2016 Ohio Candidate Requirement Guide

My Vote

My Right • My Responsibility

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State

Elections Division
180 E. Broad St., 15th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-2585
Toll-Free: (877) SOS-OHIO (877-767-6446)
TTY: (877) 644-6889 or (614) 728-3295
www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov
election@OhioSecretaryofState.gov

The information in this publication is current as of 09/15/2015. However, this publication may be revised at any time due to changes in Ohio or federal law. Please visit the Secretary of State's publications page at www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov/SOS/publications.aspx for the most current version of this piece.

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State

180 East Broad Street, 16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Tel: (877) 767-6446 Fax: (614) 644-0649
www.sos.state.oh.us

Candidate Requirement Guide: A User's Guide

In 2016, candidates in Ohio will run for federal, district and county offices. This guide has been compiled to provide candidates with the basic information necessary to file for office. This guide is only a brief summary and should not be regarded as a complete digest of laws affecting candidates, legal advice, or a legally-binding document. Candidates are responsible for completing and filing a valid petition for the office sought, as well as for knowing the provisions of law pertaining to their candidacies. Legislative or judicial action can change the requirements summarized in this guide at any time. For the most up-to-date information, visit the Ohio Secretary of State's website at *www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov*. Refer to the sections below for the office you are seeking:

- *Federal Offices*
- *Ohio General Assembly*
- *State Board of Education*
- *County Offices*
- *Judiciary*
- *Political Party Committee Members*

Each of these sections contains information on the terms of office and the conditions candidates must meet, such as residency requirements, minimum or maximum ages, or other necessary qualifications, such as legal experience. Each office also has different petition filing requirements, such as deadlines, forms, filing fees and locations and number of signatures needed.

Within this guide:

- "R.C." refers to the Revised Code of Ohio (visit *codes.ohio.gov* for more),
- "OH Const" refers to the Ohio Constitution (*www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov*), and
- "OAG" refers to an Opinion of the Ohio Attorney General (*www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov*).

This guide also contains general information relevant to candidates. Please review the following:

Federal Offices 1
- President 1
- U.S. Senator 1
- U.S. Representative 2

Ohio General Assembly 3
- State Senator, State Representative 3

State Board of Education 4

County Offices 5
- Commissioner, Coroner, Engineer, Prosecuting Attorney, Recorder, Sheriff, Treasurer 5

Judiciary 6
- Supreme Court Justice 6
- Court of Appeals Judge 7
- Court of Common Pleas Judge 8
- County Court Judge 9
- Clerk of Courts 10

Political Party Committee Members 11
- Major Political Party, State Central Committee Member 11
- Major Political Party, County Central Committee Member 12

Minor Parties 13

Write-In Candidates 13

Political Party Affiliation of Candidates for Party Nomination 14

Independent Candidates 14

Restrictions on Filing for Multiple Offices 15

Petitions 16
- Rules Governing Petitions 16

Protests 18
- Partisan Primary Candidacy 18
- Write-in Candidacy – Partisan Primary 19
- Independent Candidacy 19
- Nonpartisan Candidacy 19
- Write-in Candidacy – General Election 19

Unexpired Term Elections 20

Death or Withdrawal of Candidate 20
- Primary Election 20
- General Election 21

Education and Training Requirements 21

Campaign Finance Reporting 21

Personal Financial Disclosure Statement 22

2016 Ohio Elections Calendar 22

Most Populous Counties by District 23

Federal Offices

President

For more information, please see the 2016 Presidential Candidate Requirement Guide.

U.S. Senator

Term of Office Six years (*U.S. Const Art. I, §3*, *Am. XVII*, *Am. XX§1*)

Qualifications

- **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**: Must be an inhabitant of the state from which elected (*U.S. Const Art. I, §3*)
- **MINIMUM AGE**: 30 years (*U.S. Const Art. I, §3*)
- **OTHER:** Must be a U.S. citizen for nine years prior to election (*U.S. Const Art. I, §3*)
- **FILING DEADLINE**: By 4 p.m. on December 16, 2015 (90 days before the primary election) for party candidates, or by 4 p.m. on March 14, 2016 (the day before the primary election) for independent candidates (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*)
- **FILING FEE**: $150 (*R.C. 3513.10(A) and (B)*)
- **PETITION FORM NUMBERS**:

  #2-C for party candidates (seeking nomination of political party to the general election through the primary election)

  #3-D for independent candidates (candidates unaffiliated with a political party seeking nomination to the general election)
- **FILED WITH**: Ohio Secretary of State's Elections Division - Columbus (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*, *3513.261*)
- **SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS** (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*):

  Major party candidates: 1,000 signatures

  Recognized minor party candidates: 500 signatures

  Independent candidates: 5,000 signatures

U.S. Representative

Term of Office Two years (*U.S. Const Art. I, §2*)

Qualifications

- **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**: Must be an inhabitant of the state from which elected (*U.S. Const Art. I, §2*)
- **MINIMUM AGE**: 25 years (*U.S. Const Art. I, §2*)
- **OTHER:** Must be a U.S. citizen for seven years prior to election (*U.S. Const Art. I, §2*)
- **FILING DEADLINE**: By 4 p.m. on December 16, 2015 (90 days before the primary election) for party candidates, or by 4 p.m. on March 14, 2016 (the day before the primary election) for independent candidates (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*)
- **FILING FEE**: $85 (*R.C. 3513.10(A) and (B)*)
- **PETITION FORM NUMBERS**:

  #2-E for party candidates (seeking nomination of political party to the general election through the primary election)

  #3-F for independent candidates (candidates unaffiliated with a political party seeking nomination to the general election)
- **FILED WITH**: Board of elections of the most populous county within the congressional district (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*, *3513.261*)

  See page 23 for a list of most populous counties for the districts.
- **SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS**: (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*)

