

Ohio

Office of the Ohio Secretary of State

Annual Report



Jon Husted

Ohio Secretary of State





Secretary of State Jon Husted on His Goals for the Office:

“In the Ohio Secretary of State’s office, we work to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat.

As the first stop for entrepreneurs starting a business in Ohio, my office is rolling out the red carpet and cutting the red tape.

And we are doing it all with less – running a more streamlined and fiscally responsible office.”

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Dear Ohioans,

In the Ohio Secretary of State's office, we work to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat. As the first step for entrepreneurs starting a business in Ohio, my office is rolling out the red carpet and cutting the red tape. And we are doing it all with less – running a more streamlined and fiscally responsible office.

This report provides information on many of the accomplishments of the Secretary of State's office over the last year. Notable achievements include:

Better Elections

- First statewide mailing of absentee ballot applications to 6.9 million voters in the 2012 Presidential Election. This allowed voters to request and cast a ballot without ever needing to leave home and led to a record number of absentee voters – 1.87 million.
- Launched an online change of address system, making it more convenient for voters and efficient for boards of elections to keep voter records up-to-date. So far more than 117,000 voters have used this new technology.
- Dramatically improved the accuracy of the state's voter rolls, increasing the number of voter registrations with complete information from a mere 20 percent, to more than 80 percent ahead of the 2012 Presidential Election.

Improved Business Services

- Processing times for business filings are down and good customer service is up. In 2012, more than 88,000 new businesses filed with my office – the most in one year in state history!
- Helped to guard Ohio businesses against identity theft through encouraging enrollment in the Business Filing Notification System.
- Recognized 84 businesses through our Ohio Business Profile program, which honors the achievements and successes of Ohio-based businesses.

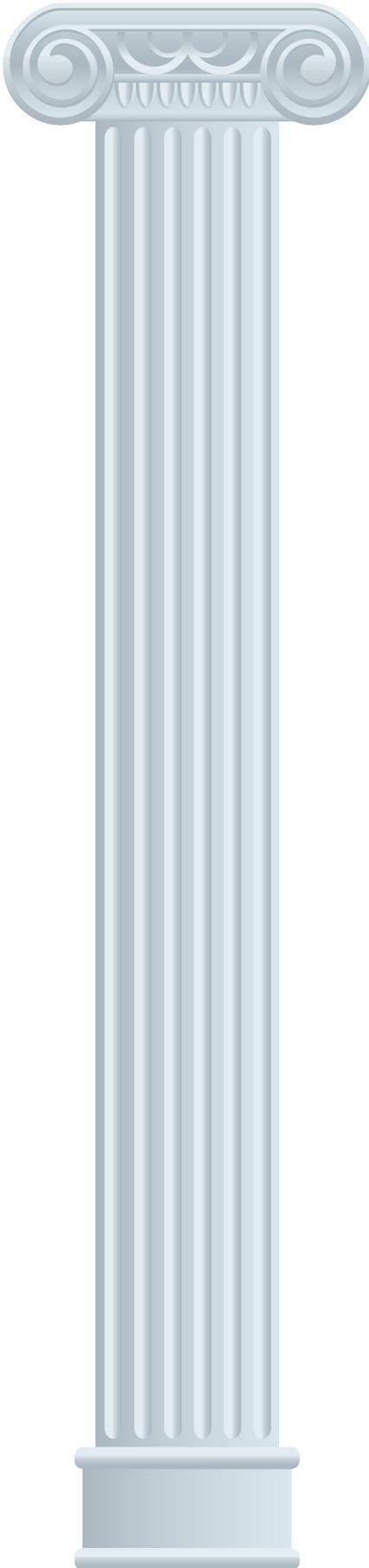
These accomplishments and much more are outlined in greater detail in this report. I am proud of the work my office has done, especially since we have achieved all of this on a smaller overall budget and with fewer staff.

I look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Sincerely,



Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State



Duties & Responsibilities of the Ohio Secretary of State

Chief Elections Officer

As Ohio's chief elections officer, the Secretary of State oversees the elections process and appoints the members of boards of elections in each of Ohio's 88 counties. The Secretary of State supervises the administration of election laws; reviews statewide initiative and referendum petitions; chairs the Ohio Ballot Board, which approves ballot language for statewide issues; canvasses votes for all elective state offices and issues; oversees the investigation of election fraud and irregularities; trains election officials, and works with counties to train poll workers. The Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office also compiles and maintains election statistics, political party records and other election-related records.

Campaign Finance Compliance

Statewide and state legislative candidates' campaign finance reports are filed with the office, together with the reports for state political action committees, state political parties and legislative caucus campaign committees.

Apportionment Board

The Secretary of State is a member of the Ohio Apportionment Board, which meets every 10 years following the decennial census. The five-member board redraws boundaries for each of the 99 Ohio House and 33 Ohio Senate districts to reflect population changes. Other members of the Apportionment Board are the Governor, the Auditor of State and two members, one Republican and one Democrat, appointed by state legislative leaders.

Granting Authority To Do Business in Ohio

The Business Services Division receives and approves articles of incorporation for Ohio business entities and grants licenses to out-of-state corporations seeking to do business in Ohio. Limited partnerships and limited liability companies also file with the Secretary of State's office.

The Corporations Section of the Business Services Division also approves amendments to filed documents, mergers, consolidations and dissolutions, registers trademarks, trade names, service marks and fictitious names. This section also approves and keeps a registry of business names, names and addresses of statutory agents, incorporators' names, corporations' charter numbers, dates of incorporation, and the number of authorized shares per corporation.

