

Committees

Finance, Ranking Member
Finance Subcommittee, Infrastructure &
American Rescue Plan Act Funding
Constitutional Resolutions
Insurance
Pensions



Bride Rose Sweeney
State Representative

16th District, Cuyahoga County

Bay Village
Berea
North Olmsted
Olmsted Falls
Olmsted Township
Westlake

October 20, 2023

Secretary Frank LaRose
Office of the Ohio Secretary of State
Sent via Electronic Mail

RE: Purging more registered Ohio voters from the voter rolls

Dear Secretary LaRose:

I write to ask you to clarify your recent decision to purge registered Ohio voters from the rolls, a controversial and reviled practice that has been cited as the most aggressive and reckless in the nation. Amid a staff exodus from your office and with another election already underway, it appears that you ordered county boards of elections to purge tens of thousands of voters.

Under Directive [2023-10](#), you ordered the boards to purge voters from the rolls by September 27, after the September 22 voting start date for the November 7 election. You correctly ordered a stop to the originally scheduled July removal of voters after the GOP hastily added the August 8th election to the calendar. However, inexplicably, you ordered the purge to be rescheduled and take place during voting for the November election that immediately followed.

This is a stunning order buried in a confusing directive on your website. Meanwhile, you have outdated information in the Election Official Manual^[1] produced by your office and on your hidden voter purge [website](#). Your website refers to the May 2024 primary and mentions nothing about the next two elections nor the voter purge that, if boards followed your orders, just took place with no public notice. How is voter purging still a priority when other tasks—like updating the Election Official Manual—are not getting done? How is the public supposed to know what is going on when your purge website is hidden and outdated?

Ohioans deserve to know the following: Did the purge take place? If so, when did it happen? How many voters were removed from the rolls? From which counties? What were the ages and other demographic information of these voters? If voters were indeed purged, I urge you to undo this bad decision and restore them to the rolls since voting is already underway for this November 7th election.

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center – 10th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

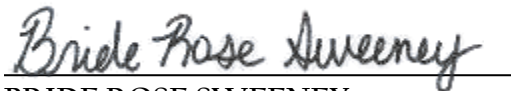
Contact

(614) 466-3350
Rep16@OhioHouse.gov
ohiohouse.gov/bride-rose-sweeney

This is a purge of choice. You are not required to do this. Since you insist on purging voters, the very least you can do is wait until after the election to do it. That is what your office did when you purged over 124,000 voters after the November 2022 election. You even stopped the purge before the August 2023 election, but now that our reproductive rights, our very lives, are on the November ballot, you have rushed to purge voters. I urge you to do the right thing, be transparent, and undo any damage that may have been done.

I look forward to your timely response to this urgent matter.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bride Rose Sweeney". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

BRIDE ROSE SWEENEY

State Representative, 16th District
135th Ohio General Assembly

