

Butler County Ohio Voters Who Move To and Vote in Another State

Key Issues

- **Inconsistent Board Decisions:** The Board of Elections granted 104 of 119 North Carolina challenges, then denied 105 of 108 Georgia challenges, raising concerns about consistent application of the law and evidentiary standards. More concerning, a voter who has moved to and voted in another state – or someone impersonating that voter – may still be able to cast a regular ballot in Ohio, despite violating the state's residency requirements.
- **SSN4 Required to Confirm Identity:** The Board now contends that personal identifying information—likely referring to SSN4—is necessary to “definitively confirm” that Ohio and Georgia voters are the same person, despite removing NC voters without imposing that requirement.
 - **SSN4 is an imperfect means of identity verification:** In 2026 alone, **74,435** Ohio registrations did not match SSA records (<https://www.ssa.gov/data/HAVV.html>).
 - **An independent identity chain already exists:** Voter registrations in both states share the same name and DOB, while NCOA records connect the Ohio “move-from” address to the Georgia “move-to” address.
 - **SSN4 is not available to private citizens:** Making SSN4 a prerequisite effectively prevents citizens from challenging voters who moved to and voted in another state.
 - **SSN4 is not required to file a Form 257 Challenge**, and other Ohio county Boards have granted similar challenges without it.
 - **The Board can investigate SSN4 when it chooses:** The Board has the ability to use SSN4 as an investigative tool and has done so in a previous challenge, rather than requiring citizens to provide it.
- **Limited Investigation:** The Board appears to generally limit its investigation to information already contained in its own records, although Ohio law requires Boards to “**investigate and determine the residence qualification of electors**” (3501.11(Q)). The Board may not:
 - Seek relevant information from the Secretary of State;
 - Use all available methods to contact the voter, such as phone or email;
 - Contact election officials in the other state to determine whether the Ohio and Georgia registrations belong to the same person; and
 - Use other available methods to determine the voter's residence qualification.
- **Residence Is Not Independently Determined:** When the Board's own records do not resolve an identity or residence question, it generally appears to treat the voter as an “Ohio resident” rather than independently determining the voter's residence qualification. This raises the question of whether the Board is fulfilling its statutory duty to “**determine the residence qualification of electors.**”

Form 257 Challenges and Cancellation Safeguards

- Challenges allow citizens to present evidence for Board investigation and residence determination, with safeguards against erroneous cancellation, including provisional voting and reinstatement.
- **There is no comparable safeguard against an ineligible registrant voting in Ohio after moving to and voting in another state**, potentially diluting the votes of eligible Ohio voters.
- The Secretary of State currently has interstate data-sharing agreements with 10 states to identify Ohio voters who may have moved and voted in another state.
- Citizens are attempting to help address the gap for voters who may have moved to states not covered by those agreements.