opposition to the  
initiated proposal, or the argument or explanation, or both, in  
favor of the measure to be referred shall be named by the general  
assembly, if it is in session, ~~and if not in session, then~~ or by  
the governor, if the general assembly is not in session. Such  
argument or explanation, or both, shall not exceed three hundred  
words, and shall be filed with the secretary of state at least  
seventy-five days prior to the date of the election at which the  
measure is to be voted upon.

(B)(1) If the committee named in an initiative petition, the  
committee named in a referendum petition, or other persons  
designated under division (A) of this section fail to prepare and  
file their arguments or explanations by the seventy-fifth day  
before the date of the election, the secretary of state shall  
notify the Ohio ballot board that those arguments or explanations  
have not been so prepared and filed. The board then shall prepare

the missing arguments or explanations or designate a group of  
persons to prepare those arguments or explanations. All arguments  
or explanations prepared under this division shall be filed with  
the secretary of state no later than seventy days before the date  
of the election. No argument or explanation shall exceed three  
hundred words.

(2) If the Ohio ballot board fails to provide for the  
preparation of missing arguments or explanations under division  
(B)(1) of this section after being notified by the secretary of  
state that one or more arguments or explanations have not been  
timely prepared and filed, the positions of the four appointed  
members of the board shall be considered vacant, and new members  
shall be appointed in the manner provided for original  
appointments.

**Sec. 3599.09.** Whoever knowingly violates division (A) of  
section 3513.052 is guilty of seeking nomination or election to  
more than one prohibited office at the same election and shall be  
fined not more than five hundred dollars.

**Section 2.** That existing sections 107.08, 3501.01, 3501.38,  
3501.39, 3505.03, 3505.061, 3505.062, 3505.063, 3513.04, 3513.041,  
3513.05, 3513.23, 3513.251, 3513.253, 3513.254, 3513.255,  
3513.257, 3513.259, 3513.261, 3513.30, 3513.31, 3517.02, 3517.03,  
3517.10, 3517.106, 3517.11, and 3519.03 of the Revised Code are  
hereby repealed.

**Section 3.** Sections 3513.255 and 3513.259 of the Revised Code  
are presented in this act as composites of the sections as amended  
by both Am. Sub. H.B. 99 and Am. Sub. H.B. 117 of the 121st  
General Assembly. The General Assembly, applying the principle  
stated in division (B) of section 1.52 of the Revised Code that  
amendments are to be harmonized if reasonably capable of

simultaneous operation, finds that the composites are the 3469  
resulting versions of the sections in effect prior to the 3470  
effective date of the sections as presented in this act. 3471

**Section 4.** This act is hereby declared to be an emergency 3472  
measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 3473  
peace, health, and safety. The reason for the necessity is that 3474  
certain General Assembly candidates who otherwise will be required 3475  
to file their campaign finance statements by electronic means of 3476  
transmission beginning on January 1, 2003, lack the technological 3477  
means to file the required statements in that manner. Therefore, 3478  
this act shall go into immediate effect. 3479