  Major party candidates: 50 signatures

  Recognized minor party candidates: 25 signatures

  Independent candidates: Based on the number of votes cast in the congressional district in the last general election for governor:

Number of votes cast	Number of signatures
Fewer than 5,000	25, or a number equal to 5 percent of the vote (whichever is less)
5,000 or more	1 percent of vote

Ohio General Assembly

State Senator, State Representative

Term of Office

Senator: Four years (*OH Const Art. II, §2*)

Representative: Two years (*OH Const Art. II, §2*)

Qualifications

- **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**: Must be a resident of the district, have resided in the district for one year immediately preceding the election and be a registered elector (*R.C. 3.15*, *OH Const Art. II, §3*, *OH Const Art. XV, §4*)
- **FILING DEADLINE**: By 4 p.m. on December 16, 2015 (90 days before the primary election) for party candidates, or by 4 p.m. on March 14, 2016 (the day before the primary election) for independent candidates (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*)
- **FILING FEE**: $85 (*R.C. 3513.10(A) and (B)*)
- **PETITION FORM NUMBERS**:

  #2-F for party candidates (seeking nomination of political party to the general election through the primary election)

  #3-G for independent candidates (candidates unaffiliated with a political party seeking nomination to the general election)
- **FILED WITH**: Board of elections of the most populous county within the district (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*, *3513.261*)

See page 23 for a list of most populous counties for the districts.

- **SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS**: (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*)

  Major party candidates: 50 signatures

  Recognized minor party candidates: 25 signatures

  Independent candidates: Based on the number of votes cast in the district in the last general election for governor:

Number of votes cast	Number of signatures
Fewer than 5,000	25, or a number equal to 5 percent of the vote (whichever is less)
5,000 or more	1 percent of vote

State Board of Education

Term of Office Four years (*R.C. 3301.02*)

Qualifications

- **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**: Must be a qualified elector residing in the district (*R.C. 3301.03*, *OH Const Art. XV, §4*)
- **OTHER:** Shall not, during the term of office, hold any other office of trust or profit or be an employee or officer of any public or private elementary or secondary school (*R.C. 3301.03*)
- **FILING DEADLINE**: By 4 p.m. on August 10, 2016 (90 days before the November 8, 2016 general election) (*R.C. 3513.259*)
- **FILING FEE**: $55 (*R.C. 3513.10(A) and (B)*)
- **PETITION FORM NUMBER**:

  #3-Z Nominating Petition for Member of the State Board of Education
- **FILED WITH**: Board of elections of the most populous county within the district (*R.C. 3513.259*)

  See page 23 for a list of most populous counties for the districts.
- **SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS**: 100 signatures (*R.C. 3513.259*)

County Offices

Commissioner, Coroner, Engineer, Prosecuting Attorney, Recorder, Sheriff, Treasurer

Term of Office Four years
(R.C. 305.01, 309.01, 311.01, 313.01, 315.01, 317.01, 319.01, 321.01)

Qualifications

- **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**:

  Sheriff: Must be a qualified elector who has resided in the county at least one year immediately prior to the applicable qualification date (R.C. 311.01(B)(1)(2) and (H))

  Others: Must be a qualified elector of the county (R.C. 3.15, OH Const Art. XV, §4)

- **SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS**:

  Coroner: Must be licensed to practice as a physician in Ohio for at least two years immediately preceding election or appointment as coroner (R.C. 313.02)

  Engineer: Must be a registered professional engineer and registered surveyor, licensed to practice in Ohio (R.C. 315.02)

  Prosecuting Attorney: Must be an attorney-at-law, licensed to practice in Ohio (R.C. 309.02)

  Sheriff: Please see R.C. 311.01 for additional qualifications and requirements

- **FILING DEADLINE**: By 4 p.m. on December 16, 2015 (90 days before the day of the primary election) for party candidates, or by 4 p.m. on March 14, 2016 (the day before the primary election) for independent candidates (R.C. 3513.05, 3513.257)

- **FILING FEE**: $80 (R.C. 3513.10(A) and (B))

- **PETITION FORM NUMBERS**:

  #2-G for party candidates (seeking nomination of political party to the general election through the primary election)

  #3-H for independent candidates (candidates unaffiliated with a political party seeking nomination to the general election)

(this section continues on the next page)

- **FILED WITH**: County board of elections (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.08*, *3513.257*, *3513.261*)
- **SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS**: (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*)

  Major party candidates: 50 signatures

  Recognized minor party candidates: 25 signatures

  Independent candidates: Based on the number of votes cast in the county in the last general election for governor:

Number of votes cast	Number of signatures
Fewer than 5,000	25, or a number equal to 5 percent of the vote (whichever is less)
5,000 or more	1 percent of vote

Judiciary

Supreme Court Justice

Term of Office Six years (*OH Const Art. IV, §6*, *R.C. 2503.02*, *2503.03*)

Qualifications

- **MAXIMUM AGE**: 70 years (*OH Const Art. IV, §6*)
- **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**: Must be a qualified elector residing in Ohio (*R.C. 2701.04*, *OH Const Art. XV, §4*)
- **OTHER:** Must be admitted to practice as an attorney in this state and have, for a total of at least six years preceding the commencement of the term, been engaged in the practice of law in Ohio or served as a judge of a court of record in any jurisdiction in the U.S., or both (*R.C. 2503.01*)
- **FILING DEADLINE**: By 4 p.m. on December 16, 2015 (90 days before the primary election) for party candidates, or by 4 p.m. on March 14, 2016 (the day before the primary election) for independent candidates (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*)
- **FILING FEE**: $150 (*R.C. 3513.10(A) and (B)*)
- **PETITION FORM NUMBERS**:

  #2-D for party candidates

  #3-E for independent candidates

(this section continues on the next page)

