

Dear Nursing Home Administrator,

Voting is one of our most fundamental civic rights, and every eligible Ohioan should have the opportunity to make their voice heard in the upcoming election. Nursing home administrators and their staff play an important role in helping home-bound residents exercise that right by ensuring they have access to accurate information and lawful assistance.

To better understand this role, we encourage you or a designated member of your staff to contact your county board of elections before the November 3 General Election. The board is the trusted source for answers to voting questions and options available to your residents.

Most importantly, Ohio law authorizes them to coordinate voting assistance for eligible voters in long-term care who are unable to get to a polling location. This includes sending a bipartisan team of board employees to deliver an absentee ballot, assist with filling it out, if needed, and return it to the board of elections. This option is easy for long-term care facilities and convenient for voters, and, most importantly, it helps keep voting secure and legal for all involved. Please contact your county board of elections right away to schedule. You can find board contact information online at VoteOhio.gov/Boards.

As a reminder, residents who vote an absentee ballot have several options for receiving assistance:

- **Family Assistance:** Certain family members may return a resident's completed absentee ballot to the board of elections as allowed under R.C. 3509.05(C)(1).
- **Bipartisan Board Assistance:** For qualifying confined voters, the county board of elections can send two board employees — one from each major political party — to deliver and return the resident's ballot under R.C. 3509.08.
- **Assistance for Voters with Disabilities:** A voter who needs help because of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union under 52 U.S.C. § 10508. To ensure compliance with state and federal law, ballots delivered on behalf of another individual must be taken inside and personally delivered to a county board of elections official.

We also ask that you help ensure your staff understands Ohio's restrictions on possessing and returning another person's absentee ballot. Staff should only possess or return a resident's ballot when permitted by law and should never pressure, influence, or interfere with a resident while voting. See R.C. 3599.21(A); 52 U.S.C. § 10508.

The enclosed flyer provides important information for employees about ballot harvesting and the lawful handling of residents' ballots. **Please post this flyer in a location where it will be readily visible to your staff and review this information with employees who may assist residents with voting.**

Working closely with your county board of elections helps make voting easier and more accessible for residents and ensures that every eligible voter in your care can lawfully participate in our democratic process. County boards have a long history of working with nursing facilities to provide secure and convenient voting services, and we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity for the upcoming election.

Our office is also happy to serve as a resource and to answer any questions you may have. Please don't hesitate to reach out at any time.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for helping Ohio residents exercise their right to vote safely and securely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Burnett", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Burnett
Elections Director

Enclosure: Ballot Harvesting Flyer