



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Emily E. Wendel

S.B. 204

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Dolan, Coley, Eklund, Huffman, Lehner

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires uncontested races in an election to appear at the end of the ballot, after the contested races, in the same order as is prescribed for contested races.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill requires uncontested races in an election to appear at the end of the ballot, after the contested races. The uncontested races must be listed in the same order as is prescribed for contested races.

Under continuing law, the ballot at a given election is actually made up of one or more ballots, as described below. The bill requires an uncontested race to appear at the end of its particular ballot, but not necessarily after every item to be voted on at the election. For example, an uncontested statewide race would appear after the contested county races, but it might still appear before any questions or issues. The ballot types are as follows:

- Presidential ballot;¹
- Office type ballot, including statewide, district, and county races, in that order;²

¹ R.C. 3505.10, not in the bill.

² R.C. 3505.03.

- Nonpartisan ballot, including State Board of Education, judicial, nonpartisan municipal or township, and local board of education races, in that order;³
- Questions and issues.⁴

Similarly, at a primary election, the bill requires any uncontested nominations to be listed after the contested nominations. Continuing law requires the Secretary of State to determine the order in which the races are listed on the ballot. And, under continuing law, if no contested races will appear on a political party's primary ballot in an odd-numbered year, then no primary is held for that party.⁵

The bill would not apply to any uncontested races for partisan municipal office. (The Revised Code does not prescribe the ballot order for those races.)

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	09-28-17

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³ R.C. 3505.04.

⁴ R.C. 3505.06, not in the bill.

⁵ R.C. 3513.13. See also R.C. 3513.02, not in the bill.