Documenting Secured Commercial Transactions

Secured parties file financing statements in the Uniform Commercial Code section of the Business Services Division to claim an interest in collateral used for a loan and to have the claim indexed for public notice.

Records Certification & Filing

Document Certification

The Secretary of State provides authentication of documents for use overseas. Authentications are in the form of either an apostille or a gold seal certificate. Apostilles are used for documents pertaining to countries that are part of the Hague Convention of 1961. Gold seal certificates are used if a country is not part of this convention.

Historical Records

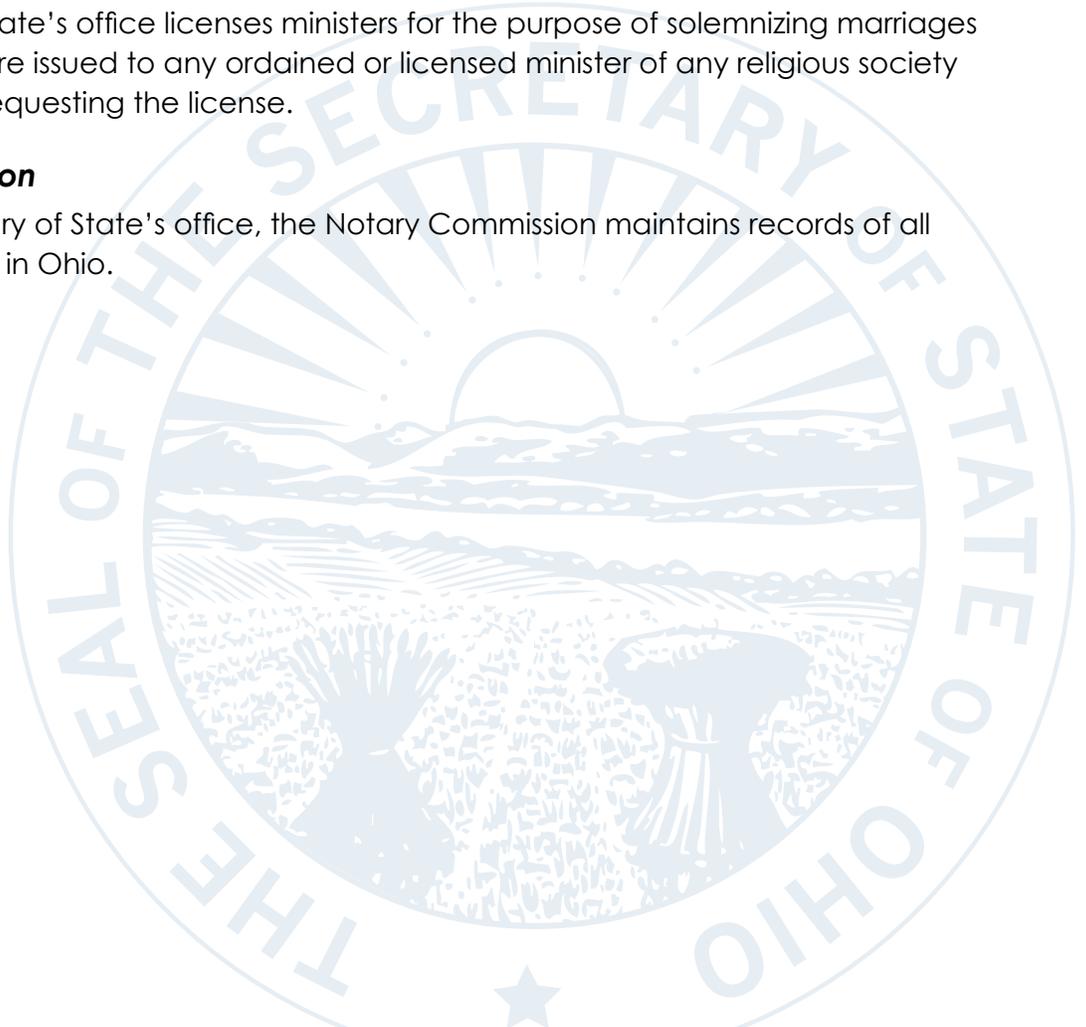
All laws passed by the Ohio General Assembly, municipal charters, administrative rules adopted by agencies, and executive orders issued by the Governor are filed with the Secretary of State's office.

Minister Licenses

The Secretary of State's office licenses ministers for the purpose of solemnizing marriages in Ohio. Licenses are issued to any ordained or licensed minister of any religious society or congregation requesting the license.

Notary Commission

Part of the Secretary of State's office, the Notary Commission maintains records of all registered notaries in Ohio.



Doing More With Less

During Fiscal Year 2013, Secretary Husted administered a successful 2012 Presidential Election – significantly enhancing services for all voters – and continued to roll out the red carpet for businesses – reducing processing times for business filings. All of this was done with fewer staff and by expending fewer taxpayer dollars.

