

Lucas County Board of Elections
Attn: Board Members
One Government Center Suite 300
Toledo, Ohio

12/09/11

Re: Resignation of Director Roberts

Board Members:

I am driven to make a difference.

The allure of putting aside politics and running an efficient operation engaged me; on July 18th 2011, I looked forward to working together with all members of the staff and Board to make the LCBOE an example of an effective and efficient operation. Though the LCBOE has a sorted past, my desire was to reach across the aisle, improve the process and work for all citizens and voters of Lucas County.

Looking back over the past 5 months, it has been made abundantly clear that my experience and expertise in strategy, operations, policy, procedure and project management is not welcomed at the LCBOE; the preference continues to be partisan politics as usual.

Sadly, the LCBOE continues to operate in the same manner that has earned both judicial and Secretary of State oversight. Files of historical reports show that time and time again, the LCBOE has been informed of deficiencies and has been given direction and countermeasures, but none to very few actions have ever been taken to mitigate these shortcomings. In fact, any forward progress that may have seen the light of day continues to be overshadowed by undermining partisan politics.

It is true, that the LCBOE can tactically execute the tasks of vote gathering and tallying results, as witnessed on 11/08/11. Unfortunately, the LCBOE performance still ranks last or nearly last in the state primarily due to personnel driven issues.

The LCBOE is a caustic environment and not the norm across the 88 counties of Ohio. Speaking with officials at the SOS office and Directors / Deputies in other counties, they continue to be surprised and shocked at the shenanigans surrounding Lucas County. Alleged items such as email fraud, one party with both access keys, improper handling / destruction of documents, forced agendas, lack of policy / procedure, and an overall theme of obscuring transparency and accountability are the norm. More time is spent overall dealing with infighting and legal battles than the core BOE operations.

Seeing that it has been made nearly impossible for me to make a difference for the residents and voters of Lucas County, by this letter I resign my appointment as Director of the LCBOE effective end of business 12/09/11.

Ben Roberts