- **FILED WITH**: Ohio Secretary of State's Elections Division (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.08*, *3513.257*, *3513.261*)
- **SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS**: (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*)

  Major party candidates: 1,000 signatures

  Recognized minor party candidates: 500 signatures

  Independent candidates: 5,000 signatures

Court of Appeals Judge

Term of Office Six years (*R.C. 2501.02*)

Qualifications

- **MAXIMUM AGE**: 70 years (*OH Const Art. IV, §6*)
- **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**: Must be a qualified elector residing in the district (*R.C. 2701.04*, *OH Const Art. XV, §4*)
- **OTHER:** Must be admitted to practice as an attorney in this state and have, for a total of at least six years preceding the commencement of the term, been engaged in the practice of law in Ohio or served as a judge of a court of record in any jurisdiction in the U.S., or both (*R.C. 2501.02*)
- **FILING DEADLINE**: By 4 p.m. on December 16, 2015 (90 days before the primary election) for party candidates, or by 4 p.m. on March 14, 2016 (the day before the primary election) for independent candidates (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*)
- **FILING FEE**: $80 (*R.C. 3513.10(A) and (B)*)
- **PETITION FORM NUMBERS**:

  #2-FJ for party candidates

  #3-G for independent candidates
- **FILED WITH**: Board of elections of the most populous county within the district (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.08*, *3513.257*, *3513.261*)

See page 23 for a list of most populous counties for the districts.

(this section continues on the next page)

- **SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS**: (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*)

  Major party candidates: 50 signatures

  Recognized minor party candidates: 25 signatures

  Independent candidates: Based on the number of votes cast in the district in the last general election for governor:

Number of votes cast	Number of signatures
Fewer than 5,000	25, or a number equal to 5 percent of the vote (whichever is less)
5,000 or more	1 percent of vote

Court of Common Pleas Judge

Term of Office Six years (*R.C. 2301.01*)

Qualifications

- **MAXIMUM AGE**: 70 years (*OH Const Art. IV, §6*)
- **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**: Must be a qualified elector residing in the county (*R.C. 2301.01*, *2701.04*, *OH Const, Art. XV, §4*)
- **OTHER:** Must be admitted to practice as an attorney in this state and have, for a total of at least six years preceding the commencement of the term, been engaged in the practice of law in Ohio or served as a judge of a court of record in any jurisdiction in the U.S., or both (*R.C. 2301.01*)
- **FILING DEADLINE**: By 4 p.m. on December 16, 2015 (90 days before the primary election) for party candidates, or by 4 p.m. on March 14, 2016 (the day before the primary election) for independent candidates (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*)
- **FILING FEE**: $80 (*R.C. 3513.10(A) and (B)*)
- **PETITION FORM NUMBERS**:

  #2-GJ for party candidates

  #3-H for independent candidates

(this section continues on the next page)

- **FILED WITH**: County board of elections (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.08*, *3513.257*, *3513.261*)
- **SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS**: (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*)

  Major party candidates: 50 signatures

  Recognized minor party candidates: 25 signatures

  Independent candidates: Based on the number of votes cast in the county in the last general election for governor:

Number of votes cast	Number of signatures
Fewer than 5,000	25, or a number equal to 5 percent of the vote (whichever is less)
5,000 or more	1 percent of vote

County Court Judge

Term of Office Six years (*R.C. 1907.13*)

Qualifications

- **MAXIMUM AGE**: 70 years (*OH Const Art. IV, §6*)
- **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**: Must be a qualified elector residing in the county court district (*R.C. 1907.13*, *OH Const Art. XV, §4*)
- **OTHER:** Must be admitted to practice as an attorney in this state and have been, for a total of at least six years, engaged in the practice of law in Ohio (*R.C. 1907.13*)
- **FILING DEADLINE**: By 4 p.m. on August 10, 2016 (90 days before the general election) (*R.C. 1907.13*)
- **FILING FEE**: $80 (*R.C. 3513.10 (A) and (B)*)
- **PETITION FORM NUMBER**:

  #3-J Nominating Petitions for Judge of the County Court
- **FILED WITH**: County board of elections (*R.C. 3513.261*)
- **SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS**: 50, or a number not less than 1 percent of the number of votes cast in the county court district at the last general election for governor, whichever is less (*R.C. 1907.13*)

Clerk of Courts

Term of Office Four years (*R.C. 2303.01*)

Qualifications

- **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**: Must be a qualified elector residing in the county (*R.C. 3.15*, *OH Const Art. XV, §4*)
- **FILING DEADLINE**: By 4 p.m. on December 16, 2015 (90 days before the primary election) for party candidates, or by 4 p.m. on March 14, 2016 (the day before the primary election) for independent candidates (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*)
- **FILING** Fee: $80 (*R.C. 3513.10 (A) and (B)*)
- **PETITION FORM NUMBERS**:

  #2-G for party candidates (seeking nomination of political party to the general election through the primary election)

  #3-H for independent candidates (candidates unaffiliated with a political party seeking nomination to the general election)
- **FILED WITH**: County board of elections (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*, *3513.261*)
- **SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS**: (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*)

  Major party candidates: 50 signatures

  Recognized minor party candidates: 25 signatures

  Independent candidates: Based on the number of votes cast in the county in the last general election for governor:

Number of votes cast	Number of signatures
Fewer than 5,000	25, or a number equal to 5 percent of the vote (whichever is less)
5,000 or more	1 percent of vote

Political Party Committee Members

Major Political Party, State Central Committee Member

Term of Office Two or four years, per party rules (*R.C. 3517.03*)
(Currently, the Republican party has two-year terms while the Democratic party has four-year terms)