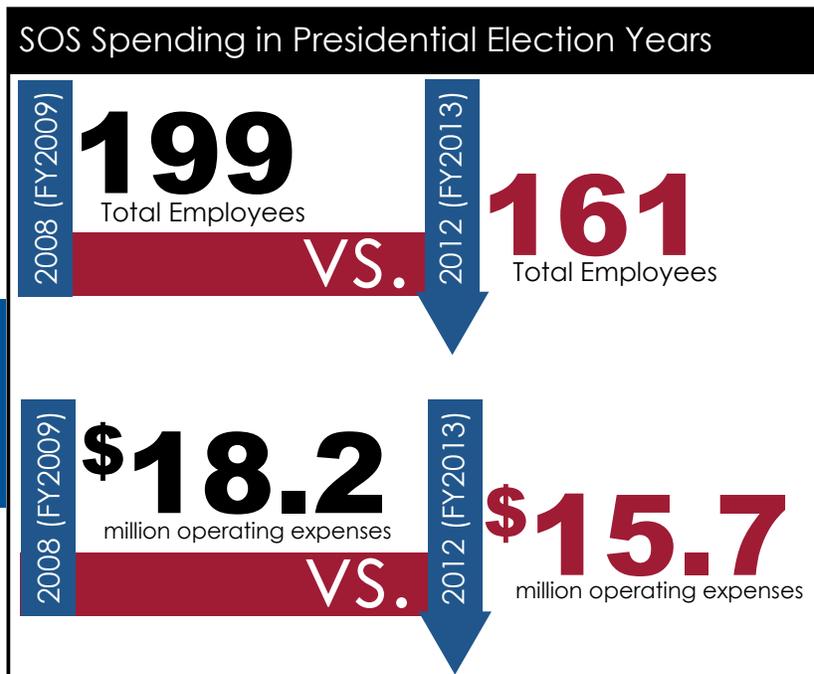
Operating expenses for the Secretary of State's office in Fiscal Year 2013 totaled \$15.7 million. This is down from \$16.8 million in Fiscal Year 2011 when Secretary Husted took office, and down from \$18.2 million in Fiscal Year 2009 – in which the last presidential election fell.

General Revenue Funding

General Revenue Funds make up approximately 12 percent of the Secretary of State's total budget. In Fiscal Years 2012 – 2013, General Revenue Fund (GRF) spending was reduced by 3.4 percent from the previous biennium. For Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015, Secretary Husted requested flat GRF funding and a 21 percent cut in all funds from Fiscal Year 2013 levels, pledging to maintain this same level of fiscal responsibility that has been the hallmark of his administration.

Payroll

From the beginning of Fiscal Year 2010 to the end of Fiscal Year 2013, there has been a more than 21 percent overall reduction in the number of staff in the Secretary of State's office, which is currently operating with 148 employees. In Fiscal Year 2013, payroll costs totaled \$12.5 million – this represents the lowest level since Fiscal Year 2007. Comparing presidential election year to presidential election year, payroll costs are down \$2 million (\$14.5 million in Fiscal Year 2009 vs. \$12.5 million in Fiscal Year 2013).



2012 Presidential Election

Once again, Ohio found itself at the center of the world's attention during the 2012 Presidential Election. Ohio withstood all the scrutiny and delivered a smooth and fair election, which saw for the first time, uniform hours across all counties for in-person absentee voting prior to Election Day, and the first ever statewide absentee ballot application mailing. This resulted in record absentee voting turnout. Voters also benefited from more online services, including a new online change of address system. In addition, more provisional ballots were counted in Ohio in 2012 as compared to 2008.

2012 Presidential Election by the Numbers

7,987,697
registered voters

5,632,423
total ballots cast

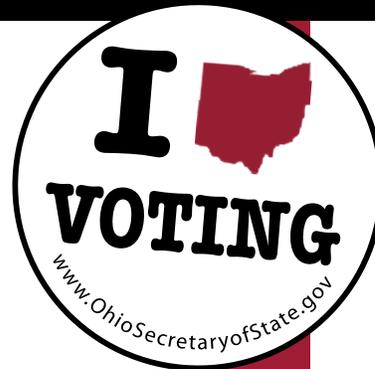
4,800
polling locations

9,200
precincts

40,000
poll workers

Approximately **1,200** races and

1,800 issues on the ballot



www.MyOhioVote.com

Ohio's one-stop voter information website where voters can:

- Download voter registration forms or absentee ballot request forms,
- Check their voter registrations or find their polling place using a newly-enhanced tool,
- Update their voting address online – **NEW in 2012**,
- Find out what's on the ballot for upcoming elections,
- Get answers to voting FAQs,
- Get a virtual voting sticker to let Facebook and Twitter friends know they voted,
- See election results,
- And much more!

MyVote **My**Right **My**Responsibility.

53rd Meeting
**Ohio Electoral College
2012**



On December 17, 2012, Ohio's 53rd Electoral College met at noon in the Ohio Senate Chamber of the Ohio Statehouse, where 18 electors formally cast their ballots for President and Vice President of the United States.

