

Committees:

Aging and Long-Term Care
Criminal Justice
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Joint Medicaid Oversight



State Boards & Commissions

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, Vice President
Governor's Executive Workforce Board
Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, Vice President
Ohio Advisory Council on Aging
Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission

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THOMAS E. WEST

State Representative | 49th Ohio House District

September 28, 2020

Governor Mike DeWine
Vern Riffe Center
77 S High St, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Secretary Frank LaRose
22 N Fourth St, 16th Fl
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine and Secretary LaRose,

Firstly, thank you for your continued leadership of our great state through the Covid-19 pandemic. I hope this finds you and your loved ones well. Thank you both for your efforts to ensure this year's election runs safely and smoothly and to reassure the public of this. I write to you today to encourage you to include government employees, both state and local, in your outreach efforts to encourage Ohioans to serve as poll workers.

Mr. Secretary, I think your efforts to encourage Ohioans from various backgrounds to serve as poll workers have been commendable thus far. From barber shops to breweries to young Ohioans to the veteran community, you have done well in casting your net far and wide, so to speak. Your Poll Worker Tracker has been a tremendous and innovative resource to keep the public updated on our progress, as well. I think a targeted outreach effort to state and local government employees would be a great addition to your strategy for multiple reasons.

Firstly, as you are aware, state and local government agencies are authorized to provide employees with paid leave for working the polls under section 3501.28 of the Ohio Revised Code, on top of compensation provided to poll workers. Moreover, since government employees are already civically engaged, they may already be interested in serving as a poll worker in the first place, especially once they are made aware that their agency can authorize paid leave for the occasion.

Your team has made great progress thus far in reaching each county's bare minimum number of poll workers as well as the goal number of poll workers. However, as of last week's update to the tracker, most counties, including my home county of Stark, have not reached their goal for committed and trained poll workers. I think that this additional targeted outreach effort would serve as another tool to help your office and each county close these shortfalls.

Thank you again for all of your work to date, and I hope you will give this proposal consideration. I should also inform you that a former mayor in my district brought it to my attention, so I cannot take credit for the idea, myself!

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As always, you are welcome to reach out to me personally at 330-268-1789 or thomas.west@ohiohouse.gov if you'd like to discuss this matter further. Thank you for your attention to my request, and take good care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas E. West". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Thomas E. West

State Representative

49th Ohio House District