Qualifications

- **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**: Must be a qualified elector residing in the district from which elected (*R.C. 3517.02*, *OH Const Art. XV, §4*)
- **FILING DEADLINE**: By 4 p.m. on December 16, 2015 (the 90th day before the primary election) (*R.C. 3513.05*)
- **FILING FEE**: None (*R.C. 3513.10(C)*)
- **PETITION FORM NUMBER**:

  #2-J for candidates for Member of State Central Committee seeking to be elected in the party primary
- **FILED WITH**: Board of elections of the most populous county in either each congressional district in the state or each senatorial district in the state, as the outgoing committee determines (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3517.03*) (Currently, both major parties elect state central committee members by state senatorial district)

  See page 23 for a list of most populous counties for the districts.
- **SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS**: Five signatures (*R.C. 3513.05*)

Major Political Party, County Central Committee Member

Term of Office Two or four years, per party rules (*R.C. 3517.03*)

Qualifications

- **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**: Each member of a controlling committee must be a resident and qualified elector of the district, ward, or precinct that the member is elected to represent (*R.C. 3517.02*, *OH Const Art. XV, §4*)
- **FILING DEADLINE**: By 4 p.m. on December 16, 2015 (the 90th day before the primary election) (*R.C. 3513.05*)
- **FILING FEE**: None (*R.C. 3513.10(C)*)
- **PETITION FORM NUMBER**:

  #2-L or *#2-M*, per party determination
- **FILED WITH**: County board of elections (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3517.03*)
- **SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS** (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.051*):

  #2-L Five signatures, per party determination

  #2-M No signatures, per party determination

Minor Parties

Prospective candidates of a minor party that has filed a party formation petition should follow the signature requirements and filing deadlines outlined in *Secretary of State Advisory 2015-02*. Nominating petitions for use by prospective candidates of a minor party that has filed a party formation petition are available on the Secretary of State's website (*Forms 4-C* through *4-G*; *all Secretary of State prescribed forms*).

Prospective candidates of a recognized minor party should follow the signature requirements and filing deadlines listed in this Guide below the office being sought.

Write-In Candidates

Any person wanting to be a write-in candidate must file the *Secretary of State's prescribed Form #13*, Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate (write-in candidates for federal office use *Form #13-A* or *#13-C*, whichever is appropriate).

Only write-in candidates who have filed a valid declaration of intent will have votes counted in the election for which the candidate filed (*R.C. 3513.041*).

A write-in candidate must meet all of the eligibility requirements of the office being sought. (See specific office for qualifications.)

A write-in candidate must file his or her *Form #13* with the appropriate county board of elections (or Secretary of State). Please review the "Filed With" section of the office being sought for additional guidance.

A declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate in the primary election must be filed no later than 4 p.m. on January 4, 2016* or 72 days before the primary election) (*R.C. 3513.041*).

A declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate in the general election must be filed no later than 4 p.m. on August 29, 2016* or 72 days before the general election) (*R.C. 3513.041*).

A write-in candidate must pay the same filing fee as any other candidate for the office (*R.C. 3513.10*).

A board of elections may not accept declarations of intent to be a write-in candidate for state central committee of a political party. If no valid declaration of candidacy was filed for the position, the office does not appear on the ballot (*OAG 70-011*).

*** *Note***: This deadline falls on a day when the Secretary of State and county board of elections are closed. Therefore, the deadline is extended pursuant to *R.C. 1.14* to the next succeeding day when the appropriate office is open for regular business hours.

Political Party Affiliation of Candidates for Party Nomination

A person may be a candidate for nomination of any political party at a primary election (regardless of party affiliation established by voting in a prior partisan primary) if either of the following apply:

- The person does not hold elective office, or
- The person holds an elective office other than one for which candidates are nominated at a primary election.

However, a person holding an elective office for which candidates are nominated at a party primary may become a candidate for a different political party if the person completes and files the Secretary of State's prescribed *Form #10-Y*, Declaration of Intent to Change Political Party Affiliation, by 4 p.m. on the 30th day before the filing deadline for the primary election. The completed *Form #10-Y* must be filed with the same elections official (e.g., Secretary of State, county board of elections) with which that the person is required to file his or her Declaration of Candidacy and petitions.

A person may file such declaration of intent only once during a period of 10 years after first filing a first declaration of intent (*R.C. 3513.191*).

Please see *R.C. 3513.04* and *3513.052* for further candidacy information.

Independent Candidates

An independent candidate must actually be unaffiliated from any political party, and the required claim of being unaffiliated must be made in good faith for the candidate to be qualified to run as an independent candidate. *Morrison v. Colley*, 467 F.3d 503 (6th Cir. 2006); *Jolivette v. Husted*, 694 F.3d 760 (6th Cir. 2012).

At the time a prospective independent candidate (other than a judicial candidate) files his or her Nominating Petition, the candidate may request to have the designation "nonparty candidate" or "other party candidate" printed underneath the candidate's name on the ballot (the designation "independent" may not appear on the ballot). Such request must be given to the office at which the Nominating Petition was filed (*R.C. 3505.03*, *3513.257*).

Please see specific office being sought for qualifications, signature requirements, and filing deadlines.

Restrictions on Filing for Multiple Offices

No person shall seek nomination or election to any of the following offices or positions at the same election by filing a Declaration of Candidacy and petition, declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or a Nominating Petition, or by becoming a candidate through a party nomination in a primary election, or by filling of a vacancy under *R.C. 3513.30* or *3513.31*:

- Two or more state offices;
- Two or more county offices;
- A state office and a county office;
- A federal and a state or county office; or
- Any combination of two or more municipal or township offices, positions as a member of a city, local, or exempted village board of education, or position as a member of a governing board of an educational service center (*R.C. 3513.052*).

