



Via Electronic Mail

March 4, 2026

Karla R. Herron, Director
Delaware County Board of Elections
2079 US Hwy 23 N.
PO Box 8006
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Re: Tie Vote of February 24, 2026

Dear Director Herron,

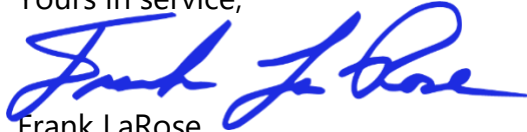
I am aware of a tie vote of the Delaware County Board of Elections (the "Board") that took place on February 24, 2026, involving the potential candidacy of Rebecca Nourse for the women's District 19 seat on the Republican State Central Committee. The vote was on whether to reconsider a decision, made by three members of the Board at a special meeting on February 12, 2026, to remove Nourse's previous certification to the 2026 Primary Ballot due to an error in her petition. The February 24, 2026 vote on reconsideration resulted in a 2-2 tie vote.

I recognize that the respective sides have not yet submitted their arguments to my office. However, given the proximity of the primary election date and the nature of this particular tie vote, I am writing to proactively address this matter. Both Ms. Nourse and Board Member Melanie Leneghan seek to be candidates for the District 19 seat, making them potential opponents in the upcoming primary election.

Members of Boards of Elections are subject to longstanding rules and policies, which are set forth in the Ohio Secretary of State's Ethics Policy. They may not participate in the consideration of matters in which they have a personal interest. As a Board Member subject to that limitation, Ms. Leneghan should not have participated in the vote on reconsideration of Ms. Nourse's candidacy. I am therefore instructing the Board to reconvene and hold a new vote, among the remaining Board Members, on Ms. Nourse's request for reconsideration.

At this time, I express no opinion on the underlying merits of either the request for reconsideration itself, or the Board's prior decision to remove Nourse's certification from the 2026 Primary Ballot.

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose

Ohio Secretary of State

cc: Ed Helvey, Chairman of Delaware County Board of Elections
Steve Cuckler, Member of Delaware County Board of Elections
Melanie Leneghan, Member of Delaware County Board of Elections
Peg L. Watkins, Member of Delaware County Board of Elections