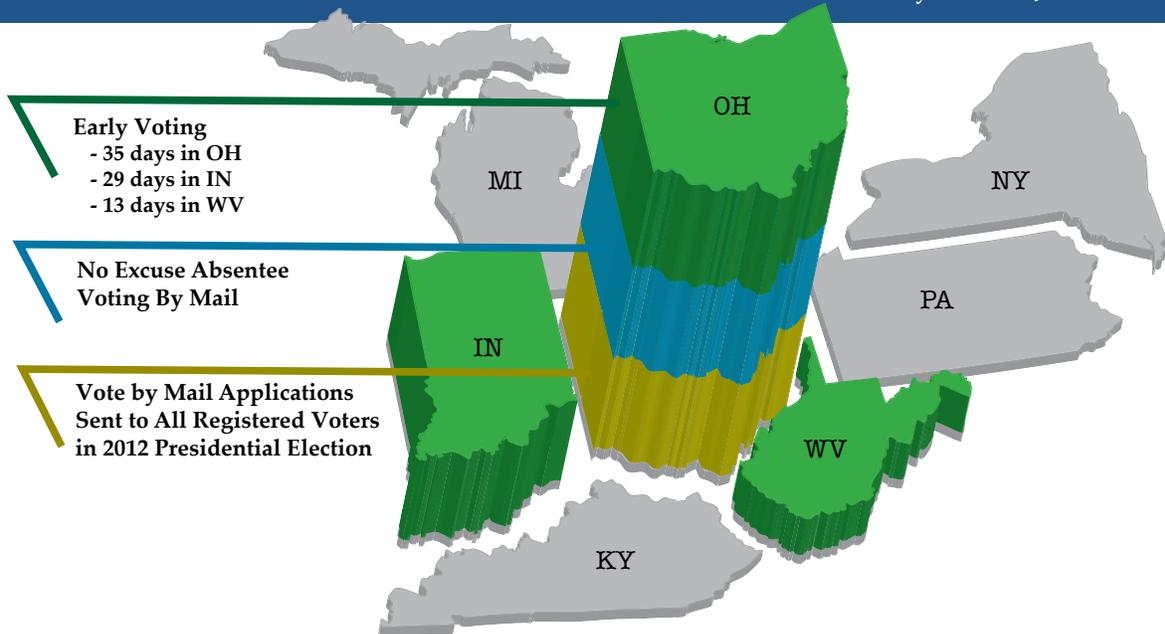


Ohio Is a Leader in Voter Access

Voting in Ohio Is Easy...

Voters in Ohio have 35 days over the course of 5 weeks to vote from home by mail, in person at the local board of elections or at an early vote center. It is easier to vote in Ohio than in any of our bordering states.

- Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted



Ohio is a leader in voter access. Voting in Ohio begins 35 days prior to any election, giving all voters the opportunity to cast their ballots either by mail or in person over the course of five weeks leading up to an election.

Statewide mailing

Even among the states which offer early and absentee voting, Ohio was unique. At Secretary Husted's direction, for the first time, the state sent absentee ballot request forms to all active voters in Ohio, giving 6.9 million people the opportunity to vote by mail in the presidential election without ever having to leave home.

Absentee voting record

The result: One in three voters, or 1.87 million Ohioans, cast a ballot prior to Election Day in the 2012 Presidential Election – an absentee voting record for the state! This was not only more convenient for voters, but it helped reduce the chance of long lines at polling places on Election Day. According to a PEW survey, the average wait time in Ohio on Election Day was only 11 minutes. (Note: The same study says that in Washington, D.C. the average wait time was 34 minutes and in Maryland, 29 minutes).

Military & Overseas Voting

Recognizing the unique challenges military and overseas Ohioans face in trying to vote, Secretary Husted launched the Military Ready-to-Vote (MRV) program in August of 2011, serving members of the military and their families, and the Ohio Voter Passport Program to support Ohioans living and working overseas.



Specially-designed brochures which are available in print or for download at www.OhioMilitaryVotes.com and www.OhioVoterPassport.com allow these voters to use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to both register and request absentee ballots for an entire calendar year, either by mail, e-mail or fax. Additionally, the websites provide important voting information – everything a military or overseas voter would need to know to participate in all federal, state and local elections for which they are eligible no matter where they may be living.



As part of the program, the Secretary of State's office works with local military units, bases and organizations to distribute brochures to deploying troops and maintains an e-mail alert system to ensure these voters receive helpful reminders on how to track their ballots, voting deadlines, what's on the ballot and results. The Secretary of State's office

also partnered with the Overseas Vote Foundation to raise awareness for these important programs. Since the launch of these programs, the Secretary of State's office has received more than 2,400 FPCAs from military and overseas voters in 40 states and the District of Columbia and from 15 different countries. Ohio FPCAs have even gotten their sea legs, with requests coming from the USS Dwight Eisenhower, USS Chafee, USS William Lawrence DDG 110, USS Harry Truman CVN-75, USS Decatur and the USS John McCain DDG-56.

For the Secretary of State's efforts to support military voters, Ohio was deemed an "All Star State" by the Military Voter Protection Project and Secretary Husted has been honored by the Association of the United States Army for his commitment to making it easier for troops to vote.

All-Star State

Military Voter Protection Project's
2012 Heroes Vote Initiative



Secretary of State Jon Husted is presented a certificate of appreciation from the Association of the United States Army, recognizing his efforts to simplify the voting process for military personnel and to make voting information more accessible.

Voter Access Initiatives



Online Change of Address

www.MyOhioVote.com

Makes it easier for all voters to keep their voting information up to date to ensure they can vote a regular rather than a provisional ballot on Election Day. More than 117,000 have used it to date.

OHIO VOTER
PASSPORT



Military Ready-to-Vote and Ohio Voter Passport

www.OhioMilitaryVotes.com www.OhioVoterPassport.com

Help ensure military and overseas voters can easily access their ballots no matter where their service or work takes them. More than 2,400 military and overseas ballot requests have been received from 40 different states (and D.C.) and 15 different countries.



GradsVote Ohio

www.GradsVoteOhio.com

Educates and encourages Ohio's newly-eligible voters to become active participants in our democracy. In 2013, 167,800 voter registration packets were delivered to 1,234 high schools.