The only exception to this prohibition is if a person "timely withdraws" his or her candidacy. Therefore, a candidate who timely withdraws his or her candidacy prior to board action on his or her petition and prior to the filing deadline may file a new petition for the same or a different office in the same election as the withdrawn petition (130 Ohio St.3d 132). Pursuant to *R.C. 3513.052(G)(2)*, "timely withdraws" means either of the following:

- Withdrawing as a candidate before the applicable filing deadline for filing a Declaration of Candidacy, declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or Nominating Petition for the subsequent office for which the person is seeking to become a candidate at the same election, or
- Withdrawing as a candidate before the applicable deadline for the filling of a vacancy under sections *R.C. 3513.30* or *R.C. 3513.31* of the Revised Code, if the person is seeking to become a candidate for a subsequent office at the same election under either of those sections.

A candidate may withdraw only his or her candidacy. Once filed, a candidate may not withdraw the petition or other forms used to initiate his or her candidacy.

Petitions

County boards of election will provide at least one copy of a candidate petition form upon request. Candidates are permitted to make copies of the forms in the manner they were provided.

Petitions contain three separate sections:

1. The Statement of Candidacy,
2. The Nominating Petition, and
3. The Circulator's Statement.

Rules Governing Petitions

1. The Statement of Candidacy portion of each petition paper must be completely filled out and signed by the candidate(s) before being circulated (*R.C. 3513.07*, *3513.09*, *3513.261*).
2. Candidates for county commissioner or judge must designate the term of office on the Declaration of Candidacy or Nominating Petition, if more than one office is to be elected at the election (*R.C. 3513.08*, *3513.28*).
3. Only qualified electors who are eligible to vote on the candidacy may sign a petition. An elector's qualifications are determined as of the date the petition is filed (*R.C. 3501.38 (A)*).
4. Each signature, written in ink, must be an original signature of an elector or the elector's duly appointed attorney-in-fact who is acting pursuant to *R.C. 3501.382*. "Signature" is defined in statute as a person's written, cursive-style legal mark written in his or her own hand unless the elector does not use a cursive-style mark during the course of his or her regular business or legal affairs (*R.C. 3501.38 (B)*, *3501.382*, *3501.011*).
5. Each signer's residence address and the date of signing must be placed on the petition after the elector's signature. The voting address written on the petition must be the address appearing in the registration records of the board of elections (*R.C. 3501.38 (C)*).
6. Petitions for a candidate for party nomination must be signed and circulated by persons who are members of the same political party as the candidate (*R.C. 3513.07*). An elector is considered to be a member of a political party if he or

(this section continues on the next page)

she voted in the primary election of that party within the preceding two calendar years, or if he or she did not vote in any other party's primary election within the preceding two calendar years (*R.C. 3513.05, 7th paragraph*).

7. A candidate may circulate his or her own petition, although he or she may not sign his or her own petition as an elector. For purposes of circulating his or her own petition, a candidate is exempted from the party affiliation requirements described in number 6 of this section (*R.C. 3513.191(C)(4)*). A circulator may not sign the same petition paper that he or she is circulating. A circulator may, however, sign a petition paper being circulated for the same candidacy by a different circulator.

8. A circulator must be at least 18 years of age (*R.C. 3503.06(C)*). (The Ohio residency requirement is not currently in place based on the preliminary injunction in *Citizens in Charge v. Husted*, Case: 2:13-cv-00935 (S.D. Ohio 11/13/13)).

9. After circulating the petition, the circulator must sign a statement, under penalty of election falsification indicating the following:

   a. The number of signatures contained on the petition;

   b. That the circulator witnessed the affixing of each signature on the petition;

   c. That all signers, to the best of the circulator's knowledge and belief, were qualified to sign; and

   d. That each signature is, to the best of the circulator's knowledge and belief, the signature of the person whose signature it purports to be.

   If a circulator knowingly permits an unqualified person to sign a petition paper or permits a person to write a name other than the person's own on the petition paper, that petition paper is invalid; otherwise, the signature of a person not qualified to sign shall be rejected but shall not invalidate the other valid signatures on the petition paper (*R.C. 3501.38(F)*).

10. Once a candidate's petition has been filed with the appropriate election official, it cannot be changed, supplemented, or returned to the candidate.

11. The original petition with the candidate's original signature must be filed at the same time as all part petitions are filed (*R.C. 3501.38(K)*, *3513.09*).

12. Each petition paper shall be circulated by one person only, and shall contain signatures of qualified electors of one county only. When petitions are circulated in a district that contains more than one county, separate petition papers must be circulated in each county (*R.C. 3501.38*, *3513.05*, *3513.07*, *3513.261*).

(this section continues on the next page)

13. No petition shall be accepted if it contains more than three times the minimum number of required signatures (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.257*, *3513.259*).

14. All petitions must contain the following statement in boldface capital letters: **"WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE."** (*R.C. 3501.38(J)*, *3599.36*).

    Note: The penalties for a fifth degree felony conviction are six to 12 months in prison and/or a fine of $2,500.

15. All petitions remain open for public inspection, under reasonable regulations, at the board of elections at which they were filed (*R.C. 3513.05*, *3513.262*).

Protests

Protests against the candidacy of any person must be in writing, must set forth with specificity the legal ground(s) for the protest, and must be filed with the board of elections where the candidate filed his/her Declaration of Candidacy, Nominating Petition, or declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate. If the candidate filed with the office of the Secretary of State, the protest must be filed with the Secretary of State (*R.C. 3513.041*, *3513.05*, *3513.262*, *3513.263*).

After a valid protest is filed, the board of elections or, if applicable, the Secretary of State, must set a time and place for hearing the protest and give notice to both the person whose candidacy is being protested and the protestor. Both the protestor and the protested candidate, or their respective legal counsel, will have the opportunity to address the board or Secretary of State hearing officer at the hearing (*R.C. 3513.041*, *3513.05*, *3513.262*, *3513.263*).

