



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Secretary of State: Over 700,000 absentee ballots requested by voters; nearly 50,000 votes have been cast

[Secretary of State Jon Husted](#) announced this week that in the first four days of early voting, more than 49,000 Ohioans cast ballots for November's General Election. According to a [release](#) from his office, 33,372 absentee ballots had been cast and 15,571 voters cast ballots in person at the board of elections or designated early vote center.

Based on an informal survey of Ohio's 88 county boards of elections, as of Friday, October 10, 2014:

- **722,498** voters have requested absentee ballots to vote by mail.
 - ◇ Of those, 33,372 absentee ballots have been cast by mail.
- **15,571** Ohioans have cast an absentee in-person ballot at the board of elections or designated early vote center.
- **2,421** military and overseas voters have requested ballots.
 - ◇ Of those requests, 363 military and overseas ballots have been cast.



Sec. of State Jon Husted

The Secretary of State's Office also noted that the second wave of absentee ballot applications will drop this week and include the more than 215,000 voters who registered to vote or updated their information after August 1.

PUCO eliminates 2014 renewable requirement for electric companies

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) let electric companies off the hook for the entire year's requirement to procure half of their renewable energy in state since the legislature eliminated the "buy Ohio" provision in September. The "buy Ohio" provision was eliminated with the passage of [SB 310](#), the Clean Energy Moratorium.

Prior to the passage of SB 310, electric companies were required to procure an increasing amount of their power from renewable sources each year until reaching 12.5 percent by 2025. Electric companies were also required to have half of that renewable energy to originate from Ohio-based facilities.

Earlier this year, PUCO asked stakeholders for input on how to implement legislation eliminating the in-state renewable energy requirement for 2014 since SB 310 would not take effect until nearly the fourth quarter of the year. The agency asked whether the requirement should be prorated or eliminated entirely.

Environmental groups and renewable energy traders argued that the wording in the new legislation doesn't require PUCO to eliminate the in-state requirement at all, but merely freezes it along with the two-year delay on the overall renewable energy benchmarks.

Proponents of the new law, including FirstEnergy Corp., Industrial Energy Users-Ohio and the Dayton Power & Light Company, took the opposite view, arguing that the statute contains no annual or partial in-state requirement for 2014.

In [the order](#), commissioners unanimously sided with proponents, noting that the annual requirements do not apply until the year's end.

For additional information on PUCO issues, please contact CCAO staffer Brian Mead at bmead@ccao.org or 614-220-7982.

State to release draft workforce plan

Next week, the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation will release for comment the State of Ohio's draft unified state plan for the Workforce Investment Act, Adult Basic Literacy and Education, and Perkins programs. This is the first time the state will be submitting one unified plan for all three programs.

The plan will be available for review on October 21; look in next week's report for additional information, or visit the [Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation](#) website.

Five regional briefings on the plan will be held across the state beginning November 10, details on which will be forthcoming next week.