Improving Ohio's Voter Rolls

Ohio's voter rolls are in the best shape they have been in since Ohio launched the Statewide Voter Registration Database in 2005.

New online change of address system

Technology has played a major role in this effort. In August 2012, Secretary Husted launched an online change of address system, which for the first time, allowed Ohio voters to change their address electronically at any hour and without having to mail or drop off a paper form. To date, more than 117,000 voters have taken advantage of the new system. That has meant less data entry for boards of elections and therefore, less cost and fewer errors. Additionally, providing a more convenient way to update their voter registrations helps ensure voters can cast a regular rather than a provisional ballot on Election Day.

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State

Jon Husted & the Office | Elections & Voting | Campaign Finance | Legislation & Refer Issues | Businesses | Records | Media Center | Publications

Update Your Ohio Voting Address

Update Your Voter Registration Information [Haga clic aquí para ver esta página en español.](#)

Update Your Ohio Voting Address

Update Online

Update Manually

To update your Ohio voting address using the online system, you must supply all of the following information:

- Ohio driver's license or state identification number
- Name
- Date of birth
- Last four digits of your Social Security number

If you do not have any portion of the required information, [click here to update your voting address using our paper form](#). Once you complete this form, you must sign and send it to your [county board of elections](#).

Note: You cannot use the "update online" function to change your name. In order to change your name use the "Click to Download Form" link below and submit it to your local board of elections.

Click To Continue

Click To Download Form

You must update your voter registration no later than 30 days prior to an election. Upcoming voter registration deadlines:
October 7th for the November 3rd General Election

Contact Us
(614) 466-2433
(877) 808-0450 (767-8446)
TTY (614) 466-0582
Toll-Free TTY (877) 644-4391
Email: [The Office](#)
180 S. Broad St., 16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43218

Get ADOBE READER

Secretary Husted's Online Change of Address System at www.MyOhioVote.com/Update.htm

Prior to the voter registration deadline for the presidential election, Secretary Husted also proactively mailed more than 370,000 voters who had moved (300,000 within the state and 70,000 out of state) to encourage them to update their addresses or cancel their Ohio registrations prior to the election.

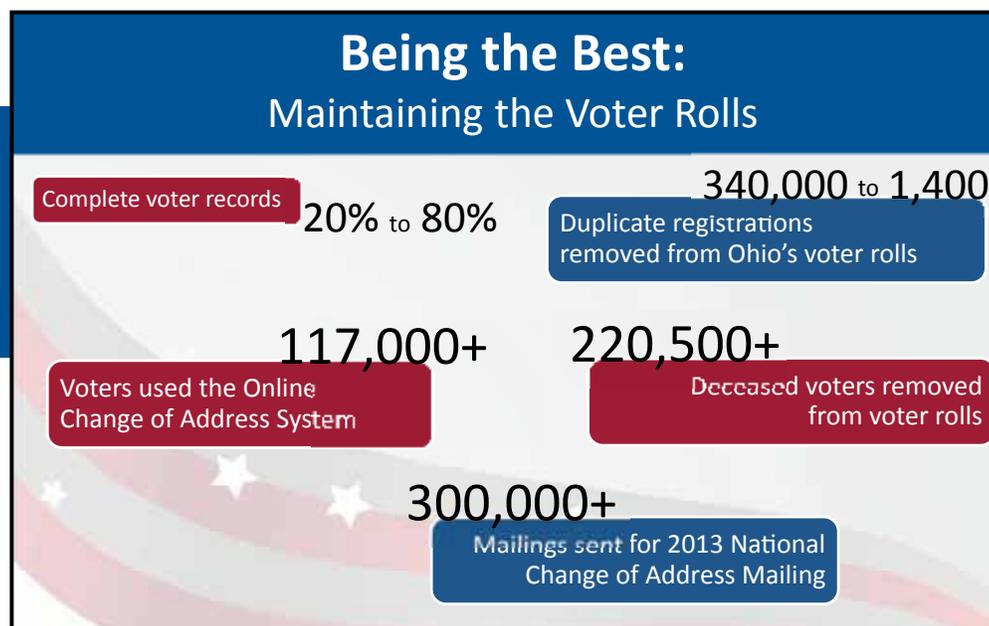
Partnership with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to keep voter rolls current

When Secretary Husted took office, Ohio's Statewide Voter Registration Database had complete information for only 20 percent of voters. By pursuing a data-sharing partnership with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), the state can electronically transfer additional data to local boards of elections, ensuring complete records for 80 percent of voters...and growing.

Additionally, the electronic data-sharing between the BMV and the Secretary of State's office, and from the Secretary of State's office to the 88 county boards of elections, has helped bring Ohio into compliance with the federal Motor Voter Act for the first time in nearly 20 years, helping to ensure that when a voter updates their driver's license information, the same information is sent to their county board of elections to also update their voter registration.

More diligence in removing deceased and duplicate registrations

With more matching data to work with, boards of elections have been able to be more diligent and consistent on general list maintenance. Collectively, between 2011 and 2013, board staff researched and removed 220,500 deceased voters from the voting rolls, and reduced duplicate registrations from 340,000 in 2010, down to 1,400 just prior to the presidential election. Additionally, the online change of address system has helped to streamline the process for boards of elections to comply with federal requirements under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. Starting in May of 2013, boards began contacting more than 300,000 inactive voters or voters who may have moved since they last voted, giving them the opportunity to update their registrations and stay on the voter rolls. Thanks to the online change of address system, this can be done online for the first time.