Partisan Primary Candidacy

Protests against any candidate in a partisan primary may be made by the controlling committee of that party, or by any qualified elector who is a member of the same party as the candidate and who is eligible to vote for the candidate whose petition is the subject of the protest (*R.C. 3513.05*).

The deadline to file a protest against any party candidate who filed a Declaration of Candidacy for the primary is 4 p.m. January 4, 2016* (74 days before the primary election) (*R.C. 3513.05*).

*** *Note***: This deadline falls on a day when the Secretary of State and county board of elections are closed. Therefore, the deadline is extended pursuant to *R.C. 1.14* to the next succeeding day when the appropriate office is open for regular business hours.

Write-in Candidacy – Partisan Primary

Any elector eligible to vote on the candidacy of a write-in candidate may protest that candidacy. The deadline to file a protest against a write-in candidate for the primary is 4 p.m. on January 8, 2016 (67 days before the primary election) (*R.C. 3513.041*).

Independent Candidacy

Protests against an independent candidate may be made by any qualified elector who is eligible to vote for the candidate whose petition is the subject of the protest. The deadline to file a protest against any candidate who filed a Nominating Petition as an independent candidate is 4 p.m. on June 10, 2016 (*R.C. 3513.262*).

Nonpartisan Candidacy

Any elector eligible to vote on the candidacy of a candidate for nonpartisan office may protest that candidacy. The deadline to file a protest against any candidate who filed a Nominating Petition as a nonpartisan candidate is 4 p.m. on August 26, 2016 or 74 days before the general election (*R.C. 3513.263*).

Write-in Candidacy – General Election

Any elector eligible to vote on the candidacy of a write-in candidate may protest that candidacy. The deadline to file a protest against any candidate who filed a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate is 4 p.m. on September 2, 2016 or 67 days before the general election (*R.C. 3513.041*).

Unexpired Term Elections

Several statutes govern candidacies for unexpired term elections. *R.C. 3513.31* is the general statute that always should be consulted in connection with an unexpired term election for an office that, under Ohio law, is subject to party primaries. *R.C. 3513.31(I)* provides how and when party nominees are selected for unexpired term elections for such offices, while *R.C. 3513.31(J)* describes how persons become independent candidates for those unexpired term elections.

Candidates seeking nomination/election to an office for the balance of an unexpired term must include the term-ending date on the petition. Ohio law requires each person filing a Declaration of Candidacy or Nominating Petition as a candidate for the remainder of an unexpired term to designate the date on which that unexpired term will end (*R.C. 3513.08*, *3513.28*). Failure to provide the correct term-ending date on the petition will result in the petition being invalidated.

Death or Withdrawal of Candidate

An individual's candidacy may cease to exist due to the individual's death or decision to withdraw from the election. The signed statement of withdrawal must be filed with the election office where the original candidate petition filing was filed.

Primary Election

A candidate, other than a presidential primary candidate, may withdraw his or her candidacy by filing a written statement any time before the primary election (*R.C. 3513.30(B)*).

General Election

A candidate may withdraw his or her candidacy by filing a written statement at any time before the general election (*R.C. 3513.30(D)*).

If a candidate dies, the candidate's party organization, committee, or family should promptly notify the appropriate board of elections of the candidate's death.

The law provides various procedures for the replacement of a candidate who dies or withdraws during the election cycle. The procedures to be followed will be dictated by the specific facts surrounding the vacancy on the ballot (e.g., the office involved, why the vacancy occurred, the time remaining before the election, etc.) The two statutes that generally govern vacancies on the ballot are: *R.C. 3513.30* (death of candidate before a primary election, withdrawal of candidacy before or after a primary election) and *R.C. 3513.31* (filling vacancies in party, independent and nonpartisan nominations).

Education and Training Requirements

Many offices have education and training requirements that must be satisfied in order for a person to qualify as a candidate for the office or in order for a person to qualify to hold the office. The Secretary of State's Office cannot advise candidates or officials on what education and training requirements are required to obtain or hold an elective office.

Candidates are encouraged to seek out information on any education or training requirements for the office being sought.

Campaign Finance Reporting

At the time petitions of candidacy are filed, each candidate should receive materials from the board of elections about campaign finance compliance and reporting.

Additional information regarding campaign finance rules, reporting requirements, and filing deadlines may be found on the *Ohio Secretary of State's website*.

Personal Financial Disclosure Statement

Any individual who becomes a candidate for or holds a state, county or city elected office, or the position of school board member in a school district with more than 12,000 students average daily membership, is required to file a personal financial disclosure statement. All public officials and candidates for elected office file statements with the Ohio Ethics Commission, except members of and candidates for the General Assembly, who file with the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee, and judges, who file with the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline of the Supreme Court.

For further information on the filing requirements and deadlines or to find a copy of a blank statement, visit the Ohio Ethics Commission's website at: *www.ethics.ohio.gov*. If further information is needed, please contact the Commission at (614) 466-7090.

Candidates for the Ohio General Assembly may obtain additional information by contacting the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee at: (614) 728-5100 or *www.jlec-olig.state.oh.us*.

Judicial candidates can find information at: *www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/Judiciary/candidates/* or call the office of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline at (614) 387-9370.

