



# Annual Report

Office of the Ohio Secretary of State

# Ohio

**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 easy to vote and hard 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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Secretary Husted visits the Ohio Farm Bureau.



Secretary Husted visits the Ohio Board of Regents STEMM Event.

Dear Ohioan,

Technology has dramatically changed the way we live, work and play.

In the Secretary of State’s Office, we’re utilizing technology to modernize, making it easy to vote and hard to cheat, and significantly improving service for Ohio businesses as they create more jobs and economic opportunity in our state.

In October 2013, we launched Ohio Business Central – an online business filing system, which for the first time, enabled entrepreneurs seeking to start a business or needing to update their existing filings with the state to do so 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That means less paper and faster processing times. In fact, despite having fewer employees, our office has reduced the time to process submissions from four to five days down to just a day and a half.

With processing times for business filings down, Ohio new business filings are on the rise. In 2013, 89,735 new businesses filed with my office – surpassing 2012’s record of 88,068. With the launch of Ohio Business Central, one in three new companies are now being formed online. Nearly 18,000 filings have been submitted to date.

On the election side, technology has allowed us to dramatically clean up the voter rolls and offer more services to voters. Nearly 155,000 Ohioans have utilized our online change of address system and we have enhanced our voter lookup tool, where individuals can check their registrations and find their polling places.

When it comes to the voter rolls, we’re continuing to clean-up the statewide voter database to improve accuracy, increasing the number of voter records with complete information from just 20 percent to nearly 90 percent, as well as eliminating all duplicate registrations ahead of 2014 May Primary. Additionally, we have removed more than 317,000 deceased Ohioans, and contacted more than 962,000 voters to encourage them to update their information using the convenient online services now provided. These efforts help ensure easy access for voters and greater efficiency for boards of elections.

These accomplishments and much more are outlined in greater detail throughout this report. I am proud of the work my office has done, especially since we have achieved it all while reducing costs to Ohio taxpayers.

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 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.



*Secretary Husted certifies the official May primary results.*

## Doing More With Less

During Fiscal Year 2014, Secretary Husted continued to enhance services for voters and businesses alike, including the launch of a new online business filing system that has made it easier for entrepreneurs to start a company in Ohio. All of this was done with fewer staff and lower costs to taxpayers.

Operating expenses for the Secretary of State's Office in Fiscal Year 2014 totaled \$15.3 million. This is down from \$15.7 million in Fiscal Year 2013, which was a notable year for savings compared to the \$16.8 million in Fiscal Year 2011 when Secretary Husted took office, and the \$18.2 million in Fiscal Year 2009 – in which the last presidential election fell.

