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**Congress of the United States**  
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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE  
WORKFORCE

July 13, 2012

The Honorable John Husted  
Ohio Secretary of State  
180 East Broad Street, Floor 16  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3726

Dear Secretary Husted:

I strongly encourage you to cast your tying vote for democracy in the matter of whether or not the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections follows precedent in keeping polls open the final two weekends this October and until 7:00 PM from October 29<sup>th</sup> until November 1<sup>st</sup>. Government should not be in the business of silencing the voice of the people, but instead, should advance electoral participation in any reasonable way possible.

As you know, Ohio recently dealt a major blow to the positive civic momentum of early voting by ordering polls to close statewide during the final three days before a general election. A decision to expand this restrictive decision in Cuyahoga County could mean that tens of thousands of voters simply stay home this election.

One of the major reasons to have early voting is to maximize the opportunities a voter has to vote. Many voters have obstacles to voting, including work, transportation, and family obligations. Since early voting has been established in Ohio, we have seen a large proportion of voters opt to vote early because of the convenience which early voting offers.

Additionally, early voting reduces long lines and the risk for election day errors. Early voting has been proven successful, and opportunities to maximize its effectiveness should not be cast aside for political reasons.

Voting is perhaps the single most important pillar of our Democracy. I hope that you will act in the best interest of Cuyahoga County voters with your decision.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich  
Member of Congress