First Statewide Report on Voter Fraud & Voter Suppression



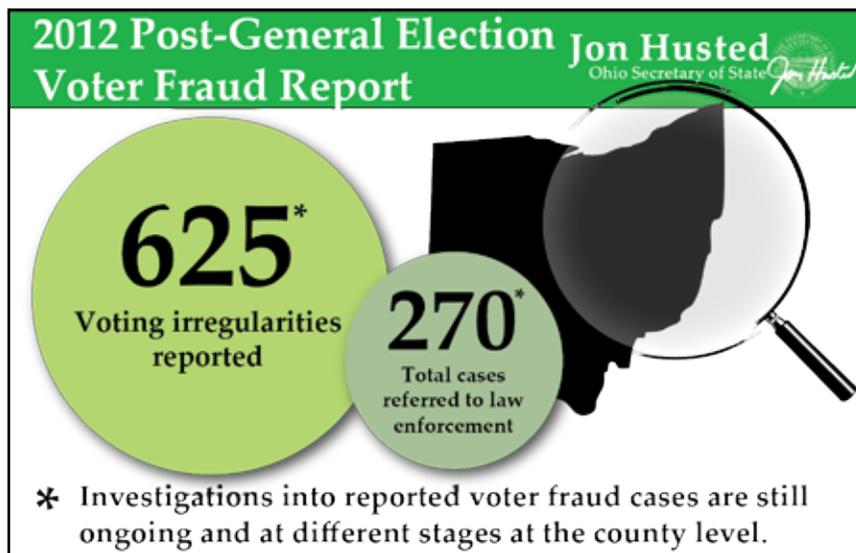
This report demonstrates that voter fraud does exist; but it is not an epidemic. More importantly, our effort to look into irregularities and root out voter fraud sends a strong message that no amount of fraud is acceptable.

- Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted

Secretary Husted is committed to ensuring Ohio voters can have confidence in Ohio elections. In January of 2013, he issued Directive 2013-01, requiring all boards of elections to look into substantiated cases of voter fraud or voter suppression from the 2012 Presidential Election. In May, the office issued the first ever statewide voter fraud and suppression report, compiling all the information reported to the Secretary of State by county boards of elections.

To date, out of 625 irregularities identified, 270 cases¹ of voter fraud have been referred to law enforcement for further investigation. Among those are 20 cases of voters who appear to have voted in both Ohio and another state. These cases were uncovered by the Secretary of State's office as a result of a new partnership in the Interstate Cross-check System – a 22-state, data-sharing consortium. Zero cases of voter suppression have been referred for prosecution.

View the entire report at www.MyOhioVote.com/VoterFraudReport.htm.



¹At the time the report was issued, boards of elections were in varying stages of their investigations. Since May, the initial 135 referrals have risen to 270.

Poll Worker Recruitment & Training

With more than 40,000 individuals needed to staff polling places across Ohio on Election Day, Secretary Husted has made precinct election official (PEO) recruitment, training and retention a priority.



Through a new website www.PEOinOhio.com, potential poll workers can sign up to work on Election Day. Since April of 2012, the Secretary of State's office has forwarded more than 1,700 names to county boards of elections, which are ultimately responsible for their hiring and training. Here, poll workers can also access the Secretary of State's online training program and resources.

Additionally, to assist with poll worker training at the local level, the Secretary of State's office distributed \$760,000 in poll worker training to county boards of elections over the last two years.

To keep in touch with poll workers and recognize their service, the Secretary of State's office distributes the *Ballot Box Bulletin* – an informative newsletter, which each year honors an outstanding Republican and Democratic precinct elections official with the "Red Carpet Award."



Secretary of State Jon Husted visiting with some of the poll workers of Clermont County.



Secretary of State Jon Husted visiting a polling location in Delaware County.

Polling Place Accessibility

Since Secretary Husted took office, the Secretary of State's office has distributed nearly \$190,000 to assist local communities with the cost of making polling locations accessible to voters with disabilities. Though, for the most part, these locations are only polling locations for up to four days a year, these capital improvements benefit the communities year-round and for many years to come.

Elections During FY 2013:

- Special elections were held on **August 7, 2012**. In 35 Ohio counties voters weighed in on 60 local issues.
- The general election was held on **November 6, 2012**, where Ohioans voted for President, U.S. Senator, Representatives to Congress, General Assembly, Ohio Supreme Court, two statewide issues, Court of Appeals, State School Board, county offices as well as 1,794 local issues.
- Special elections were held on **February 5, 2013**. In nine Ohio counties, voters decided seven local issues.
- A primary election was held on **May 7, 2013**. In 67 Ohio counties, voters weighed in on local candidate races and 364 local issues.
- Results and data can be found at www.MyOhioVote.com.

Campaign Finance

The Secretary of State's Campaign Finance Division makes campaign contribution and expenditure reports for all state candidates and issue committees immediately available to the public upon their filing, promoting transparency. The office also conducts regular audits on reports to ensure adherence to all applicable campaign finance laws. The staff also provides training to local boards of elections where local candidates file their reports.

In Fiscal Year 2013, the office took in more than 4,100 campaign finance filings¹ and conducted 3,200 audits.

¹ This includes candidates committee filings as well as administrative filings (ie Designation of Treasurer).

