



## What is the Ohio House of Representatives?

The Ohio House of Representatives is the lower chamber of the Ohio State Legislature. Together with the Ohio Senate (the upper chamber), the Ohio House makes up the legislative branch of the Ohio state government. There are currently 99 Ohio House districts representing Ohio's 88 counties.

## How long is a Representative's term? Are there term limits?

Ohio House Representatives are elected for two-year terms, with a limit of four consecutive terms. This means that Ohio Representatives can be elected for a maximum of eight consecutive years.

## Are State Representatives political actors?

Yes, they are partisan officials. Candidates have their party affiliation listed on the ballot.

## What are the responsibilities of Ohio House?

- **Constituent Connection:** Ohio Representatives serve as powerful liaisons between constituents and organizations within their districts and the Ohio Statehouse, especially since House Members represent a smaller area compared to Ohio Senators. Representatives often attend meetings or events in their respective communities that span a variety of topics, from business relations to civic causes to religion.
- **Legislative Duties:** Similarly to the Ohio Senate, the Ohio House advances Ohio policies through creating, amending, and repealing legislation. Representatives have the opportunity to collaborate with other House members to draft and introduce new bills or resolutions, debate potential policy, and cast their votes to pass legislation on the House floor.
- **Impeachment Power:** The Ohio Constitution gives the sole authority to impeach state officials to the Ohio House of Representatives. Article XXIII requires a simple majority vote of the Ohio House to impeach state officers, including the Governor and judges. The House can hold hearings, compel witnesses via subpoena power, and take depositions in order to substantiate claims raised during impeachment proceedings
- **Override Gubernatorial Vetoes:** To create new policy, both the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate must vote to pass the respective legislation, which then must be signed by the Governor within 10 days. If the Governor decides to veto the legislation, the Ohio House has the ability to override the veto in conjunction with the Ohio Senate through receiving votes from three-fifths of members in both chambers. This means 60 of 99 Ohio Representatives must vote to override the Governor's veto.
- **Committee Membership:** Each Ohio Representative is assigned to several committees, which meet each week to review new legislative items. As Committee members, Representatives hear testimony from individuals expressing their thoughts – both positive and negative – about new legislation. House members also have the opportunity to ask questions to those who provide testimony. Additionally, House members are often assigned to special committees or boards that address actions or concerns of state agencies.

## What is Session?

Session is the collective meeting where Representatives gather in the House Chamber to debate and vote on bills, resolutions, and executive appointments. The **Speaker of the House**, a legislator within the ruling majority party, is responsible for establishing a schedule of dates and times for House session, in addition to presiding over each session.

## What are committees?

Committees are groups of legislators that focus on a multitude of topics, from education to public health to energy. When a new piece of legislation is introduced, it is assigned to a specific committee. Committee members then hold hearings, during which they hear proponent and opponent testimony from a variety of groups and individuals.

## Can members of the public attend Session and committee hearings?

Yes. Members of the public are allowed to sit in the Visitor's Gallery. All sessions and committee hearings, with the exception of the Rules and Reference committee, are broadcast live on public access channels and on [The Ohio Channel website](#). Members of the public can also watch archived videos of past sessions and committee hearings.

## How do Ohio House Representatives interact with the Governor?

The Ohio House also serves as a check upon the executive authority of the Governor. The House of Representatives has the authority to override a Governor's veto. If three fifths of Representatives and Senators vote to override a Governor's veto, the bill becomes law. The House of Representatives also work in conjunction with the Senate and the Governor to develop the two-year operating budget for the state. The House is the first legislative chamber to review and amend the Governor's proposed budget. Last year, Ohio's operating budget for 2021-2022 totaled nearly \$75 billion. Historically, three fourths of Ohio's budget is used to pay for our K-12 schools, Medicaid, and our prison and jail system.

## What are the requirements for running for Ohio House Representative?

- Candidates must be U.S. citizens and reside in their respective districts for at least one year immediately preceding the election.
- To obtain a spot on the ballot, candidates of major political parties require 50 signatures and minor party candidates require 25 signatures. Those running as independent require a number of signatures based on the number of votes cast in the district during the last general election for governor. If there were fewer than 5,000 votes cast, candidates need 25 signatures or .5% of the number of votes cast (whichever is less). If there were 5,000 or more votes cast, then 1% of the votes cast.

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## Ohio House Resources

- Find your [Ohio House Representative](#)
  - You can contact your Ohio House Representative by phone, email, and mail.
- Find an [Ohio House bill](#)
- The Ohio House [Glossary of Terms](#)
- Ohio House [Committees](#)
- Ohio House Session [Schedule](#)