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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 2*
135th General Assembly
Special Session

Bill Analysis

Version: As Reported by House Government Oversight

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Dobos

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SUMMARY

- Delays the deadline, from August 7 to September 1, for a major political party to certify its presidential and vice-presidential candidates to the Secretary of State for purposes of the 2024 general election.
- Allows a party to make that certification, for purposes of the 2024 election, in writing by any reasonably reliable method that, under the circumstances, will provide for the Secretary to receive it by the deadline, including hand delivery, U.S. mail, commercial carrier, facsimile, or email.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Delayed deadline for certification of presidential candidates

For purposes of the 2024 general election, the bill delays the deadline for a major political party to certify the names of its presidential and vice-presidential candidates to the Secretary of State after it nominates those candidates at its convention. Under the bill, a party must certify its candidates by the 65th day before the election (September 1), instead of the 90th day (August 7). The bill incorporates the Revised Code's definition of "major political party," which is any political party organized under Ohio laws whose candidate for Governor or nominees for presidential electors received at least 20% of the total vote cast for that office at the most recent regular state election.¹

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House Government Oversight Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ Section 1 of the bill. See also R.C. 3501.01 and 3505.10, not in the bill.

For purposes of the 2024 election, a political party may transmit the certification to the Secretary of State by any reasonably reliable method that, under the circumstances, will provide for the Secretary of State to receive it by the deadline, including by hand delivery, any type of U.S. mail delivery, commercial carriers, facsimile, and email.²

The bill requires the Secretary of State to certify the forms of the official ballots to be used at the 2024 general election no later than the 60th day before the election, or Friday, September 6.³

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-28-24
Reported, H. Government Oversight	---

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² Section 1(A)(1)(a) through (e) of the bill.

³ Section 1(A)(2) of the bill.