Rolling Out the Red Carpet for Ohio Business

Hundreds of thousands of businesses are based in Ohio in a variety of industries. The state's economic well-being is directly tied to the success of these businesses. The Secretary of State's office provides services for business enterprises throughout Ohio, including authorizing corporations to do business in our state and a number of other required filings.

Whether a business is deeply rooted in its local community or it is the dream of

an entrepreneur, each business will begin and continually work with the Secretary of State's office throughout its lifecycle. Secretary Husted's administration is committed to making this process as easy as possible so Ohio entrepreneurs can concentrate on starting and growing their companies.

Faster Processing Times = Better Customer Service

Despite reductions in staffing, the average processing time for Ohio business filings has dropped from an average 4-5 days in January of 2012, to only 1-2 days in 2013.

Helpful Information for Starting a New Business in Ohio

The Secretary of State's office wants to help Ohio businesses succeed. To help navigate the various types of filings required to establish a business in Ohio, the Secretary of State's office offers several useful publications. All publications are available electronically on the Publications page of the www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov. While there, visitors can request a print copy, free of charge.

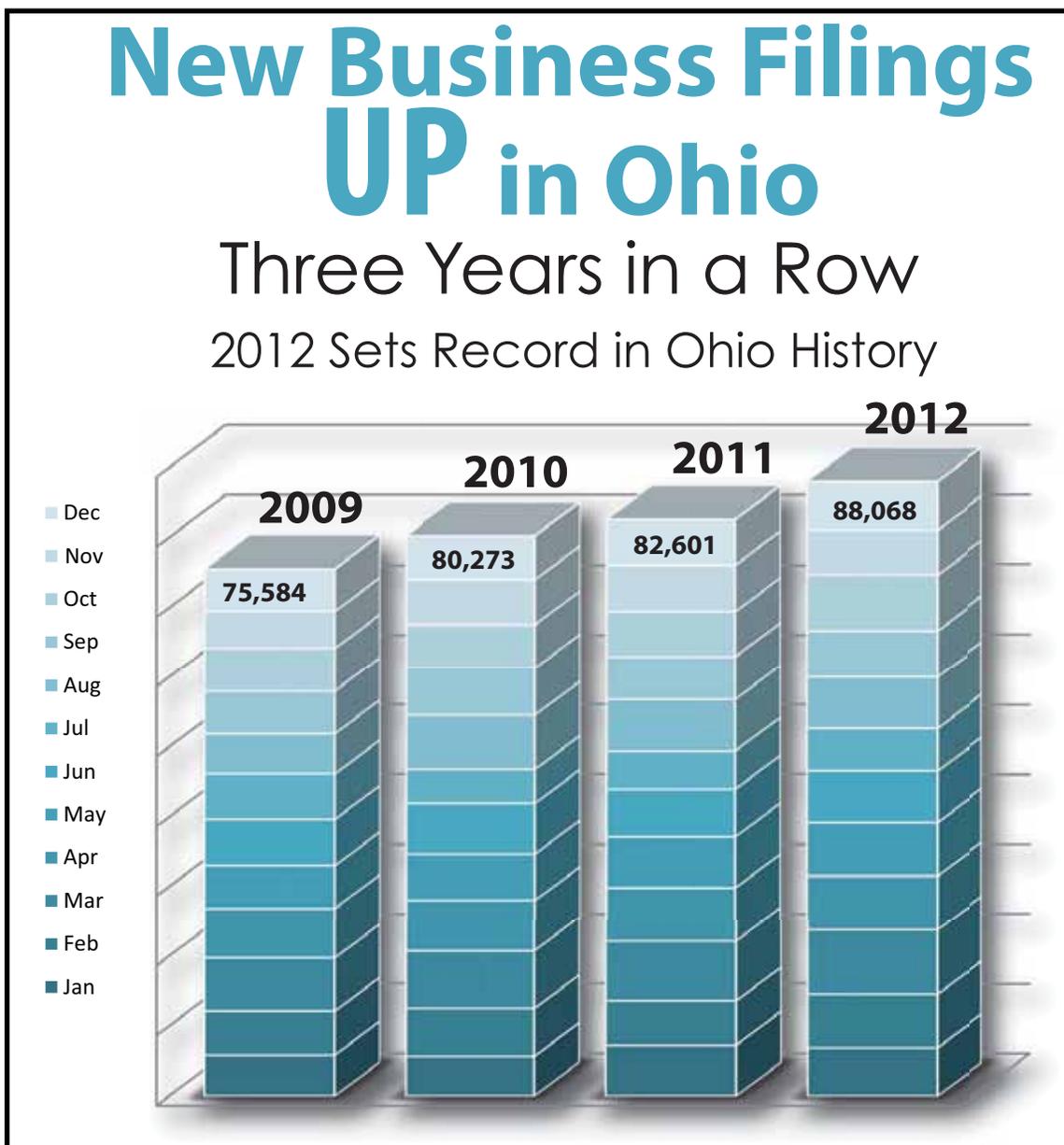
Current available publications include:

- Secretary Husted's New Business Checklist
- Guide to Starting a Corporation in Ohio
- Guide to Starting a Limited Liability Company in Ohio
- Guide to Starting a Nonprofit Organization in Ohio
- Guide to Starting a Partnership in Ohio
- Guide to Starting a Sole Proprietorship in Ohio
- Guide to Secured Transactions Filing in Ohio
- Guide to Registering Your Trademark or Service Mark in Ohio



New Business Filings Are Up

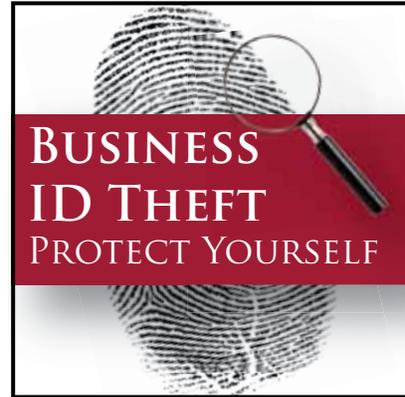
Since January of 2011, more than 218,500 new companies have filed to do business in Ohio and 2012 marked a record year for new business filings in Ohio with 88,068 entities seeking authority to do business in the state that year.



