

From the Grassroots Backbone Campaign:



Chris Redfern
Minority Leader, 80th House District

COPY

April 11, 2005

J. Kenneth Blackwell
Secretary of State
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Secretary Blackwell:

I was recently contacted by Ms. Bernadette Noe, formerly of the Lucas County Board of Elections, about her dealings with your office during the 2004 election. Ms. Noe is a capable and reliable public servant, and I take her comments and concerns very seriously.

As you are aware from her letter, after your office conducted a review of the Lucas County Board of Elections, it recommended the removal of Ms. Noe and all three other Board members. Ms. Noe asserts that the representative you assigned to review this office—a Mr. Richard Weghorst—had personal biases and vendettas that may have impaired his ability to objectively judge the work being conducted by the Board members.

Equally troubling from Ms. Noe's letter is the fact that despite her best efforts, she was unable to reach you or others in your office to find out more about this process and to share her concerns. This does not seem an appropriate or professional way to conduct business and I can only hope that there is an honest misunderstanding as to why this issue has not yet been resolved.

Ms. Noe recommends the appointment of a new, independent investigator into the dealings of the Lucas County Board of Elections who may offer a more impartial recounting of the facts. I support her efforts and ask that you immediately agree to such an appointment.

There were, as you know, many questions raised about the validity of the voting process in the 2004 election. These allegations must be addressed to ensure that all Ohioans feel their electoral system is fair and just. I urge you to grant Ms. Noe's request and trust that working together, we can resolve this unfortunate issue.

Thank you in advance for your attention in this matter. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 614/ 644-6011.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Redfern".
Chris Redfern
House Democratic Leader
80th House District

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