



## What is the role of the Attorney General of Ohio?

The Attorney General of Ohio is the state's Chief Law Officer. This position is responsible for representing the state's public interest and provides legal counsel to state agencies and state officials in their professional capacity. The Attorney General represents the state in any civil or criminal cases before the Ohio Supreme in which the state might have interest.

<https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Legal/Prosecution>.

## How do I find who the Attorney General is?

Visit [ohioattorneygeneral.gov/](https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/).

## How often is the Attorney General elected? Are there term limits?

The Attorney General of Ohio is elected every four years during midterm elections. According to the Ohio Constitution, an attorney general can only hold office for up to two consecutive four-year terms. <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/laws/ohio-constitution/section?const=3.02>.

## Is the Attorney General a partisan official?

Yes, the Attorney General runs as a member of a political party. Their party affiliation is present on the ballot.

## How does the Attorney General interact with other statewide officials, like the Governor or Auditor?

The Attorney General of Ohio is responsible for representing the state in legal battles. This means the attorney general works closely with other state officials and agencies. For example, at the governor's request, the attorney general is responsible for prosecuting any person indicted for a crime. (<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-109.02>) The Auditor of the State of Ohio, another statewide elected official, can request the attorney general prosecute in order to ensure public funds are properly spent. (<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-117.42>)

## How does the Attorney General interact with other prosecutors across the state?

The Attorney General of Ohio has jurisdiction over the entire state. This means that even if your local prosecutor has decided to use their prosecutorial discretion to not charge a person for a certain crime, the Attorney General can still bring charges. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-109.62>.

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## Questions for the Attorney General candidates:

- Do you support abolishing the Ohio Death Penalty and refusing to ask for defendants to be sentenced to death in the meantime?
- Are you committed to using prosecutorial discretion to not prosecute any personal medical decisions, including those related to reproductive health and abortion?

## How does the Office of the Attorney General operate?

With 1500 employees, the Attorney General's Office oversees dozens of areas that directly affect the lives of Ohioans. A full list of these divisions can be found at <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About-AG/Service-Divisions>.

### A few examples:

- **Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI):** The BCI oversees several aspects of the criminal legal system in Ohio, including serving as the state's criminal records keeper. The BCI supports law enforcement across the state by aiding in investigations of various criminal activities. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/chapter-109>
- **Constitutional Offices:** This division within the Attorney General's Office is primarily responsible for providing legal counsel to all statewide elected officials as well as several commissions, including the Ohio Elections Commission. Constitutional Offices also house the Public Records Unit, which processes public records requests in accordance with Ohio's [Sunshine Laws](#), or Ohio's Public Records and Open Meeting laws. This powerful unit also oversees the ballot initiative and referendum process (more information below). <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About-AG/Service-Divisions/Constitutional-Offices>
- **Criminal Justice:** There are three units in the Criminal Justice division.
  - **The Capital Crimes Unit** is solely focused on upholding death sentences, and mostly works in federal courts to oppose any challenges by incarcerated people who argue their death sentence was improper.
  - **The Habeas Unit** is tasked with opposing any challenge to a conviction or prison sentence.
  - **The Corrections Unit** defends employees in Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and the Department of Youth Services from any lawsuits brought by inmates. <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About-AG/Service-Divisions/Criminal-Justice>

## What role does the Attorney General play in the ballot initiative and referendum processes?

- **Ballot initiative:** Ballot initiatives provide Ohioans an opportunity to bring an issue directly to voters via a statewide ballot. There are several steps required before an initiative is put to voters – one of which is connected to the Attorney General's office. After petitioners have reached the signature requirement for a ballot initiative, an application must be submitted to the Attorney General's Office. The Attorney General's office is then tasked with conducting an examination to determine if, in their opinion, the summary ballot language is "fair and truthful" representation of the proposed change. Only after the language is certified by the attorney general can the petition be forwarded to the Ohio ballot board. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3519.01>
- **Referendum:** Referendums allow Ohioans an opportunity to repeal a law or portion of the law via a statewide ballot. Once the signature requirement has been met, petitioners must submit the measure to the attorney general. The attorney general then has the power to determine if, in their opinion, the summary ballot language is "fair and truthful" representation of the proposed change. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3519.01>