



Via Electronic Mail

November 7, 2025

Re: Mahoning County Board of Elections Facilities and Security

Dear Chairman Betras,

As the state's Chief Election Officer, I am responsible for ensuring county boards of elections are prepared and able to run secure and accessible elections. Therefore, I was alarmed to see the news on September 29 that a pipe in the Mahoning County Board of Elections had sprung a leak. My understanding is that no voting machines were damaged, thanks in large part to your team's readiness measures. However, this situation, combined with months of local discussions about the condition of the facility that houses the board of elections, raises concerns.

I respectfully request your assessment, as board chair, of whether the board of elections and its facilities currently comply with Directive 2025-29 and Chapter 3 of the Election Official Manual (EOM). If not, please outline any shortcomings in detail, along with the steps taken to address them.

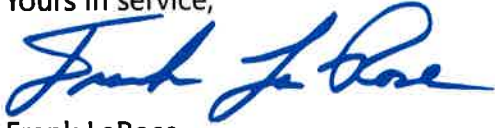
I am requesting your response to this inquiry by December 15, 2025. In your response, please consider these questions:

- Are the board of elections' facilities in compliance with Directive 2025-29?
 - If not, what specific shortfalls exist?
- What immediate options are available to the board to address these shortfalls?
- What are your long-term plans?
- Has the water incursion issue from September 29 been resolved?
- Moving forward, are you keeping your voting machines on-site at the board of elections or relocating them to another secure location to minimize the risk of water damage?

My team and I look forward to working with you to ensure that the Mahoning County Board of Elections is compliant with the state's security standards and is prepared to

deliver the type of elections that our voters have come to expect. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose

Ohio Secretary of State