



**Via Electronic Mail**

May 3, 2026

Mr. Ed Helvey, Board Chair  
Ms. Karla Herron, Board Director  
Delaware County Board of Elections  
2079 US Highway 23 N  
PO Box 8006  
Delaware OH 43015

Re: Removal of Melanie Leneghan from the Board of Elections

Dear Chairman Helvey and Director Herron,

As you are aware, on Friday, April 10, 2026, the Delaware County Board of Elections granted a challenge to Melanie Leneghan's residency and voter registration. The Board concluded that Ms. Leneghan did not have a fixed habitation in Delaware County for at least thirty days before she declared her candidacy for the office of Republican State Central Committee, Woman, for the May 5, 2026 Primary Election. Among other things, this means that Ms. Leneghan was not a qualified elector or candidate for purposes of R.C. 3517.02 and R.C. 3503.01(A).

On April 14, 2026, Ms. Leneghan challenged this determination by seeking a writ of mandamus from the Supreme Court of Ohio. At that time, I made no determination on her continued status as a member of the Delaware County Board of Elections. Under the circumstances, Ms. Leneghan was entitled to her day in court by way of an expedited elections case that could be expected to reach a speedy resolution. Additionally, I sought to avoid any unnecessary disruption for the functioning of the Board as we approached the May 5, 2026 Primary Election date.

On Sunday, May 3, 2026, the Ohio Supreme Court dismissed in part and denied in part Ms. Leneghan's request for a writ of mandamus. *See State ex rel. Leneghan v. Delaware Cty. Bd. of Elections*, Slip Opinion No. 2026-Ohio-1598. Of particular importance here, the court specifically held that the Delaware County Board of Elections "did not abuse its discretion or act in clear disregard of applicable law in determining that Leneghan does not reside in Delaware County for purposes of voter registration under R.C. 3503.02." *Id.* at ¶ 41; *see also id.* at ¶ 44 (finding that "the board did not abuse its discretion or act in

clear disregard of applicable law in canceling Leneghan’s voter registration or invalidating her candidacy”).

The Ohio Supreme Court’s decision leaves in place the Board’s prior determination canceling Ms. Leneghan’s voter registration. *See id.* at ¶ 14 (“By the same two-to-one vote, the board voted to sustain Dunn’s protest, *cancel Leneghan’s voter registration in Delaware County*, and remove her as a candidate for the Ohio Republican Party State Central Committee.”) (emphasis added). Yet by its plain terms, R.C. 3501.07 requires that a member of a county board of elections be a “qualified elector.” This statutory requirement is not discretionary.

Because she is no longer a registered voter in Delaware County, Melanie Leneghan is hereby removed from service on the Delaware County Board of Elections, effective immediately. Ms. Leneghan’s vacancy must be filled by a member of the same political party and in the same manner as the original selection. Please do not hesitate to contact your regional liaison or the Elections Division with any questions.

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose  
Ohio Secretary of State

cc: Steve Cuckler, Board Member  
Peg Watkins, Board Member  
Melanie Leneghan