



Ohio Revised Code

Section 3513.22 Canvass and certification of votes.

Effective: October 3, 2023

Legislation: House Bill 33

(A) Not earlier than the fifth day or later than the fifteenth day after a primary election, the board of elections shall begin to canvass the election returns from the precincts in which electors were entitled to vote at that election and shall continue the canvass daily until it is completed.

The board shall complete the canvass not later than the twenty-first day after the day of the election. Eighty-one days after the day of the election, the canvass of election returns shall be deemed final, and no amendments to the canvass may be made after that date. The secretary of state may specify an earlier date upon which the canvass of election returns shall be deemed final, and after which amendments to the final canvass may not be made, if so required by federal law.

(B) The county executive committee of each political party that participated in the election, and each committee designated in a petition to represent the petitioners pursuant to which a question or issue was submitted at the election, may designate a qualified elector who may be present at and may observe the making of the canvass. Each person for whom votes were cast in the election may also be present at and observe the making of the canvass.

(C) When the canvass of the election returns from all of the precincts in the county in which electors were entitled to vote at the election has been completed, the board shall determine and declare the results of the elections determined by the electors of the county or of a district or subdivision within the county. If more than the number of persons to be nominated for or elected to an office received the largest and an equal number of votes, the tie shall be resolved by lot by the chairperson of the board in the presence of a majority of the members of the board. The declaration shall be in writing and shall be signed by at least a majority of the members of the board. It shall bear the date of the day upon which it is made, and a copy of it shall be posted by the board in a conspicuous place in its office. The board shall keep the copy posted for a period of at least five days.

The board shall promptly certify abstracts of the results of the elections within its county upon forms the secretary of state prescribes. One certified copy of each abstract shall be kept in the office of the



board, and one certified copy of each abstract shall promptly be sent to the secretary of state. The board shall also promptly send a certified copy of that part of an abstract that pertains to an election in which only electors of a district comprised of more than one county but less than all of the counties of the state voted to the board of the most populous county in the district. It shall also promptly send a certified copy of that part of an abstract that pertains to an election in which only electors of a subdivision located partly within the county voted to the board of the county in which the major portion of the population of the subdivision is located.

If, after certifying and sending abstracts and parts of abstracts, a board finds that any abstract or part of any abstract is incorrect, it shall promptly prepare, certify, and send a corrected abstract or part of an abstract to take the place of each incorrect abstract or part of an abstract previously certified and sent.

(D)(1) When certified copies of abstracts are received by the secretary of state, the secretary of state shall canvass those abstracts and determine and declare the results of all elections in which electors throughout the entire state voted. If more than the number of persons to be nominated for or elected to an office received the largest and an equal number of votes, the tie shall be resolved by lot by the secretary of state in the presence of the governor, the auditor of state, and the attorney general, who at the request of the secretary of state shall assemble to witness the drawing of the lot. The declaration of results by the secretary of state shall be in writing and shall be signed by the secretary of state. It shall bear the date of the day upon which it is made, and a copy of it shall be posted by the secretary of state in a conspicuous place in the secretary of state's office. The secretary of state shall keep the copy posted for a period of at least five days.

(2) When certified copies of parts of abstracts are received by the board of the most populous county in a district from the boards of all of the counties in the district, the board receiving those abstracts shall canvass them and determine and declare the results of the elections in which only electors of the district voted. If more than the number of persons to be nominated for or elected to an office received the largest and equal number of votes, the tie shall be resolved by lot by the chairperson of the board in the presence of a majority of the members of the board. The declaration of results by the board shall be in writing and shall be signed by at least a majority of the members of the board. It shall bear the date of the day upon which it is made, and a copy of it shall be posted by the board in a conspicuous place in its office. The board shall keep the copy posted for a period of at least five



days.

(3) When certified copies of parts of abstracts are received by the board of a county in which the major portion of the population of a subdivision located in more than one county is located from the boards of each county in which other portions of that subdivision are located, the board receiving those abstracts shall canvass them and determine and declare the results of the elections in which only electors of that subdivision voted. If more than the number of persons to be nominated for or elected to an office received the largest and an equal number of votes, the tie shall be resolved by lot by the chairperson of the board in the presence of a majority of the members of the board. The declaration of results by the board shall be in writing and shall be signed by at least a majority of the members of the board. It shall bear the date of the day upon which it is made, and a copy of it shall be posted by the board in a conspicuous place in its office. The board shall keep the copy posted for a period of at least five days.

(E) Election officials, who are required to declare the results of primary elections, shall issue to each person declared nominated for or elected to an office, an appropriate certificate of nomination or election, provided that the boards required to determine and declare the results of the elections for candidates for nomination to the office of representative to congress from a congressional district shall, in lieu of issuing a certificate of nomination, certify to the secretary of state the names of the candidates nominated, and the secretary of state, upon receipt of that certification, shall issue a certificate of nomination to each person whose name is so certified. Certificates of nomination or election issued by boards to candidates and certifications to the secretary of state shall not be issued before the expiration of the time within which applications for recounts of votes may be filed or before recounts of votes, which have been applied for, are completed.