

BETTER SERVICES. SMALLER GOVERNMENT.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE



ENERGY TO SERVE



INSPIRATION TO LEAD



Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State



2015 | Annual Report



On January 12, 2015, Secretary Husted was sworn in for a second term as Ohio's Secretary of State by U.S. Senator Rob Portman.

Jon Husted

Ohio Secretary of State



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State 

SECTION

1

**FROM THE DESK OF
JON HUSTED**

PAGES 1-2



SECTION

2

**DOING MORE
WITH LESS**

PAGES 3-4



SECTION

3

**OHIO IS OPEN
FOR BUSINESS**

PAGES 5-8



SECTION

4

**IT'S EASY TO VOTE
AND HARD TO CHEAT**

PAGES 9-14



SECTION

5

**VISION
FOR THE FUTURE**

PAGES 15-16



SECTION

6

ENGAGING OHIO

PAGES 17-18



FROM THE DESK OF

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE

JON HUSTED

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State



My Fellow Ohioan,

There are many in public service who promise to run government at the speed and efficiency of business, but there are few who actually deliver on that pledge. However, here in Ohio, and the Secretary of State's Office in particular, we are actually doing it.

Over the past five years, my administration has provided the best possible customer service while streamlining operations and following through on a commitment to act as a good steward of your hard-earned tax dollars. This dedication to improved services and smaller government is paying dividends for every person who calls Ohio home.

My administration has worked to modernize the state's business startup process through the creation of an online system that reduces errors and cuts processing time from nearly a week to just one day in most cases. Also, for the first time in modern history, we cut the cost of starting a new business by 21 percent, making Ohio the least costly state in the region to start and maintain a new business. These improvements build on our recent successes, which have helped attract a record number of new businesses and entrepreneurs every year for the past five years.

Preserving the integrity of each Ohioan's vote is also very important, which is why we remain committed to making it easy to vote and hard to cheat. We have put in place uniform rules that ensure each eligible voter is treated equally and fairly and my administration continues to push for new reforms, such as online voter registration, that will further enhance the voting experience and ensure greater security.

“ I am proud to be the only statewide officeholder to seek a cut, not an increase in the recent budget. ”

- Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted



Detailed in this report, you can learn how we've achieved these successes and more, all while shrinking the size of government.

In fact, as we have continued to expand and improve services, we have cut administrative costs and reduced overhead. To date, my office has saved taxpayers more than \$14 million when compared to the previous administration – a 16 percent cut in overall spending. I am proud to be the only statewide officeholder to seek a cut, not an increase in the recent budget.

A commitment to improving services, cutting costs and making government more efficient requires a vision for the future, the energy to serve and the inspiration to lead. It's what Ohioans expect of their public officials and it's how we operate in the Secretary of State's Office.

Sincerely,

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State

Jon Husted is Ohio's 53rd Secretary of State. As Secretary of State, he serves as the chief elections officer for the key swing state while also overseeing the creation of new Ohio businesses, certifying documents for use overseas and issuing minister licenses.

DOING MORE WITH LESS

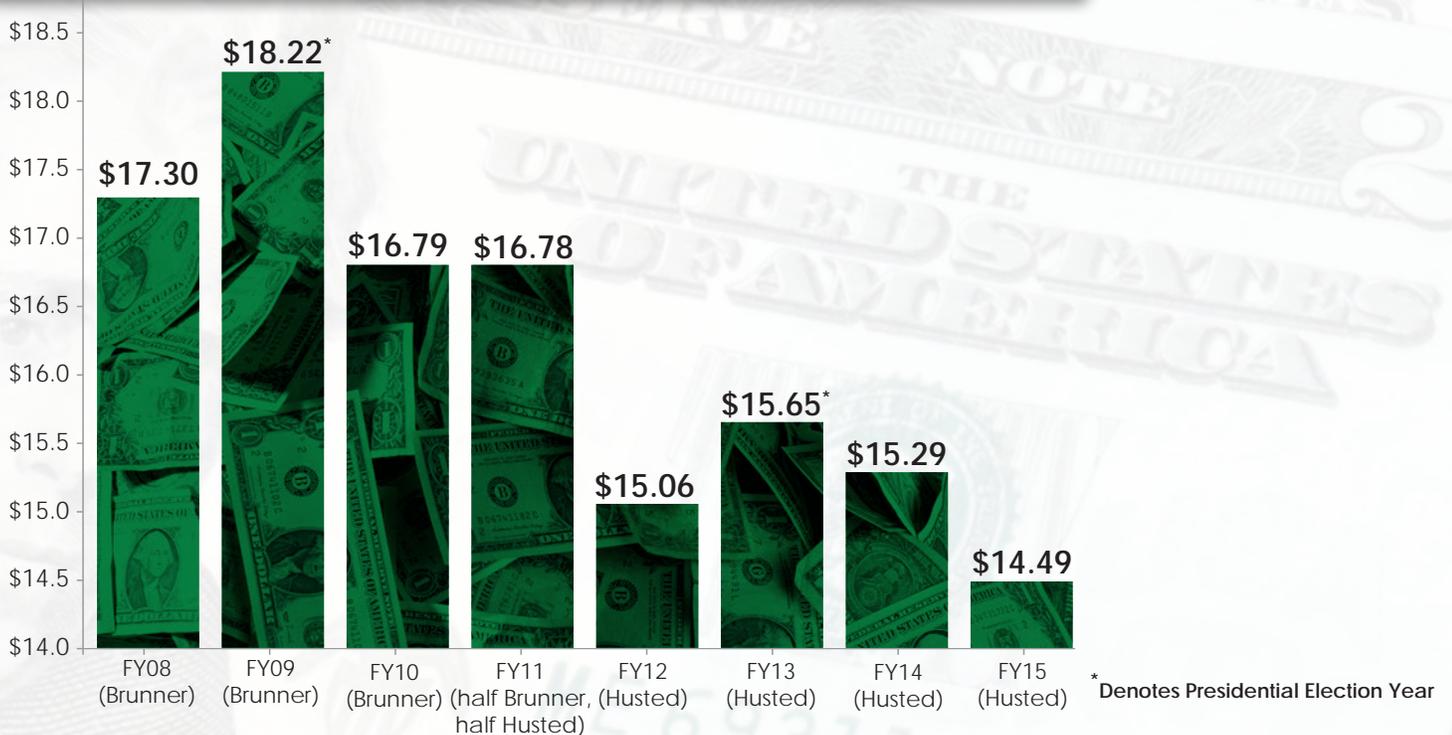
Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State *Jon Husted*