The trend continues. So far in 2013, the numbers continue to be above the previous year, with the Secretary of State's office assisting with 47,918 filings from January to June of 2013, compared to 46,591 during the same period in 2012.

Filing Notification System – Guarding Against Business ID Theft

To help Ohio businesses protect their identities, the Secretary of State's office administers the Business Filing Notification System. This is a free service, allowing businesses to track any filing changes or updates. Once subscribed, a business will receive an e-mail the day after any document is filed with the Secretary of State. Currently more than 81,000 subscribers are taking advantage of this important service.



Ohio Business Profile Program

Secretary Husted believes Ohioans have much to be proud of when it comes to the diversity and success of the businesses that call the Buckeye State home. To celebrate the good work being done in Ohio, the Secretary of State's office launched Ohio Business Profile -- a monthly feature highlighting a number of Ohio businesses in a common industry or sector.



Since June 2011, 174 Ohio businesses from all around the state have been profiled for creating interesting products, offering outstanding service, contributing to their communities and employing Ohioans. As we work to improve Ohio's overall business climate, the demonstrated successes of existing Ohio companies can be one of the best marketing tools we have to encourage others to invest here, creating jobs and economic activity.

Profiles can be viewed at www.OhioBusinessProfile.com or through the Secretary of State's [Facebook page @OhioSOSHusted](#).



Secretary Husted visits seepex, Inc. in Enon.

Client Service Center Serves All Ohioans

The Secretary of State's office maintains a walk-in Client Service Center in Columbus at 180 East Broad Street and a toll-free number (877) SOS-OHIO (767-6446). All Ohioans can get information on the wide array of Secretary of State services including voter registration, business or UCC filings, as well as how to apply for ministers licenses, notary commissions, or to request official Apostilles and Certifications from the State of Ohio.

Client Services - *At a Glance*

During FY 2013...

165,709 business filings and **161,862** UCC filings processed

5,971 Ministers licensed

Approximately **37,500** Apostilles and Gold Seal Certifications applications processed

84 Bills passed by the Ohio General Assembly and signed by the Governor were filed with the Secretary of State

What's an Apostille?

An Apostille provides authentication of documents for use overseas. Apostilles are used for documents pertaining to countries that are part of the Hague Convention of 1961. Gold seal certificates are used if a country is not part of this convention.

Giving Back

In Fiscal Year 2013, Ohio Secretary of State employees donated nearly 8,400 pounds of food to the MidOhio Food Bank.

Office Initiatives

Secretary of State Jon Husted's office has launched several initiatives to reach out to Ohio voters and businesses. These initiatives, all based around the responsibilities of the office, both celebrate the diversity of business in our state and encourage Ohioans to exercise their right to vote. These initiatives are available for county boards of elections to utilize and materials can be provided upon request.

MyOhioVote.com is a comprehensive website providing voters with important voter information on being active participants in an election in one convenient location. MyOhioVote.com reminds voters that when they exercise their right to vote on Election Day, they also have a responsibility to do their part.



Ohio
BUSINESS
Profile

Ohio Business Profile (OBP) is a web-based feature launched in May 2011 highlighting the work companies are doing in Ohio. Each month, OhioBusinessProfile.com features a number of businesses related around a common theme. Additional OBP interaction occurs through the office's social media outlets.

Military Ready-to-Vote is a program that provides voting materials, information and assistance to ensure Ohio service members serving on active duty have everything they need to participate in Ohio elections while they are in the service of the country.



**OHIO VOTER
PASSPORT**



Ohio Voter Passport is an initiative giving Ohioans outside of the United States information and resources to vote from abroad. In addition to receiving a brochure containing a voter registration and absentee ballot request form, participants can sign up for elections reminders and updates.

Vote in Honor of a Veteran allows Ohio voters to pay tribute to the service of individual service members, past and present, by dedicating their votes to them on Election Day. Voters can post a testimonial on the Secretary of State's website and social media sites, and even receive a special pin to wear on Election Day.



Grads Vote reaches out to the state's newest voters. Each spring, through Grads Vote Ohio, the Secretary of State's office sends a voter

registration form to every graduating high school student in Ohio.

Be a P.E.O. in Ohio is a statewide coordinated campaign to recruit and train current and future Precinct Election Officials (P.E.O.) More than 40,000 Ohioans serve as P.E.O.s

each election and boards are constantly looking for more people to staff polling places.



Jon Husted

Ohio Secretary of State



Jon Husted

180 E. Broad St., 16th Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43215

(614) 466-2585

Toll-Free: (877) SOS-OHIO (767-6446)

TTY Toll-Free: (877) TTY-OHIO (889-6446)

TTY: (614) 728-3295

www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov