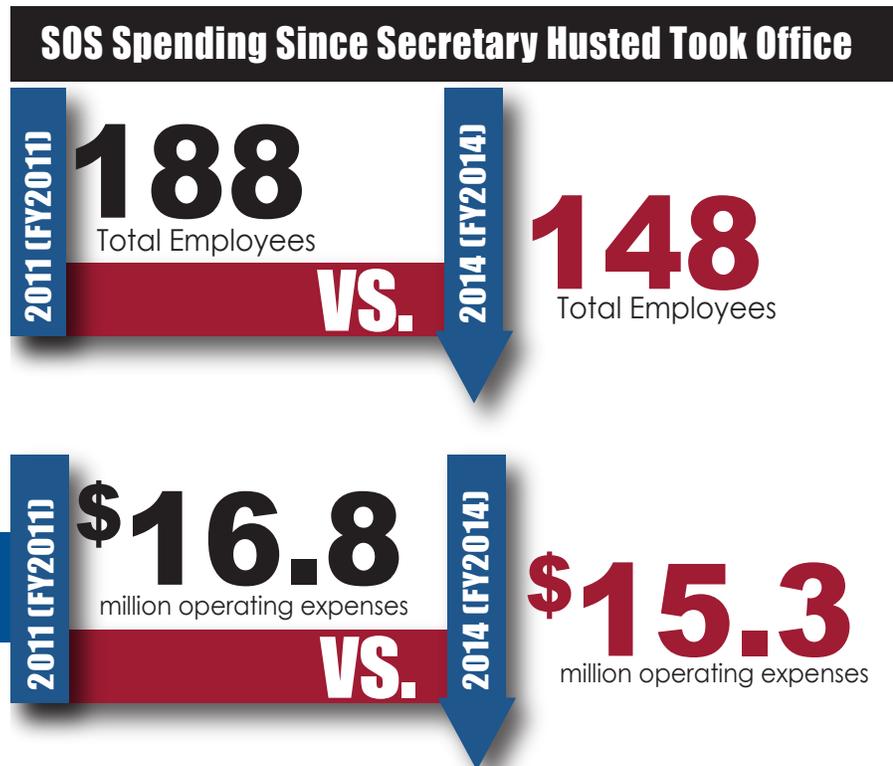
### General Revenue Funding

General Revenue Funds make up approximately 12 percent of the Secretary of State's total operating 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

Before Secretary Husted took office in January 2011 to the end of Fiscal Year 2014, 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 2014, payroll costs totaled \$11.8 million – this represents the lowest level since Fiscal Year 2007.

Comparing presidential election year to presidential election year, payroll costs were down \$2 million (\$14.5 million in Fiscal Year 2009 vs. \$12.5 million in Fiscal Year 2013).



## 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 maintaining 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 2011, to only 1-2 days in June 2014.

### Online Business Filings **New in 2013**

With a focus on improving and modernizing businesses services at the Secretary of State's Office, Secretary Husted launched a new initiative in October 2013 to allow online filing for the most frequently used forms. To date, nearly 18,000 filings have been submitted. One in three new companies in Ohio are formed online. The online filings that are available to customers represent approximately 50 percent of all filings received by the Secretary of State's Office in 2012.

#### Online Forms:

Forms currently available for online filing include those for forming a limited liability company in Ohio, renewals for trade or fictitious names, biennial reports for professional associations or limited liability partnerships, statements of continued existence for nonprofit corporations, reinstatement and appointment of agents, as well as certificates of limited partnership.

## It's Easy to Start Your Business

File Online with Ohio Business Central



More than **half** of all filings received by the Secretary of State's Office in 2012 can now be done conveniently at Ohio Business Central.

**Get Started Today!**

**18,000**



Since the office launched online filing in October of 2013, more than 18,000 filings have been submitted. One in three new businesses are now started through the online system.



*In Ohio, we are rolling out the red carpet to business and job creation by cutting the red tape. - Secretary of State Jon Husted*

## Why Business Leaders Like Online Business Filings

*"Why can't government run more like a business? I hear that day in and day out. It's that age-old question that never seems to have an answer. Jon Husted and his great staff are answering that age-old question by saying 'Yes, it can.'"*

Andy Doehrel  
President and CEO, Ohio Chamber of Commerce

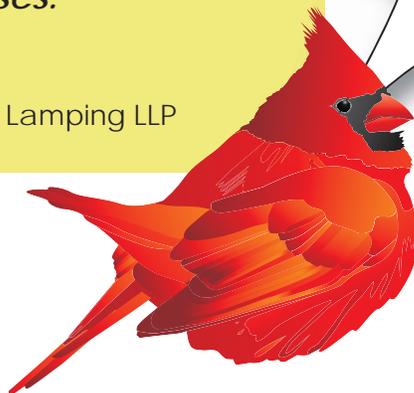
*"I think this is a perfect illustration of Ohio's continued commitment to moving faster, recognizing the importance of the business community, and certainly continuing to shine the welcome sign to Ohio businesses."*

Chris Ferruso  
Legislative Director, National Federation of Independent Business

*"In one very recent case, we had a business that had the opportunity to purchase certain assets of another business. The seller was eager to close the deal within a matter of 48 hours. Because of the online portal, we formed an Ohio entity within one hour. Our clients were thrilled! The deal closed, and all of the people involved were able to move on with running their businesses."*

Wednesday Oster  
Business Attorney, Wood & Lamping LLP

Bradley Miller @bradleymiller  
Well @OhioSOSHusted has yet again  
outdone themselves - a new LLC filing  
approved only 5 hours after being  
submitted! #NotExpedited



## New Business Filings Are Up

Since January of 2011, more than 309,658 new companies have filed to do business in Ohio and 2013 marked a record year for new business filings in Ohio with 89,735 entities seeking authority to do business in the state that year, surpassing 2012's record number of 88,068 filings.

*The trend continues.* So far in 2014, the numbers continue to be above the previous year, with the Secretary of State's Office assisting with 49,254 filings from January to June of 2014, compared to 47,918 during the same period 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 [www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov](http://www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov). While there, visitors can request a print copy, free of charge.

### New Business Filings Up in Ohio

Four Years in a Row  
18.7% increase from 2009 to 2013



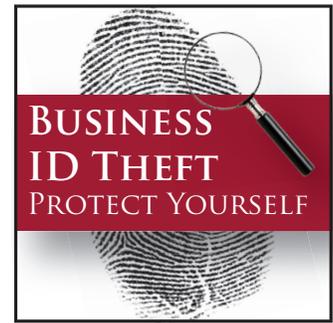
### Current available publications include:

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



## 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 which allows 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 92,877 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, 248 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](http://www.OhioBusinessProfile.com) or through the Secretary of State's Facebook page [@OhioSOSHusted](https://www.facebook.com/OhioSOSHusted).

Visiting Velvet Ice Cream in Utica, OH.





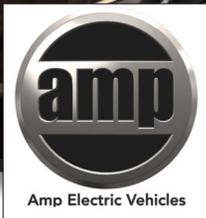
Visiting Buehler's Fresh Foods in Wooster, OH.



Visiting Plastic Suppliers in Columbus, OH.



Visiting Bellisio Foods in Jackson, OH.



Visiting AMP Electric Vehicles in Lorain, OH.



Visiting Shoot-A-Way in Upper Sandusky, OH.



# Elections in Ohio

When it comes to administering elections in Ohio, the goal is simple – make it easy to vote and hard to cheat. To that end, the Secretary of State’s office has developed a modernization strategy built around the idea that “good enough” is not good enough. In Ohio, the focus is on the voter and this simple and straightforward approach ensures Ohio elections are run with integrity and efficiency.



## National Studies Highlight Ohio’s Progress in Elections Administration

### Presidential Commission on Elections Administration

In January 2014, the Presidential Commission on Elections Administration released a bipartisan report on how to improve the voting experience across the nation. The report included recommendations for the country, many of which are already being done in Ohio. In fact, the report repeatedly referenced testimony Secretary Husted gave to the Commission in September 2013 when a hearing was held in Cincinnati. Bottom line, Ohio is doing a great job administering elections and making it easy to vote and hard to cheat.



[Read the full report at:](#)



## Presidential Commission on Elections Administration Recommendations

- Maintain Accurate Voter Rolls**  
Ohio’s voter rolls are in the best shape they have ever been in—boasting complete information on nearly 90 percent of all voters, up from just 20 percent in 2011.
- Improved Data Sharing Between States**  
The Secretary of State’s Office has formed new and stronger partnerships with other state agencies, like the BMV, as well as other states to improve the sharing of data and ensure accessibility and integrity in the administration of elections.
- Provide Online Tools**  
Voters in Ohio can easily and conveniently update their voter registration information through the online change of address system. Secretary Husted continues to push for legislative approval for full online voter registration.
- Expanded Early Voting Options**  
Ohio exceeds the national average of 19 days for absentee voting, allowing voters to cast ballots early in person and by mail for nearly four weeks.
- Avoiding Long Lines at the Polls**  
An independent survey conducted by PEW found voters in Ohio waited an average of only 11 minutes to vote on Election Day.



## ***Improving Ohio's National Ranking in Election Administration***

In April 2014, the Pew Charitable Trust released its 2012 Election Performance Index (EPI) Study. Overall, Ohio made a significant jump in the Pew rankings between the 2008 and 2012 Presidential Elections – moving up 13 places from 37th to 24th. In fact, Ohio was one of only a dozen states to increase its overall Pew EPI by an average of nine points or more.

Factors that led to Ohio's improved rankings included shorter wait times, down from 15.6 minutes in 2008 to 11 minutes in 2012, and an increase in absentee voting. The rise in absentee voting was due in large part to Secretary Husted's decision to send absentee ballot request forms to all registered voters. Aside from the states that vote exclusively by mail, no other states offered this level of service to voters in 2012. Additionally, rankings improved because of the completeness of voter data, a reduction in the number of rejected provisional and mail-in ballots (including for military voters), the addition of a post-election audit, lower residual vote rates (the number of over-votes and under-votes) as well as for fewer problems when it came to voter registration, absentee voting, and in the overall experience for voters with disabilities.

Based on the Pew methodology, it is estimated that had the General Assembly passed online voter registration as the Secretary has been advocating, Ohio could have been in the top 10 in 2012, not only because of the points earned for having a system in place, but also because as Pew and the Presidential Commission on Elections Administration reports have pointed out, online voter registration facilitates better voter rolls, which helps to decrease wait times at the polls, improve data accuracy, ensure fewer provisional ballots and reduce the number of unreturned ballots. Secretary Husted will continue his push for online voter registration in the next legislative session.

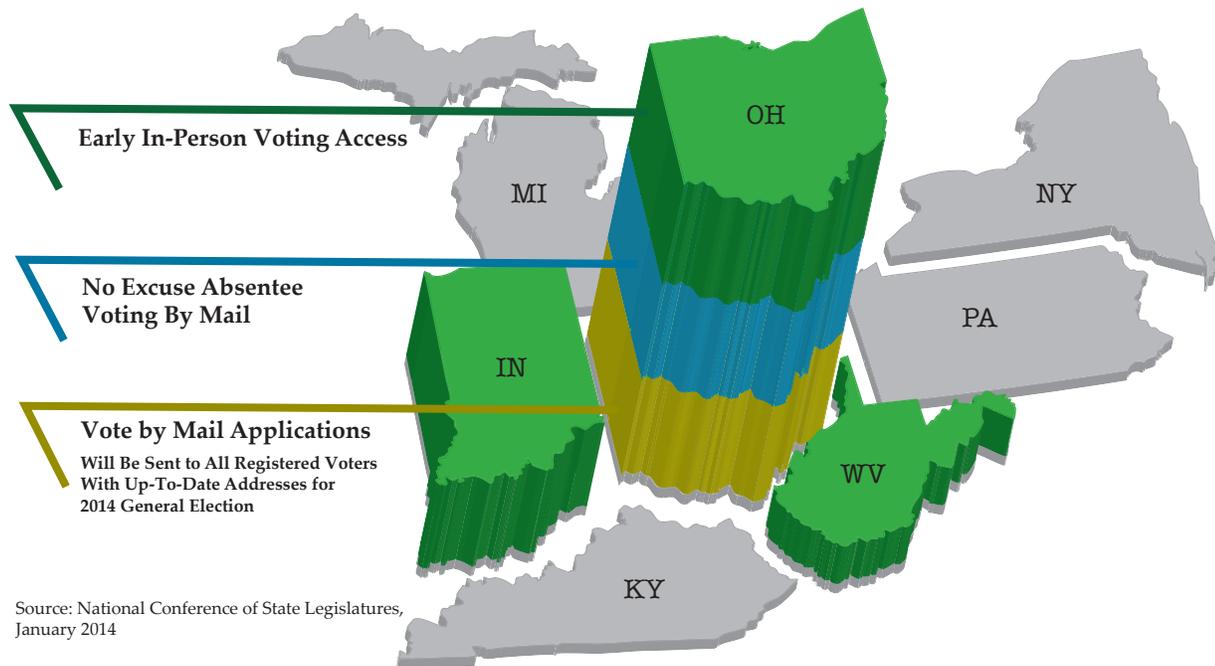
*[Read the full report at the PEW Charitable Trust website.](#)*



*Secretary Husted testifies at the Presidential Commission on Election Administration in Cincinnati.*



## Ohio Is a Leader in Voter Access



Ohio is a leader in voter access. Voting in Ohio begins the day after the close of registration, giving all voters the opportunity to cast their ballots either by mail or in person over the course of four weeks leading up to an election.

### **Statewide mailing**

Building on the success of the first-ever statewide absentee ballot application mailing in the 2012 Presidential Election – in which 6.9 million people had the opportunity to vote by mail from the comfort of their own homes – Secretary Husted will once again send vote-by-mail applications to all registered voters with a current address on file just after Labor Day ahead of the 2014 General Election. Prior to 2012, only certain counties offered this service to voters. Now, no matter where they live, voters can complete their personalized application, mail it back and their ballots will be sent to them at the start of early voting, giving them approximately four weeks to vote without ever having to leave home.

### **Absentee voting record**

In the 2012 Presidential Election, one in three voters, or 1.87 million Ohioans, cast a ballot prior to Election Day – 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.

## 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.

### 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 155,000 voters have taken advantage of the 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 ballot on Election Day.

Secretary Husted's Online Change of Address System at [www.MyOhioVote.com](http://www.MyOhioVote.com)

### 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 nearly 90 percent of voters.

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. As a result, individuals can now easily update their driver's license and voter information at the same time.

The screenshot displays the Ohio Secretary of State's website interface for updating voter registration information. At the top, the header identifies Jon Husted as the Ohio Secretary of State, with a navigation menu including links for 'Jon Husted & the Office', 'Elections & Voting', 'Campaign Finance', 'Legislation & Ballot Issues', 'Businesses', 'Records', 'Media Center', and 'Publications'. The main heading is 'Update Your Ohio Voting Address', accompanied by a graphic of a red mailbox and a yellow envelope. A sidebar on the left lists various website sections: Voters, UOCAVA, Precinct Election Officials, Elections Officials, Candidates, Election Results & Data, Campaign Finance, and Voting Initiatives. The main content area is titled 'Update Your Voter Registration Information' and includes a link to a Spanish version of the page. Two large buttons are present: 'Update Online' (green) and 'Update Manually' (red). The 'Update Online' section provides instructions and a list of required information: Ohio driver's license or state identification number, Name, Date of birth, and Last four digits of your Social Security number. The 'Update Manually' section includes a note that the online function cannot be used to change names and provides instructions to use the 'Click to Download Form' link. Below the main content are two more buttons: 'Click To Continue' (green) and 'Click To Download Form' (red). At the bottom, a banner titled 'Moved On' promotes 'Voter Registration Cancellation' with a 'Click Here' link and the Secretary of State's logo.



### **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 2014, board staff researched and removed 317,000 deceased voters from the voting rolls, and reduced duplicate registrations from 340,000 in January 2011 to zero ahead of the 2014 primary. 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 2014, following recent law changes by state lawmakers, boards are now required to contact all voters who have moved over the past year, encouraging them to update their voter registrations. This is important for ensuring these voters can vote a regular rather than a provisional ballot. It also guarantees they will receive a vote-by-mail application from Secretary Husted ahead of the November 2014 general election.

This new state-required mailing supplements and enhances the federally-mandated National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) process boards of elections must undergo every other year. Under NVRA, the state voter file is compared against the U.S. Postal Service National Change of Address database, and voters found to have moved and/or who have declined to participate in any election-related activities (such as voting or signing a petition) over a fixed period of time are sent a confirmation card and given an opportunity to update their information to stay on the rolls. Under the NVRA the federal government requires state and county election officials to follow a prescribed process for removing "inactive" voters. To date, more than 962,000 voters have been contacted to update their information through these mailings.

## Maintaining the Voter Rolls

**962,000+**

Voters contacted to update information through National Change of Address and other efforts

As of July 2014

**155,000+**

Voters used the Online Change of Address System

**90%**

Deceased voters removed from voter rolls

**317,000+**

Duplicate registrations removed from Ohio's voter rolls

From **340,000** in January 2011 to 1,400 prior to 2012 Presidential  
4 prior to 2013 General  
**0** prior to 2014 Primary

**20%**

Complete voter records in January 2011 compared to June 2014

## Addressing Voter Irregularities

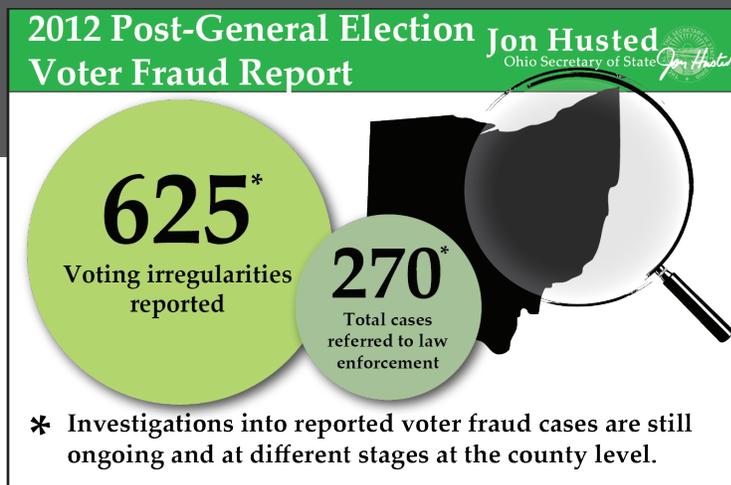
As part of an ongoing effort to address voter irregularities in Ohio, Secretary Husted in December 2013 referred 17 individuals for investigation and possible prosecution for voting in the 2012 General Election even though they were not citizens of the United States. Additionally, 274 non-citizens were also identified as being registered to vote, but there was no evidence that these individuals had cast ballots. They were asked to cancel their registrations to help ensure only eligible voters are on state's voter rolls. The work done to identify non-citizens on the rolls was possible because of the partnership between the Secretary of State's Office and the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

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

This work builds on significant efforts initiated by Secretary Husted to ensure voters can have confidence in the integrity of Ohio elections. In addition to dramatically cleaning up Ohio's voter rolls, in January 2013, he issued Directive 2013-01, requiring all boards of elections to look into substantiated cases of voter fraud and suppression from the 2012 General Election. In May 2013, the office issued the first ever statewide report on voter fraud and suppression, compiling all the information reported to the Secretary of State's office by county boards of elections. Overall, 625 irregularities were identified, of which, 270 cases of voter fraud were referred to law enforcement. The cases referred included 20 instances of voters who appeared to have voted in both Ohio and another state, which were uncovered through participation in the Interstate Crosscheck System, a 22-state data sharing consortium that in addition to Ohio, currently includes Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and Virginia. Zero cases of voter suppression were referred for prosecution.

View the entire report at [www.MyOhioVote.com/VoterFraudReport.htm](http://www.MyOhioVote.com/VoterFraudReport.htm).

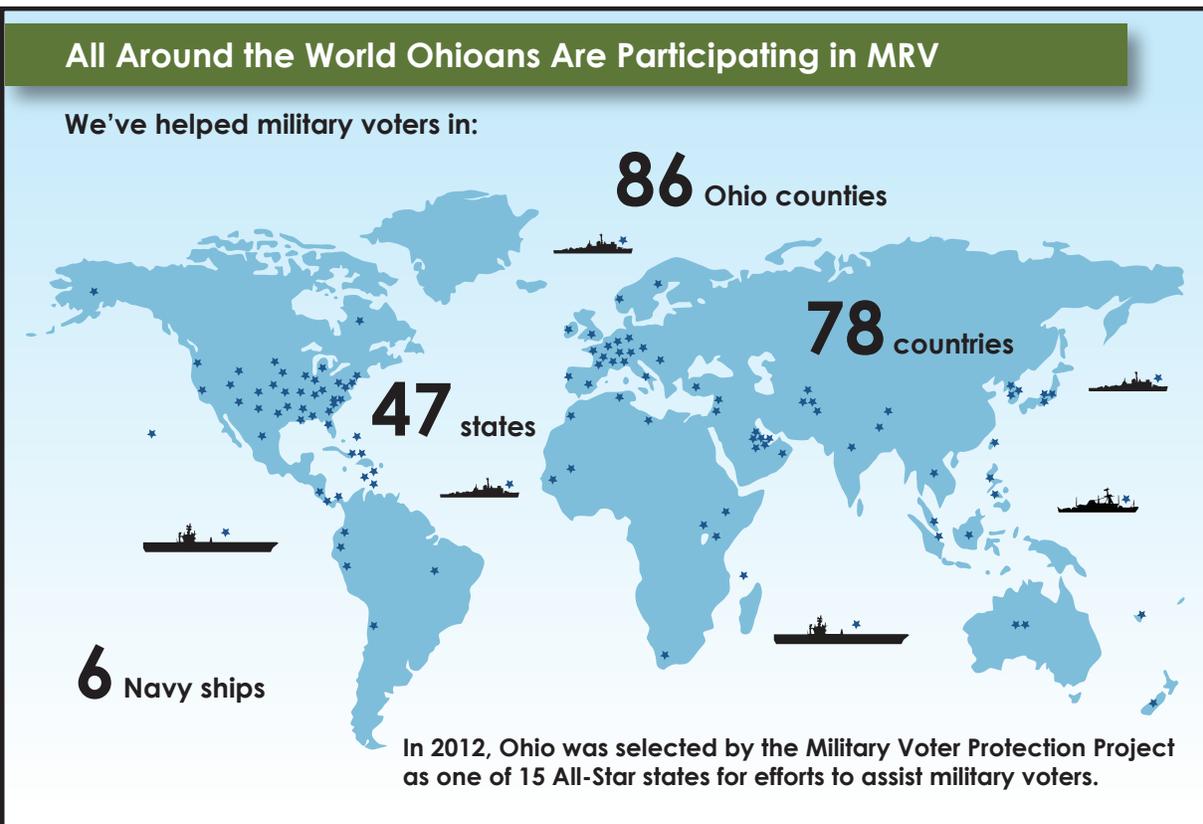
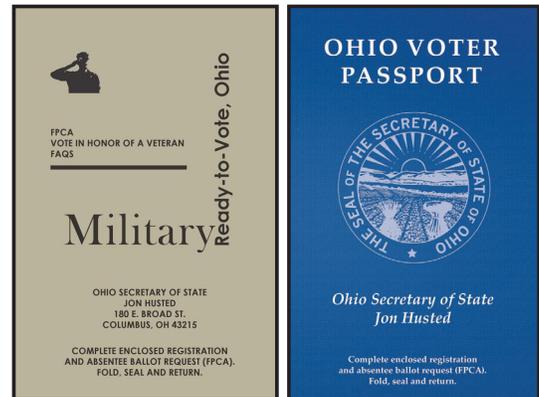


