

August 5, 2024

Attorney General Dave Yost  
30 E. Broad St., 14th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Secretary of State Frank LaRose  
180 East Broad Street, 16th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Sent via Certified Mail

Subject: Urgent Call for Action on Election Transparency and Legislative Concerns

Dear Attorney General Yost and Secretary of State LaRose,

I am writing to you on behalf of the collective of Ohio voters who expressed their agreement with the Open Letter which was delivered (or for Secretary LaRose, forwarded) to you in March 2024. The Open Letter, in supporting an immediate investigation and a move to hand-counted paper ballots (which has gained substantial public support), highlights critical certification and cybersecurity concerns regarding the current electronic voting systems used in Ohio. We are also submitting additional signatures of Ohio voters who stand in agreement with the Open Letter, which we believe indicates the growing awareness of these issues and the need to address them.

Under your watch, the use of these electronic voting systems has come under increasingly intense scrutiny, with more Ohioans expressing distrust and seeking assurances that their votes are accurately counted. These concerns have consequently been raised with members of the General Assembly who are considering superficial reforms to appease the public. Incidentally, the concerns raised in the Open Letter expose the wholly inadequate and diversionary proposed interventions presently being considered in the General Assembly. Indeed, no one can legitimately deny that concerns over the very architecture of these machines have been raised by experts in the field of cybersecurity since at least 2007. Moreover, as concerns over cybersecurity issues for these voting systems continue to mount, CISA and the FBI have just issued a Secure by Design Alert to operating system (OS) command injection vulnerabilities -- a preventable yet persistent security flaw. We find the utter inability to directly address these fundamental design and certification issues both mystifying and extremely concerning.

Despite your receiving notice of the concerns raised in the Open Letter in March, and the growing crisis in confidence since that time, your offices have not taken any meaningful action to investigate or address these serious issues. Even more astonishingly, your offices fail to communicate any demonstrable desire to hold yourselves accountable for responding to the public's concerns about these controversial voting systems. As part of our ongoing efforts, we have also forwarded the Open Letter to county governments and Boards of Elections across the State of Ohio. Despite not being able to refute the substantive issues raised in the Open Letter, none to our knowledge have called for an investigation or for an immediate move to hand-counted paper ballots.

Again, while you have failed to act, there has been a growing demand for transparency in our electoral process and even calls for the hand counting of paper ballots by major political candidates for the November 2024 elections. Surely you are aware of this. We also suspect that you and your Boards of Elections are already aware that hand-counted paper ballots are actually cheaper and easier to audit than using electronic election systems, yet responses to the concerns in the Open Letter are curiously limited to non-substantive and stale talking points. This collective lack of transparency in Ohio's elections infrastructure is both disturbing and disrespectful to Ohio voters who deserve a clear and transparent electoral process and an accounting for how taxpayer money is being spent.

Given the seriousness of these concerns and the collective failure to address them, the Open Letter was forwarded to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Election Assistance Commission Office of Inspector General (EAC OIG), and the Department of Justice (DOJ). Furthermore, a copy of this letter, along with the Open Letter and other copies of correspondence, is being sent to Senator Chuck Grassley for federal review and to the Ohio Auditor's Office to request an investigation.

It is not too late for you to correct your failure to act and to become a champion of transparency for the people of Ohio in time for the November 2024 elections, though time is running short. Hopefully, you appreciate the urgency and need for your offices to take immediate action to investigate these concerns, implement hand-counted serialized and counterfeit-proof paper ballots, and restore public trust in Ohio's electoral process. Transparency and accountability are fundamental to public trust in the electoral process, and it is imperative that Ohio's voting systems reflect these values.

We look forward to your prompt response and a commitment to addressing these pressing issues. For our part, we will continue to raise public awareness, seek public accountability, and track your responses (or failures to respond) accordingly.

Sincerely,

Cc: Keith Faber, Ohio Auditor's Office  
Senator Chuck Grassley  
Attachments: Open Letter and Signatures  
Letter to members of General Assembly  
Letter to DHS, EAC OIG, and DOJ