

Election Protection 101





Election Protection in Ohio

Agenda

- **What is Election Protection**
- **Election Response Priorities**
- **Resources**
- **Coalition Partners**
- **What can you do**

What is Election Protection?

Election Protection programs make sure that:

- Every eligible voter has a reasonable opportunity to vote and have their vote counted;
- The election administration process is followed to the letter of the law in a nonpartisan manner;
- The integrity of the election administration process is maintained and all administrators act in good faith.
- The side with the most votes wins;
- The vote counts are legally certified and there is a peaceful transition of power;
- Everyone stays safe.



1-866-OUR-VOTE

866OurVote.org

**WHEN IN DOUBT,
CALL THE HOTLINE**

- one-stop-shop voter resource
- Field random voting questions
- Escalate an issue to the state or national level
- Troubleshoot on-the-ground issues
- Intersection of poll monitors/ legal experts/ peacekeepers
- Call or text this number

1-866-OUR-VOTE

**WHEN IN DOUBT,
CALL THE HOTLINE**

**NATIONAL ELECTION PROTECTION
COALITION**



STATE LEVEL EXPERTS & ORGANIZERS



**POLL MONITORS | PEACEKEEPERS |
LEGAL MONITORS**

Ohio Voter Rights Coalition



- Year-round voting rights advocacy
- Biweekly call open to organizers and advocates

Election Protection in Ohio

**1-866-OUR-VOTE.
1-866- 687 - 8683**

Ohio Voting Rights Coalition hosts an annual summit, offers in-person and online trainings, and coordinates:

- 866-OUR-VOTE promotion
- Roving Poll Monitors
- Boards of Elections Monitors
- Peacekeepers
- EP Command Center
- Legal Monitors



BOE Monitoring Programs

Boards of Elections Monitoring

- Build relationships with Boards of Elections
- Monitor BOE meetings and reports for irregularities or noteworthy updates
- Postcard appreciation program
- Certification verification action team

NEW IN 2026!

The LEEP Program

Lawyer Engagement Election Protection Program

- Roving legal monitors program on Election Day
- Intersectional legal news briefings and risk assessments with national and state experts
- Research and monitoring of legal developments
- On the ground problem-solving alongside field organizers

Planning for the worst, just in case!

**WHEN IN DOUBT,
CALL THE HOTLINE**

**1-866-OUR-VOTE.
1-866- 687 - 8683**

We plan for worst case scenario:

- What if someone in the federal government tries to interfere with state-run elections?
- What if someone in the state government tries to sabotage county-administered elections?
- What if polling locations are blocked or closed?
- What if people are wrongly turned away from voting?
- What if a safety threat shows up?

Get Ahead of Future Headaches

CALL THE HOTLINE!

1-866-OUR-VOTE.

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

- Troubling or misleading flyers
- Threats to election workers
- Disinformation, intentional or not
- Rumors or leads about bad actors
- Funny business from election administrators or public officials

Get involved in Election Protection



- Sign up to be a peacekeeper, poll monitor, or legal monitor
- **COME TO THE SEPTEMBER 19 SUMMIT!**
- Get on the Ohio Voter Rights Coalition listserve and get more involved!

Get Involved: **ProtectTheVote.net**
Upcoming Events: **mobilize.us/ovrc/**

Legal Pros: The LEEP Program

If you are or know a lawyer interested in becoming involved in organizing around election protection, please send them to Maria! Legal volunteers can [complete this form](#)

Empower, don't intimidate

1-866-OUR-VOTE

**Don't talk about RISKS without offering
RESOURCES.**

Most people just want to know there's someone to call and a safety plan in place. Infrequent voters are easily deterred from voting, and can even look for excuses. Don't give them one.

There's a plan. There's a hotline. There's an army of volunteers keeping their ears and eyes on the ground.