## Military & Overseas Voting

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](http://www.OhioMilitaryVotes.com) and [www.OhioVoterPassport.com](http://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 2,500 FPCAs from military and overseas voters in 47 states and the District of Columbia and from 78 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](http://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 155,000 have used it to date.



#### Military Ready-to-Vote and Ohio Voter Passport

[www.OhioMilitaryVotes.com](http://www.OhioMilitaryVotes.com) [www.OhioVoterPassport.com](http://www.OhioVoterPassport.com)

Helps ensure military and overseas voters can easily access their ballots no matter where their service or work takes them. More than 2,500 military and overseas ballot requests have been received from 47 different states (and D.C.), 78 different countries, and six Navy ships.



#### Grads Vote Ohio

[www.GradsVoteOhio.com](http://www.GradsVoteOhio.com)

Educates and encourages Ohio's newly-eligible voters to become active participants in our democracy. In 2013, 163,500 voter registration packets were delivered to 1,120 high schools.



#### Movers' Packets

Works with Ohio realtors to provide Ohioans who have recently moved with information on the steps necessary to ensure their voting information is updated.



## 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 [www.PEOinOhio.com](http://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 2,100 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 \$1.52 million in poll worker training to county boards of elections over the last four years. State law only requires training for new PEOs. Recognizing the importance of having properly trained poll workers, Secretary Husted required all PEOs to go through training in 2012 and 2014.

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."



Visiting poll workers at the Clinton County Board of Elections who help Ohio's elections run smoothly.



## Polling Place Accessibility

Since Secretary Husted took office, the Secretary of State's Office has distributed more than \$243,000 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. Funding for these grants is authorized by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

### Elections During FY 2014:

- Special elections were held on **August 6, 2013**. In 23 Ohio counties voters weighed in on 28 local issues.
- The general election was held on **November 5, 2013**, where Ohioans voted on candidates and 1,677 local issues.
- Special elections were held on **February 4, 2014**. In two Ohio counties, voters decided two local issues.
- A primary election was held on **May 6, 2014**. In all 88 Ohio counties, voters weighed in on candidates for statewide offices, General Assembly, Court of Appeals, local candidates and 614 local issues.
- Results and data can be found at [www.MyOhioVote.com](http://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 2014, the office took in more than 3,845 campaign finance filings<sup>1</sup> and conducted 2,157 audits.

