

**As Reported by the House State Government and Elections  
Committee**

**127th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2007-2008**

**Sub. H. B. No. 350**

**Representative Wolpert**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Batchelder, Huffman, Evans, Peterson, Fende,  
Flowers, Williams, S., Webster, Bulp, Combs, Brown**

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**A B I L L**

To amend sections 3501.22 and 3503.01 of the Revised Code to permit a student at an Ohio institution of higher education to serve as a precinct election official in the county where the student attends school, to permit up to two high school seniors to serve as precinct officers at a polling place with six or more precinct officers, and to permit a board of elections to assign voters who reside in a political subdivision or other district that includes territory in more than one precinct to vote at a special election in another precinct that includes the subdivision's or district's territory.

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

**Section 1.** That sections 3501.22 and 3503.01 of the Revised Code be amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 3501.22.** (A) On or before the fifteenth day of September in each year, the board of elections by a majority vote shall,

after careful examination and investigation as to their 18  
qualifications, appoint for each election precinct four residents 19  
of the county in which the precinct is located, as judges. Except 20  
as otherwise provided in division ~~(C)~~(D) of this section, all 21  
judges of election shall be qualified electors. The judges shall 22  
constitute the election officers of the precinct. Not more than 23  
one-half of the total number of judges shall be members of the 24  
same political party. The term of such precinct officers shall be 25  
for one year. The board may, at any time, designate any number of 26  
election officers, not more than one-half of whom shall be members 27  
of the same political party, to perform their duties at any 28  
precinct in any election. The board may appoint additional 29  
officials, equally divided between the two major political 30  
parties, when necessary to expedite voting. 31

Vacancies for unexpired terms shall be filled by the board. 32  
When new precincts have been created, the board shall appoint 33  
judges for those precincts for the unexpired term. Any judge may 34  
be summarily removed from office at any time by the board for 35  
neglect of duty, malfeasance, or misconduct in office or for any 36  
other good and sufficient reason. 37

Precinct election officials shall perform all of the duties 38  
provided by law for receiving the ballots and supplies, opening 39  
and closing the polls, and overseeing the casting of ballots 40  
during the time the polls are open, and any other duties required 41  
by section 3501.26 of the Revised Code. 42

A board of elections may designate two precinct election 43  
officials as counting officials to count and tally the votes cast 44  
and certify the results of the election at each precinct, and 45  
perform other duties as provided by law. To expedite the counting 46  
of votes at each precinct, the board may appoint additional 47  
officials, not more than one-half of whom shall be members of the 48  
same political party. 49

The board shall designate one of the precinct election officials who is a member of the dominant political party to serve as a presiding judge, whose duty it is to deliver the returns of the election and all supplies to the office of the board. For these services, the presiding judge shall receive additional compensation in an amount, consistent with section 3501.28 of the Revised Code, determined by the board of elections.

The board shall issue to each precinct election official a certificate of appointment, which the official shall present to the presiding judge at the time the polls are opened.

(B) A person who is currently enrolled as a student at an institution of higher education located within Ohio and who is registered to vote in Ohio may serve as a precinct election official in either of the following locations:

(1) A precinct in the county in which the person is registered to vote.

(2) A precinct in the county in which the institution of higher education the person currently attends is located, if the person can provide proof to the board of elections that the person is currently enrolled at the institution of higher education.

As used in this division, "institution of higher education" means a state institution of higher education, a private college, university, or other postsecondary institution located in this state that possesses a certificate of authorization issued by the Ohio board of regents pursuant to Chapter 1713. of the Revised Code or a certificate of registration issued by the state board of career colleges and schools under Chapter 3332. of the Revised Code.

(C) If the board of elections determines that not enough qualified electors in a precinct are available to serve as precinct officers, it may appoint persons to serve as precinct

officers at a primary, special, or general election who are at 81  
least seventeen years of age and are registered to vote in 82  
accordance with section 3503.07 of the Revised Code. 83

~~(C)~~(D)(1) A board of elections, in conjunction with the board 84  
of education of a city, local, or exempted village school 85  
district, the governing authority of a community school 86  
established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code, or the chief 87  
administrator of a nonpublic school may establish a program 88  
permitting certain high school students to apply and, if appointed 89  
by the board of elections, to serve as precinct officers at a 90  
primary, special, or general election. 91

In addition to the requirements established by division 92  
~~(C)~~(D)(2) of this section, a board of education, governing 93  
authority, or chief administrator that establishes a program under 94  
this division in conjunction with a board of elections may 95  
establish additional criteria that students shall meet to be 96  
eligible to participate in that program. 97

(2)(a) To be eligible to participate in a program established 98  
under division ~~(C)~~(D)(1) of this section, a student shall be a 99  
United States citizen, a resident of the county, at least 100  
seventeen years of age, and enrolled in the senior year of high 101  
school. 102

(b) Any student applying to participate in a program 103  
established under division ~~(C)~~(D)(1) of this section, as part of 104  
the student's application process, shall declare the student's 105  
political party affiliation with the board of elections. 106

(3) No student appointed as a precinct officer pursuant to a 107  
program established under division ~~(C)~~(D)(1) of this section shall 108  
be designated as a presiding judge. 109

(4) Any student participating in a program established under 110  
division ~~(C)~~(D)(1) of this section shall be excused for that 111

student's absence from school on the day of an election at which 112  
the student is serving as a precinct officer. 113

~~(D)~~(E) In any precinct with six or more precinct officers, up 114  
to two students participating in a program established under 115  
division (D)(1) of this section who are under eighteen years of 116  
age may serve as precinct officers. Not more than one precinct 117  
officer in any given precinct with fewer than six precinct 118  
officers shall be under eighteen years of age. 119

**Sec. 3503.01.** (A) Every citizen of the United States who is 120  
of the age of eighteen years or over and who has been a resident 121  
of the state thirty days immediately preceding the election at 122  
which the citizen offers to vote, is a resident of the county and 123  
precinct in which the citizen offers to vote, and has been 124  
registered to vote for thirty days, has the qualifications of an 125  
elector and may vote at all elections in the precinct in which the 126  
citizen resides. 127

(B) When only a portion of a precinct is included within the 128  
boundaries of ~~a school~~ an election district, the board of 129  
elections may assign the electors residing in such portion of a 130  
precinct to the nearest precinct or portion of a precinct within 131  
the boundaries of such ~~school~~ election district for the purpose of 132  
voting at any special ~~school~~ election held in such ~~school~~ 133  
district. In any election in which only a part of the electors in 134  
a precinct is qualified to vote, the board may assign voters in 135  
such part to an adjoining precinct. Such assignment may be made to 136  
an adjoining precinct in another county with the consent and 137  
approval of the board of elections of such other county if the 138  
number of voters assigned to vote in a precinct in another county 139  
is two hundred or less. 140

The board shall notify all such electors so assigned, at 141  
least ten days prior to the holding of any such election, of the 142

location of the polling place where they are entitled to vote at 143  
such election. 144

As used in division (B) of this section, "election district" 145  
means a school district, municipal corporation, township, or other 146  
political subdivision that includes territory in more than one 147  
precinct or any other district or authority that includes 148  
territory in more than one precinct and that is authorized by law 149  
to place an issue on the ballot at a special election. 150

**Section 2.** That existing sections 3501.22 and 3503.01 of the 151  
Revised Code are hereby repealed. 152