

# EXHIBIT L



**Fax Cover Sheet**

Date: 8-13-12

Number of pages (including this cover sheet): 3

**Sent to:**

Name: Secretary of State Josh Husted

Company: Ohio Secretary of State

Fax Number: 614-485-7622

**From:**

Name: Mike Beckus and Christine Link

Phone Number: 216-472-2220

Fax Number: 216-472-2210

**Message:**

Please call with any questions

This message may constitute privileged attorney/client communication or attorney work product, and unauthorized use or disclosure is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient of this message please advise us by calling 216/472-2220 and forward the document to us by mail at the address below.

4506 Chester Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103  
Phone: 216/472-2220; Fax: 216/472-2210  
Email: [contact@acluohio.org](mailto:contact@acluohio.org); Web site: [www.acluohio.org](http://www.acluohio.org)

**EXHIBIT L**



August 13, 2012

Jon Husted  
Ohio Secretary of State  
180 East Broad Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Extended hours for early in-person voting

Dear Secretary Husted,

According to recent media reports, you have indicated that you may issue statewide rules to standardize early in-person voting hours prior to the November 2012 election. Such different access to the polls from one county to the next appears unfair and shakes credibility, and it is unsupportable. In order to dispel even the appearance of unequal access to the polls, we believe that you must issue statewide standards that will ensure uniformity across counties.

However, uniformity should be attained not by restricting all early in person voting hours, but by extending weekend and evening hours for all Ohioans. Extended hours for early in-person voting will benefit all voters in the following ways:

- **Fairness.** All Ohioans should have an equal opportunity to cast an early in-person ballot, regardless of the county where they reside.
- **Consistency.** Voters in several Ohio counties have used extended hours for early in-person voting in past elections. If the state removes this option, those voters will suffer more and may need to find alternative ways to cast their ballot.
- **Ease Congestion.** Since no-fault absentee balloting was instituted in 2006, Ohioans have increasingly voted early. This has led to fewer voters arriving at the polls on Election Day, and smaller lines. Several counties have consolidated polls in response to this. While mail-in ballots constitutes the majority of early votes, reduction of in-person opportunities may in turn increase Election Day lines and see a resurgence of the problems that plagued the 2004 presidential election.
- **Flexibility.** Voters need to have meaningful opportunities to cast their ballots early in the method that is most convenient for them. It is important to note many counties like Cuyahoga that had high interest in early in-person voting, also sent absentee ballot applications to all registered voters. Providing expanded access for both systems ensures voters have options and encourages increased engagement in the election.

AMERICAN CIVIL  
LIBERTIES UNION  
OF OHIO FOUNDATION  
4506 CHESTER AVENUE  
CLEVELAND, OH 44103-3621  
T/216.472.2220  
F/216.472.2210  
WWW.ACLUOHIO.ORG  
contact@acluohio.org



- **Minimize errors.** Early voting allows voters to navigate problems that may be more difficult to solve on Election Day. In-person voting is particularly helpful to these voters because they may consult election officials on ID problems, ballot questions, or changes of personal information.

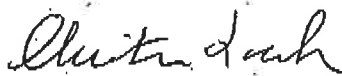
Our democracy was founded on the premise of "one person, one vote," but allowing individual Boards of Elections to provide different opportunities for Ohioans to cast their ballot turns that notion on its head. All voters, whether they live in Lucas or Lawrence County, should have consistent times to vote.

However, we advise you not to disregard the benefit that extended hours for early in-person voting have given to voters around the state. Restricting these hours would be a step back for our state, and would needlessly complicate the election for many Ohioans. While some may raise concerns over cost and resources, we urge you to put the votes of all Ohioans first, and take a step forward by implementing statewide rules that offer broad evening and weekend hours for citizens to cast their ballot.

We believe Ohio can achieve uniformity as well as broad access to the ballot. We urge you to institute fair guidelines that allow voters in all 88 counties to utilize extended hours for early in-person voting.

If you have any questions, or need any additional information, please feel free to contact us at (216)472-2220.

Sincerely,



Christine Link  
Executive Director  
ACLU of Ohio  
[link@acluohio.org](mailto:link@acluohio.org)



Mike Brickner  
Director of Communications & Public Policy  
ACLU of Ohio  
[mbrickner@acluohio.org](mailto:mbrickner@acluohio.org)