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

## Civic Education & Engagement

*"It is imperative that we as Ohioans celebrate and learn from our rich heritage as we look forward to a bright future."* – Jon Husted, Ohio Secretary of State



### Founding Fathers

In 2011, Ohio lawmakers passed Senate Bill 165, which requires state educators to incorporate as part of their coursework content related to American and Ohio history and government. The new law ensures students will learn about key historical documents. As part of this new civic engagement effort, Secretary Husted launched [www.OhioFoundingFathers.com](http://www.OhioFoundingFathers.com) in 2013, which focuses on providing Ohioans with easy access to important historical information about our state and its founding principles.



### Historical Documents

The site offers easy online access to important documents such as the Declaration of Independence, Northwest Ordinance, U.S. Constitution – with emphasis on the Bill of Rights – and the Ohio Constitution. Many of the historical documents the Secretary of State's Office is required to keep are also available on the site including a roster of federal, state and locally-elected officials, laws of Ohio and historical election results.

Prior to making these documents available online, the Secretary of State's Office was responsible for printing copies of the Ohio Constitution and Session Laws to ensure the information was publicly available. With the launch of the site, Secretary Husted has been able to save the state more than \$200,000.





## How Well Do You Know Ohio?

While there is something for Ohioans of all ages at [www.OhioFoundingFathers.com](http://www.OhioFoundingFathers.com), one of the Secretary's primary goals was to make learning about Ohio's history fun, particularly for young people. Visitors to the site will be able to test their Ohio knowledge by taking the "Do You Know Ohio" quiz and sharing their scores with their friends on Facebook and Twitter. Additionally, after completing the quiz visitors can request and have sent to them a pin that they can then wear proudly to show others how well they know Ohio. To date, more than 290 pins have been requested and sent out.

### Do You Know Ohio?

- a. How many astronauts were born in Ohio?
- b. Agriculturally, what does Ohio produce the most of in the nation?
- c. Who designed the drawing for the Ohio burgee?
- d. How many stripes does the Ohio Burgee (flag) have?

*\*See answers below.*



**School Your Parents**  
Create a poster or video explaining the importance of voting

**Poster & Video Contest**

Winning submissions will be featured during the 2014 General Election.

## PSA Contest

In early 2014, the Secretary of State's Office held a public service announcement contest for Ohio's school-aged children. A winning poster and video designed to educate the public about the importance of voting were selected and will be distributed ahead of this November's General Election.

### Winners



Secretary Husted and Lockland Middle School Students who won the video contest.



Secretary Husted with School Your Parents contest winner from Southview Elementary School and his proud parents.

\*a. 24 b. Swiss Cheese c. John Eisenmann d. Five



## 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 2014...

**194,292** business filings and **154,741** UCC filings processed

**7,119** Ministers licensed

Approximately **33,061** Apostilles and Gold Seal Certifications applications processed

**115** 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 2014, Ohio Secretary of State employees donated nearly 4,000 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 Ohio and encourage Ohioans to exercise their right to vote. These initiatives are available online 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. [www.MyOhioVote.com](http://www.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, [www.OhioBusinessProfile.com](http://www.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** 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.

**The Movers' Packet** is distributed to Ohioans who have recently moved via Ohio realtors and includes information on the steps necessary to ensure their voting information is updated before the next election.

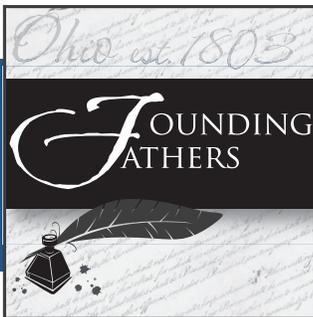


**Vote in Honor of a Veteran** allows Ohio voters to pay tribute to the service of individual service members, past and present, by dedicating their votes to them on Election Day. Voters can post a testimonial on the Secretary of State's website and social media sites, and even receive a special pin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



**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.

**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.



**Founding Fathers and Historical Documents** is a web-based feature where visitors can learn more about the many leaders of our past who helped shape our great nation and state and the founding documents they helped create.

**Shielding Our Protectors** gives public safety professionals the information they need to have their home addresses removed from public databases, including Ohio's voter records per Ohio law.



*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 an enhanced voter lookup tool,
- Update their voting address online,
- 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!

**My**Vote **My**Right **My**Responsibility.



# Jon Husted

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(07/2014)