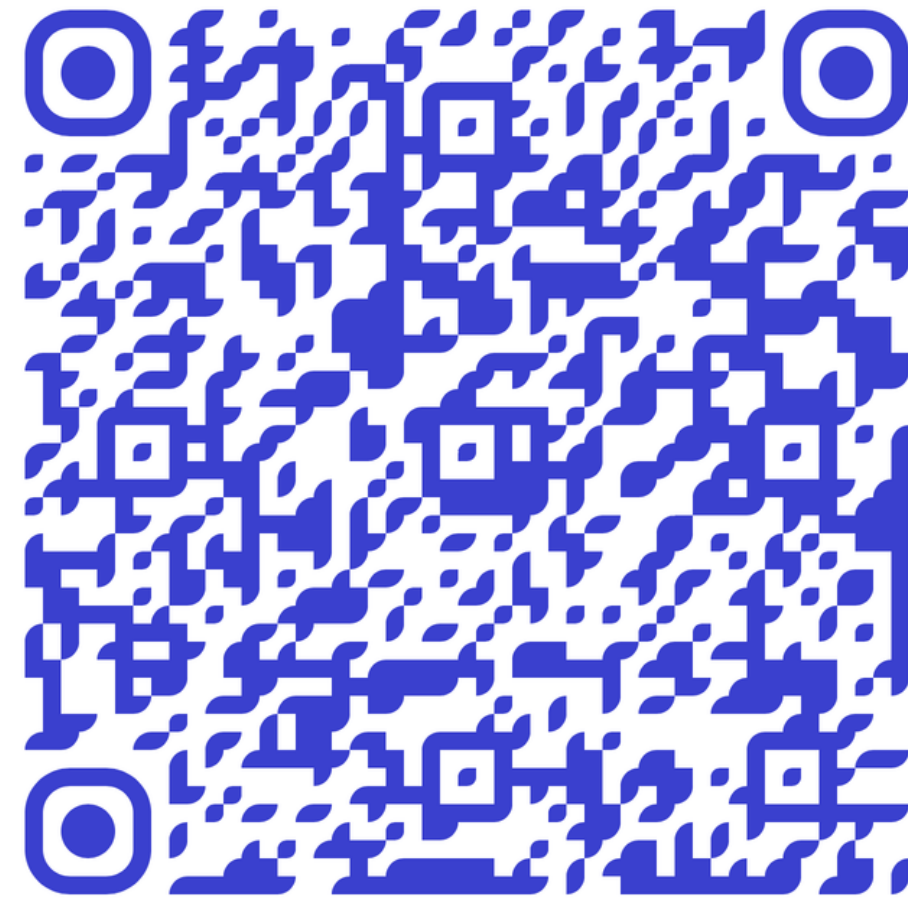
Empower, don't intimidate



- **Focus on offering reassurance**, even when you also feel nervous. Anxiety is high, focus on channeling it into tangible actions.
- **The best way to make sure elections work is to WORK ELECTIONS.** The more eyes and ears on the ground, the more faith we can have in everything going smoothly.
- **Can we promise nothing will go wrong? of course not. But we can promise that we are prepared to fight like hell.**

**Monday,
September 1,
6pm**

**How Elections Work in Ohio: Balance of power,
the US Constitution, and local elections**





OHAgainstExtremism.org

WE  OUR
MONTHLY DONORS

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

- Make time to vote
- Address barriers
- Reduce risk
- Vote Early (In person)
- Help friends & family vote



OHIO'S MIDTERM ELECTION 2026

NOV 3, 2026

RED WINE & BLUE CIVICS

In 2026, Ohio ballots will include

- Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, Attorney General
- U.S. Senate & House Candidates
- 99 Ohio House Candidates & 17 Ohio Senate Candidates
- 2 Ohio Supreme Court Candidates
- County Positions - Commissioners, Auditors, Treasurers, etc.
- Local Levies - Schools, Police, Fire, etc.

Key Midterm Election Dates

- **Oct 5:** Deadline to register to vote
- **Oct 6 - Nov 1:** Early in-person voting at Board of Elections (see hours below)
- **NOW through Oct 27:** request an absentee ballot. Requests must be returned to your Board of Elections by 8:30 pm on 10/27.
- **Nov 3 is Election Day:** Vote from 6:30 am-7:30 pm. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Board of Elections by 7:30 pm.

Early In-Person Voting Hours

Oct 6-9	Tues-Fri	8:00am - 5:00pm
Oct 12-16	Mon-Fri	8:00am - 5:00pm
Oct 19-23	Mon-Fri	8:00am - 5:00pm
Oct 24	Sat	8:00am - 4:00pm
Oct 26	Mon	7:30am - 7:30pm
Oct 27	Tues	7:30am - 8:30pm
Oct 28-30	Wed- Fri	7:30am - 7:30pm
Oct 31	Sat	8:00am - 4:00pm
Nov 1	Sun	1:00 pm - 4:00pm

Request Absentee Ballot

Voter Registration & Polling Locations

Contact us at: ohio@redwine.blue

Election Protection Information

Voting is one of our most sacred rights as citizens—but it's never been a right enjoyed equally by all Americans. Marginalized communities—people of color, people with disabilities, students, the elderly—all face obstacles when trying to access the ballot box. These are obstacles that are designed to suppress their vote.