2016 Ohio Elections Calendar

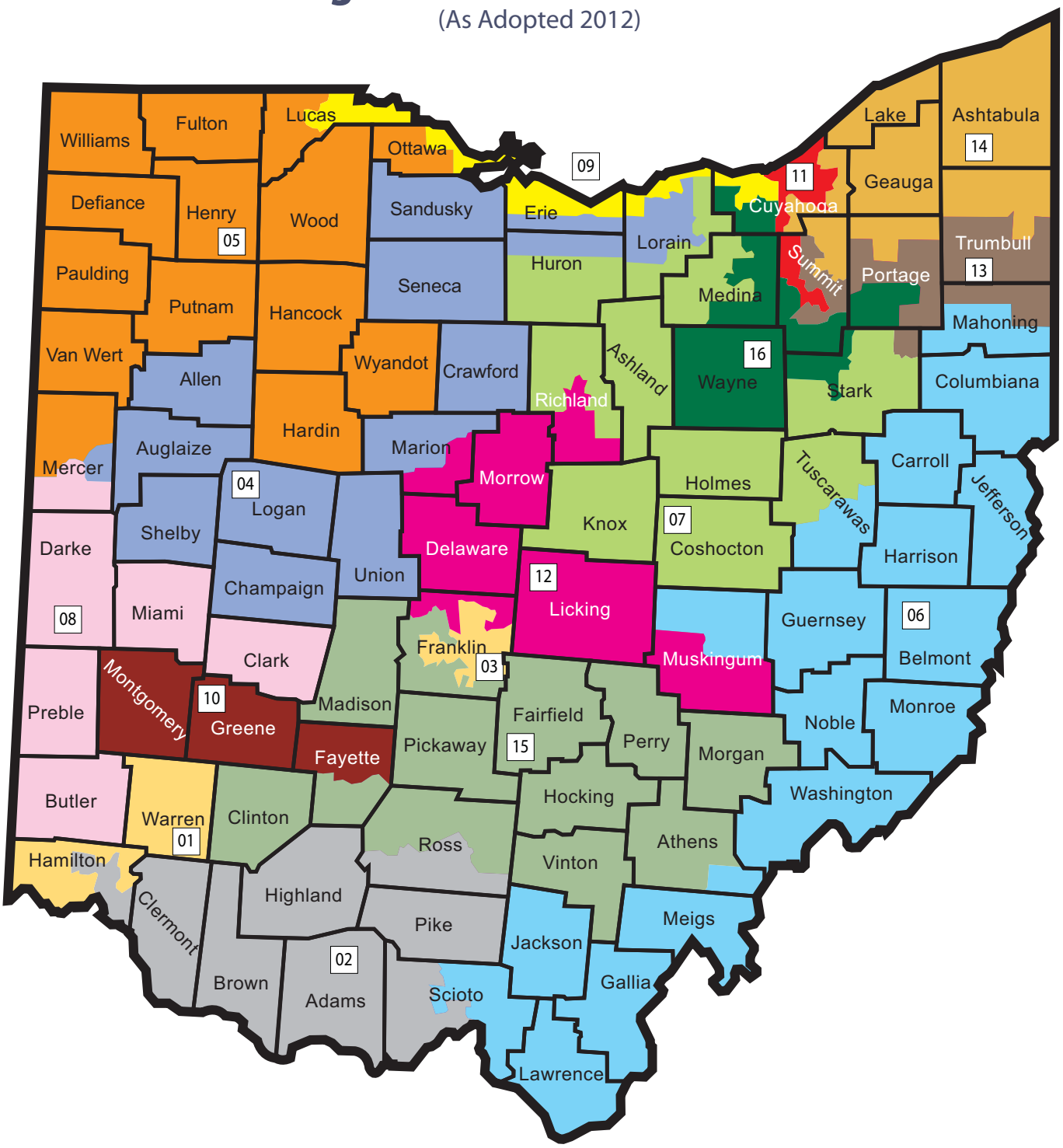
Click here to access the 2016 Ohio Elections Calendar.

Most Populous Counties by District

Ohio Congressional		Ohio House of Representatives				Ohio Senate		State Board of Education		Ohio Court of Appeals	
1	Hamilton	1	Wayne	51	Butler	1	Hancock	1	Allen	1	Hamilton
2	Hamilton	2	Richland	52	Butler	2	Wood	2	Lucas	2	Montgomery
3	Franklin	3	Wood	53	Butler	3	Franklin	3	Montgomery	3	Allen
4	Lorain	4	Allen	54	Warren	4	Butler	4	Hamilton	4	Scioto
5	Lucas	5	Columbiana	55	Lorain	5	Montgomery	5	Cuyahoga	5	Stark
6	Columbiana	6	Cuyahoga	56	Lorain	6	Montgomery	6	Franklin	6	Lucas
7	Stark	7	Cuyahoga	57	Lorain	7	Warren	7	Trumbull	7	Mahoning
8	Butler	8	Cuyahoga	58	Mahoning	8	Hamilton	8	Stark	8	Cuyahoga
9	Cuyahoga	9	Cuyahoga	59	Mahoning	9	Hamilton	9	Franklin	9	Summit
10	Montgomery	10	Cuyahoga	60	Lake	10	Greene	10	Clermont	10	Franklin
11	Cuyahoga	11	Cuyahoga	61	Lake	11	Lucas	11	Cuyahoga	11	Lake
12	Franklin	12	Cuyahoga	62	Warren	12	Allen			12	Butler
13	Summit	13	Cuyahoga	63	Trumbull	13	Lorain				
14	Lake	14	Cuyahoga	64	Trumbull	14	Clermont				
15	Franklin	15	Cuyahoga	65	Clermont	15	Franklin				
16	Cuyahoga	16	Cuyahoga	66	Clermont	16	Franklin				
		17	Franklin	67	Delaware	17	Ross				
		18	Franklin	68	Knox	18	Portage				
		19	Franklin	69	Medina	19	Delaware				
		20	Franklin	70	Medina	20	Fairfield				
		21	Franklin	71	Licking	21	Cuyahoga				
		22	Franklin	72	Licking	22	Medina				
		23	Franklin	73	Greene	23	Cuyahoga				
		24	Franklin	74	Greene	24	Cuyahoga				
		25	Franklin	75	Portage	25	Cuyahoga				
		26	Franklin	76	Geauga	26	Marion				
		27	Hamilton	77	Fairfield	27	Summit				
		28	Hamilton	78	Pickaway	28	Summit				
		29	Hamilton	79	Clark	29	Stark				
		30	Hamilton	80	Miami	30	Belmont				
		31	Hamilton	81	Williams	31	Licking				
		32	Hamilton	82	Defiance	32	Trumbull				
		33	Hamilton	83	Hancock	33	Mahoning				
		34	Summit	84	Mercer						
		35	Summit	85	Champaign						
		36	Summit	86	Marion						
		37	Summit	87	Crawford						
		38	Summit	88	Sandusky						
		39	Montgomery	89	Erie						
		40	Montgomery	90	Scioto						
		41	Montgomery	91	Highland						
		42	Montgomery	92	Ross						
		43	Montgomery	93	Lawrence						
		44	Lucas	94	Athens						
		45	Lucas	95	Belmont						
		46	Lucas	96	Jefferson						
		47	Lucas	97	Muskingum						
		48	Stark	98	Tuscarawas						
		49	Stark	99	Ashtabula						
		50	Stark								

