

Protect The Voters – Toledo Primary Date Change Charter Amendment

This charter amendment would change the primary date for a Toledo municipal election. Currently, Toledo primaries must be held on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in September. The amendment would change this date to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May, in accordance with default state law for a primary election.

The charter amendment, if passed by the voters, would be effective starting in 2023.

Why is this a good idea?

- The amendment protects the right to vote for military and overseas voters. Absentee ballots are required to be sent to these voters at least 45 days before an election under federal law. If a September Toledo primary required a recount, it could be impossible to meet this 45 day requirement for military voters before the general election. That could deprive these voters of their right to vote.
- Toledo would join most other communities in conforming its primary. The Lucas County Board of Elections has asked Toledo to change its primary date to ensure all voters are able to vote, and other communities in Lucas County have already done so. Toledo is one of the last major municipalities in Ohio to hold a primary at such a late date.
- The amendment could save Toledo taxpayers money. By holding an election on an already scheduled Ohio date where costs of the election would be shared, instead of Toledo holding a primary election on a date all by itself and bearing the full cost of that election.