We must be prepared to protect our neighbors and help them find a way to vote that would make them feel more secure—like mail-in or early voting—if they don't feel safe going in person. Going to the polls in larger groups adds another layer of security.

Fighting voter suppression doesn't happen only on Election Day. This is a year round fight—but one we can win!

If you need help related to voting, including on Election Day, contact the Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE.

Want to learn more?

- Join an upcoming RWB Ohio event.
- Fill out our volunteer interest form and we'll be in touch!
- Check out the Red Wine & Blue App and our easy-to-use Rally tool. You'll get everything you need in one place!
- Join our FB group to find like-minded Ohioans near you!

Join us on our RWB App

RWB Ohio FB group

Volunteer with RWB

Find RWB Events Here

Voting Rights Website

Contact us at: ohio@redwine.blue

RED WINE & BLUE CIVICS

MY 2026 VOTING PLAN

Local elections are taking place nationwide this year. Are you ready? Look up who will be on your ballot at vote.org or on your [state's board of elections website](#). Fill out this form to take to the ballot box with you!

HOW I'M VOTING

- ☐ Early Voting In-Person
- ☐ Mail-in or Absentee Ballot
- ☐ Election Day In-Person

WHEN I'M VOTING

Date: _____
Time: _____

WHERE I'M VOTING

Location Name: _____
Address: _____

OTHER DETAILS

- ☐ My voter registration is active
- ☐ I have an approved voter ID (if required in your state)
- ☐ I've scheduled a ride (details: _____)
- ☐ I've scheduled childcare (details: _____)
- ☐ I'm bringing these friends with me to vote: _____
- ☐ I've packed water and snacks

WHO I'M VOTING FOR

Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____
Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____
Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____
Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____
Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____
Race _____	☒ I'm voting for: _____

LOCAL LEVIES/BONDS/MILLAGES/BALLOT INITIATIVES

☐ I support / ☐ I don't support _____
☐ I support / ☐ I don't support _____

If you are in line when the polls close, be sure you stay in line and vote!



Learn more about the importance of local elections at redwine.blue





HOW TO FIGHT BARRIERS TO THE BALLOT

Voting is one of our most sacred rights as citizens—but it's never been a right enjoyed equally by all Americans. Marginalized communities—people of color, people with disabilities, students, the elderly—all face obstacles when trying to access the ballot box. Obstacles that are designed to suppress their vote.

In light of Supreme Court decisions, including *Louisiana v. Callais*, and extremist politicians attacking the right to vote more than we've seen since Jim Crow, ensuring we do everything we can to help ALL members of our communities vote is more important than ever. This worksheet will help you identify roadblocks and help voters overcome unjust barriers.

VOTING CHECKLIST: START WITH THE BASICS ALL VOTERS NEED TO KNOW

- ☐ Deadline to register: _____
- ☐ Are there voter ID requirements in your state? _____
- ☐ Polling location and hours – both on Election Day
and early voting period: _____
- ☐ Deadline to request a mail or absentee ballot: _____
- ☐ Date mail and absentee ballots are sent to voters: _____
- ☐ Deadline to return a mail or absentee ballot: _____
- ☐ Address to return a mail/absentee ballot or drop off a ballot : _____

Now let's work through several of the barriers different voters face—the extra steps they have to go through that many voters might take for granted. Putting yourself in their shoes can help us make sure everyone has equal access to the ballot.

VOTING WITH A DISABILITY OR ILLNESS

- Is your polling place accessible or are there obstacles (steep ramps, gravel parking lots)?
- Are there voting machines at your precinct that are accessible?
- What are your state's absentee ballot rules?
- If you have to present information or ID in person to be able to vote absentee, do you have a friend, neighbor, or relative who can help?

Voter Suppression Tactics: Many states have limited access to mail and absentee voting and now the federal government is attacking mail voting with an illegal executive order. Some states have even tried to **criminalize** having a person assist a disabled voter at the polls.

