



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

May 19, 2015

The Honorable Jon Husted  
Secretary of State of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street, 16th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Secretary Husted:

Online voter registration is an invaluable tool for managing the accuracy of the voter rolls and reducing the costs associated with voter registration and list maintenance. In our report to the President, the members of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration (PCEA) noted that “[w]hether the goal is ensuring that only duly qualified registered voters vote or that more people are able to vote more easily, election officials across the political spectrum recognize the value of accurate and manageable voter rolls.” Ohio will benefit from an online voter registration platform implementation done well.

The former commissioners of the PCEA are working with the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) to advance the Commission’s recommendations across the country. Online voter registration is a key recommendation we make for addressing long lines and mitigating other problems that impact the voter experience. There are several benefits of online voter registration:

- Reducing the high potential for voter error and address the risks of fraud that exists with traditional paper-based systems;
- Saving jurisdictions money;
- Increasing the accuracy and currency of the voter rolls, thereby reducing delays and congestion at the polling place; and,
- Improving the voter experience because voters get immediate feedback when they are registered or when their information (e.g., address, party, etc.) has been updated.

We believe that online voter registration is an essential component to upgrading the nation’s election administration system. Twenty states have already implemented it, and seven more have enacted legislation to do so, including Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Florida, which had legislation signed by the governor last week. We stand ready to provide information and expertise to Ohio election policymakers as they consider implementing online voter registration.

Sincerely,

Bob Bauer  
Former Chair, PCEA

Ben Ginsberg  
Former Chair, PCEA