



Is the Secretary of State elected or appointed?

In Ohio, the Secretary of State (SOS) is an elected position. SOS elections occur during midterm elections, and, if elected, the winning candidate serves a four-year term. Each term begins the second Monday in January following the election. Secretaries of State in Ohio are term limited and can serve up to two consecutive four-year terms. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-111.01>.

Is the Secretary of State a political actor?

The Secretary of State is a partisan official. All candidates for Secretary of State have their party affiliation listed on the ballot.

What are the requirements for running for Secretary of State?

Candidates for the Secretary of State must be at least 18 years old and an Ohio resident. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-constitution/section-15.4>.

What are questions for Secretary of State candidates?

- How will you expand voting access to make voting easy and accessible to the people of Ohio?
- If serving during the redistricting process, are you committed to putting aside partisan politics to follow the rule of the Ohio Constitution and enact Fair Maps?
- Do you support same-day voter registration? Why or why not?
- Do you support automatic voter registration? Why or why not?

How do I find my Secretary of State?

To find out who the Secretary of State in Ohio is, visit [ohiosos.gov](https://www.ohiosos.gov).

What information can I find through the Secretary of State's Office?

The Secretary of State is primarily responsible for overseeing elections, records keeping, and registering businesses within the state. As a result, the SOS site holds a wealth of information related to voting, Ohio laws, and businesses. For example, you can register to vote, view a sample ballot, register your business, review all of Ohio's laws, and more by visiting [ohiosos.gov](https://www.ohiosos.gov).

Secretary of State Resources

- Office of the Ohio Secretary of State: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/>
- Contact the Secretary of State: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/secretary-office/contact-our-office/>
- Register to vote or check your voter registration: <https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/>
- Find my sample ballot: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/sample-ballot/>
- Ohio Laws: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/legislation-and-ballot-issues/laws-of-ohio/>

What powers does the Ohio Secretary of State hold?

Across the country, exact powers of the Secretary of State can vary. In Ohio, the Secretary of State holds ample power. They have control over elections, businesses, and even play a crucial role in the once-a-decade redistricting process.

- **Chief Elections Officer:** The Secretary of State serves as Ohio's Chief Elections Officer. In this role, they are responsible for overseeing the entire elections process. They help decide who serves on boards of elections in all of Ohio's 88 counties, oversee the proper administration of election laws, maintain voter registration records, and are tasked with investigating all claims of election fraud. The SOS also maintains campaign finance compliance for all statewide political parties and candidates. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-111.21>.
- **Ohio Redistricting Commission:** The SOS is one of seven members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission (ORC). In 2015 and 2018, Ohio voters overwhelmingly supported amending the Ohio Constitution to create the bipartisan ORC. Voters tasked the ORC with drawing state legislative maps each decade, as well as congressional maps should the Ohio General Assembly fail to do so. In order to be enacted for ten years, a bipartisan majority of the ORC must vote in favor of the maps. The SOS has the power to vote in favor of fair maps that comply with the Ohio Constitution. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-constitution/section-11.1>.
- **Ohio Ballot Board Chair:** As Chair of the Ohio Ballot Board, the Secretary of State is tasked with approving ballot language for all statewide issues include amendments to Ohio's Constitution through a citizen initiative, joint resolution by the General Assembly, or a citizen initiated statute. They also are responsible for reviewing all referendum petitions, which is a process by which a law passed by the Ohio General Assembly can be sent to voters during a general election for approval prior to the law going into effect. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3505.061>.
- **Business Services:** In order to do business in Ohio, companies and other business entities are required to have approval from the state. The Secretary of State manages and approves all business licenses to both in state and out-of-state companies seeking to do business in Ohio. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-1746.04>.
- **Records Certifications:** The Secretary of State is the state's records keeper. They certify documents, maintain historical records, keeps record of all notaries, and approve minister and marriage licenses for Ohioans. For example, the Governor's office files any executive orders with the Secretary of State. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-111.22>