



# Ohio Association Of Election Officials

*The Election Professionals*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ELECTION OFFICIALS PRESS FOR AUGUST 2 PRIMARY**

**COLUMBUS, OH-** In response to an Ohio Supreme Court ruling suggesting that Ohio should delay its second primary election to a date later than August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Ohio Association of Election Officials released the following statements.

“Ohio simply must hold its second primary election on August 2<sup>nd</sup> if we are to successfully navigate the rest of 2022. August 2<sup>nd</sup> is the key to both a successful second primary and a successful general election in November,” said OAEO president Brian Sleeth.

“The Ohio Secretary of State succinctly, clearly and factually laid out to the federal district court why August 2<sup>nd</sup> is so important,” added OAEO First Vice-President Sherry Poland. “Ohio has unique and important deadlines that will be negatively impacted if the election date is set any earlier or any later than August 2<sup>nd</sup>.”

Ohio has a generous early voting period of 28 days, a requirement to mail overseas and military ballots 46 days before the election, and complex requirements for testing voting systems and proofing ballots that all would be impacted by any date other than that suggested by the Secretary of State. 2022 involves added complexities as boards of elections must incorporate new legislative district boundaries into multiple IT systems, a task that can take up to two weeks in some counties.

“One dissenting justice compared the redistricting process to the movie Groundhog Day. It is an apt description for election officials who feel like Bill Murray. Indeed, we are trapped in an endless cycle of fits and starts, unable to begin or conclude the important work our voters expect us to complete. The suggestion that a date other than August 2<sup>nd</sup> will work has only served to redouble confusion and consternation, just as we were beginning to see a path out of this mess,” stated Sleeth.

“The federal court or the legislature must put their foot down. We need to move beyond Groundhog Day. We need to draw this primary process to a conclusion on August 2<sup>nd</sup>,” concluded Poland.

In addition to serving as President of OAEO, Brian Sleeth is Director of the Warren County Board of Elections. In addition to serving as First Vice-President of OAEO, Sherry Poland serves as Director of the Hamilton County Board of Elections. The Ohio Association of Election Officials is a bipartisan organization representing Ohio's 88 county boards of elections and their staff members. Its mission is to promote fair, accurate and reliable elections through the education of its members, advocating for sound election policies, and communicating accurate information regarding the administration of elections.