Ohio Congressional Districts 2012-2022

(As Adopted 2012)



Ohio House Districts 2012-2022

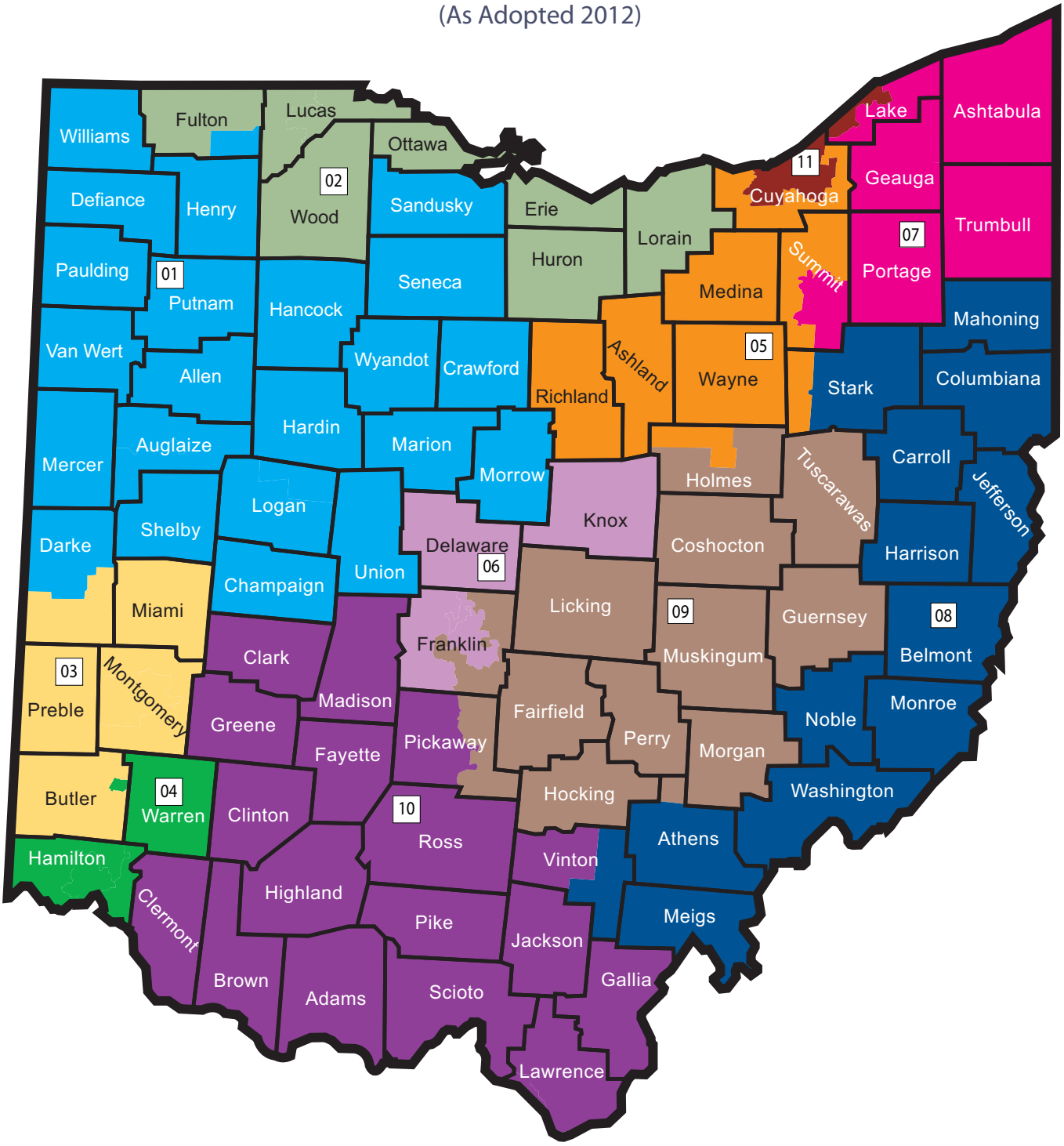
(As Adopted 2012)

Ohio Senate Districts 2012-2022

(As Adopted 2012)

State Board of Education Districts 2012-2022

(As Adopted 2012)



Ohio Court of Appeals Districts

(Oh. Const. Art. IV, Sec. 3 & RC 2501.01)

Jon Husted

Ohio Secretary of State

Elections Division
180 E. Broad St., 15th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-2585
Toll-Free: (877) SOS-OHIO (877-767-6446)
TTY Toll-Free: (877) TTY-OHIO (877-889-6446)
TTY: (614) 728-3295
www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov
election@OhioSecretaryofState.gov

SOS0513 (07/2015)