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# Ohio

## *Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Complaint Process Guide*

*Provided by*

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# State Guide to HAVA & Election Complaint Process

This is a guide to your state's laws relating to the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and other election related complaints.

The statutes/codes cited in this guide may not be the most recent version. States may have more current or accurate information. We make no warranties or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in the individual state guides or the information linked to on the state site.

This guide was last updated on 03/08/2024.

## CONTENTS:

[What is the Help America Vote Act \(HAVA\)?](#)

[How do I file a HAVA complaint?](#)

[How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?](#)

[Who do I contact regarding election-related complaints?](#)

# **What is the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)?**

[Link to HAVA Statute](#)

[Link to Election Assistance Commission](#)

According to the EAC.gov website:

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 was passed by the United States Congress to make sweeping reforms to the nation's voting process. HAVA addresses improvements to voting systems and voter access that were identified following the 2000 election. HAVA mandates that EAC test and certify voting equipment, maintain the National Voter Registration form and administer a national clearinghouse on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve elections.

HAVA creates new mandatory minimum standards for states to follow in several key areas of election administration. The law provides funding to help states meet these new standards, replace voting systems and improve election administration. HAVA also established the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to assist the states regarding HAVA compliance and to distribute HAVA funds to the states. EAC is also charged with creating voting system guidelines and operating the federal government's first voting system certification program. EAC is also responsible for maintaining the National Voter Registration form, conducting research, and administering a national clearinghouse on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve elections. HAVA requires that the states implement the following new programs and procedures:

- Provisional Voting
- Voting Information
- Updated and Upgraded Voting Equipment
- Statewide Voter Registration Databases
- Voter Identification Procedures
- Administrative Complaint Procedures

# How do I file a HAVA complaint?

[Link to HAVA Complaint Process](#)

[Link to Form](#)

Any person who believes that there is a violation of any provision of Title III of HAVA, including a violation that has occurred, is occurring, or is about to occur, may file a complaint with the Secretary of State's office.

the complaint must be in writing and notarized, and signed and sworn to by the person filing the complaint. The complaint must list each alleged violation of Title III of HAVA, including a clear and concise description of each alleged violation. The complaint may name witnesses to the alleged violation and may include documentary evidence. The complaint must be either mailed or hand-delivered to the Secretary of State's office. The complaint may not be faxed or emailed.

# How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?

[Link to Statutes](#)

[Link to Complaint Form](#)

**Public Integrity Division:** the office's current investigative functions, including campaign finance reporting, voting system certification, voter registration integrity, election law violations, data retention & transparency, and cybersecurity protocols

[File a Complaint Link](#)

## Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

| <b>Secretary of State's Office—Public Integrity Division</b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Physical Address:</b>                                     | 22 North Fourth Street, 16th Floor<br>Columbus, OH 43215  |
| <b>Mailing Address:</b>                                      | Office of the Secretary of State<br>Public Integrity Division<br>22 N 4th St<br>Columbus, OH 43215-3668   |
| <b>Phone Number:</b>   | 614-466-0064  |
| <b>Email Webform:</b>  | <a href="https://sosforms.ohiosos.gov/forms/ContactUs/Contact-Us-Agency">https://sosforms.ohiosos.gov/forms/ContactUs/Contact-Us-Agency</a>   |
| <b>Website:</b>  | <a href="https://www.ohiosos.gov/publicintegrity/">https://www.ohiosos.gov/publicintegrity/</a>   |
| <b>County Boards of Elections:</b>                           | <a href="https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/">https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/</a> |