

## **Additional hours of absentee ballot collection outside the office of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections (CCBOE)**

On September 14, 2020, the CCBOE approved a plan for the collection of absentee ballots from electors personally delivering their voted forms. The Secretary of State subsequently limited the authorization to those portions of the plan that provide for the receipt of absentee ballots at 3100 Chester Avenue (Campus International Highschool) during the dates and times described in the plan.

Since the commencement of absentee voting and through October 13, 2020, the CCBOE has collected approximately 25,000 absentee ballots via the permanent drop box and the outside collection process. This averages 3,125 absentee ballots collected per day.

As originally formulated and approved by the CCBOE, the initial plan included absentee ballot collection at six additional locations beyond those outside the offices of the CCBOE that are no longer available under the Secretary of State's Directive 2020-22. This prohibition can reasonably account for some of the high volume of absentee ballots being delivered to the approved CCBOE's collection locations that would have otherwise been dispersed among the sites that are no longer available under Directive 2020-22. To account for the popularity and concentrated volume of the absentee ballot collection outside the offices of the CCBOE, staff recommend increasing the dates and times for collection of absentee ballots outside the office of the CCBOE.

In addition to the days and times that have already been approved and consistent with Directive 2020-22, the staff of the CCBOE requests authorization to collect ballots outside its office on Saturday, October 17 and Sunday, October 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day, and for its Director to have options to extend the hours of collection outside its offices between those same times on Sunday, October 25 and Sunday, November 1.