VOTING WITHOUT RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION

- What are the local services that provide rides to the polls?
- Do public transportation services or local ride-share companies provide fare-free days on election day? If so, which ones?
- For states with drop-off ballot boxes, are you allowed to have someone drop off your ballot for you?







Rally Together - Ohio

Elections are decided by the people who show up, and many are decided by just a handful of votes. Before you help your friends and family make a plan to vote, make sure your own registration is up to date. Check your voter registration below to get started.

Legal First Name *

Smith

Last Name *

Sage

[I go by a different name](#)

Address *

1475 W Gray St

Email *

you@example.com

Enter your email to receive updates and information about upcoming elections.

Phone number *



OHIO:
HOW THE
STATE HOUSE
WORKS

Tuesday, Sept 1st
7:00 pm Virtual



Laura Mullen
RWB



Rachel Coyle

TROUBLEMAKER TRAINING



HOW TO BE AN
ELECTIONS SLEUTH

Join us for an evening of learning how to research candidates and get (and share!) all the tea!

SEPTEMBER 8 | 7:30 PM EST | VIRTUAL





OHIO
family meeting

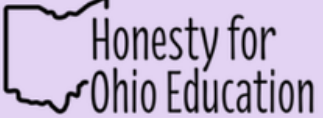
Wed Sept 9,
7:00 pm

OHIO:
THE STATE OF
EDUCATION





Dr. Christina Collins



Thursday, Sept 10th
7:00 pm Virtual



SEPTEMBER 13 | 7:00 PM ET | VIRTUAL EVENT



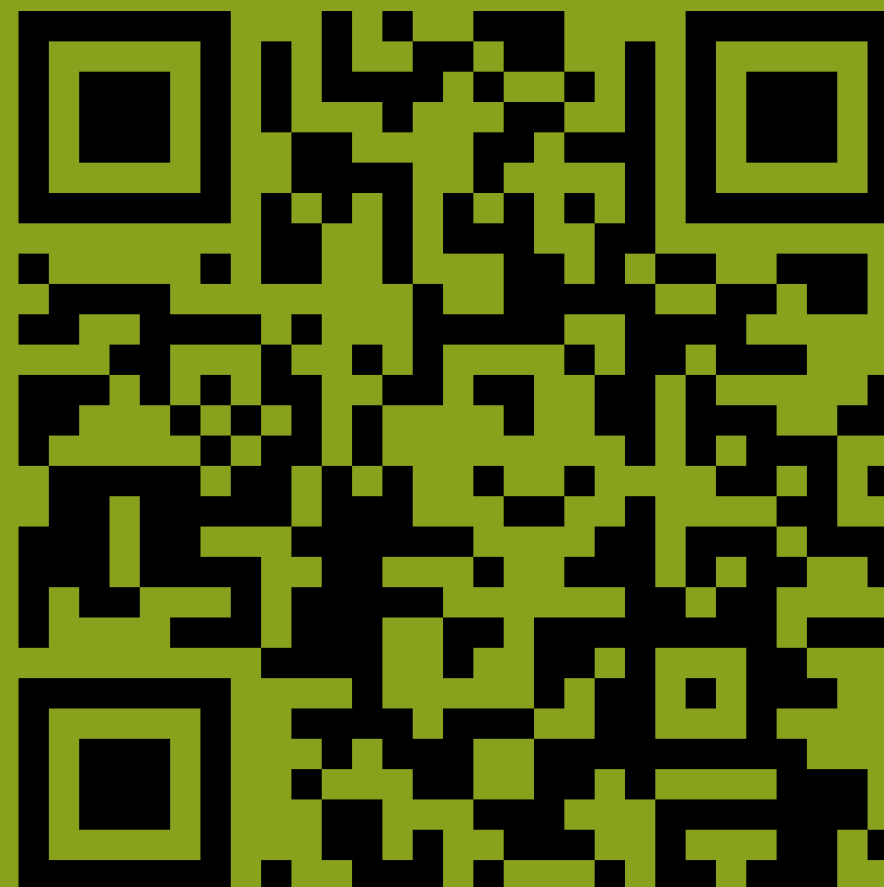
Wednesday, Sept 16th
7:00 pm Virtual



Collin Marozzi



ACLU
Ohio



Thank you!