Secretary Husted continues to expand services offered by his office while delivering on his pledge to cut government spending. In fact, the Secretary of State's Office was the only statewide office to seek a cut, not an increase, in its budget as part of the 2016-2017 biennial budget.

This commitment to fiscal responsibility has resulted in Secretary Husted saving taxpayers more than \$14 million in spending compared to the previous administration, which represents a 16 percent cut.

Operational Spending By Administration - In Millions \$



More Efficient Operations

Since Secretary Husted took office in January 2011 through the end of fiscal year 2015, the Secretary of State's Office has reduced staff levels by 21 percent. Currently, the office operates with 147 employees. In fiscal years 2014 and 2015, payroll costs totaled \$11.8 and \$11.9 million respectively – the lowest levels since fiscal year 2007.



Spending in the Secretary of State's Office Since Secretary Husted Took Office

Jan 2017
188
total employees

vs.

July 2015
147
total employees

FY2017
\$16.8
million operating expenses

vs.

FY2015
\$14.5
million operating expenses



OHIO IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State



Success Dividend

Secretary Husted's efforts to improve the experience for the customer and operate more efficiently have resulted in a success dividend that will now be passed onto our customers by way of a 21 percent cut in filing fees for new businesses beginning in September 2015.

In 2015, lawmakers approved Secretary Husted's request to cut the required fee for starting a new business from \$125 to \$99. This marks the first time in modern history that the fee has been cut. As a result, Ohio will be one of the least expensive states in the region to start and maintain a company.

The fee reduction is estimated to save business owners \$2 million annually.



“This marks a rare moment when government has cut costs, improved services and is actually returning the savings back to our customers. Just imagine where our state would be if every government agency cut costs by 21 percent.”

- Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted



Numerous Ohio groups supported Secretary Husted's plan to make it easier to start a business in Ohio.



Expanding Online Services

At the beginning of Secretary Husted's tenure in 2011, the process for starting a new business in Ohio involved printing a form, filling it out and then mailing it to the Secretary of State's Office. After that, customers would have to wait nearly a week to hear back, and in some cases, would be told that something was missing or incorrect on their paperwork and it had not been approved. The only way a person could speed up the process was to pay an expedite fee of \$100 or more and then hope that they had submitted everything correctly.

In October 2013, that all changed with the launch of Ohio Business Central – an online filing system that allows a person to fill out a form and submit a payment online. What used to take up to three to four days, is now often done in 24 hours or less and with a higher level of accuracy.

Since the launch of Ohio Business Central, more services have been added each year and all Ohio-based companies can be started online.

1 in **2**

new businesses are now started online.

100%

of Ohio businesses can now be formed online.

“ In just four years, we've brought the services our office provides out of the Stone Age and into the 21st century, which is one of the many reasons more businesses are choosing to start up in Ohio than ever before. ”

- Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted

OHIO IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State

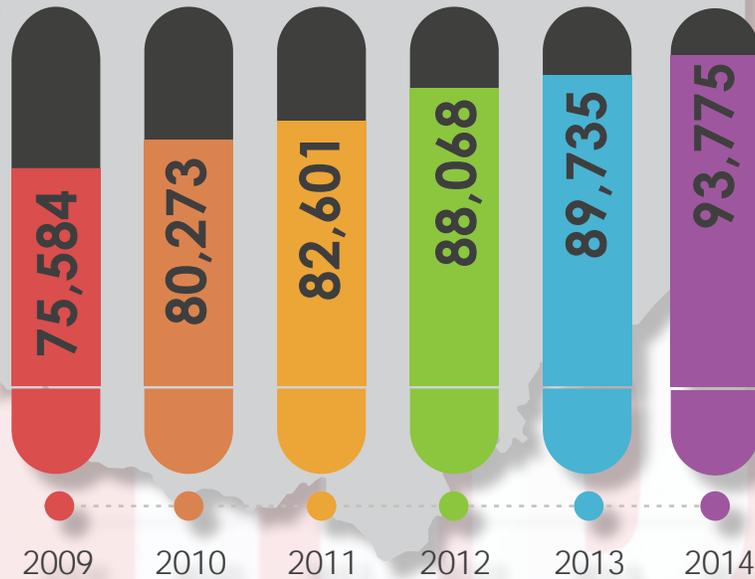


The Secretary of State's Office is where business begins in Ohio. As such, customer service is always a top priority and Secretary Husted is constantly working to make sure Ohio is among the easiest and most affordable places to start a company.

These efforts are helping to pave the way for a record number of new businesses choosing Ohio year after year. In fact, from 2009 through 2014, business filings grew by 24 percent and 2015 is on pace to be another record year.

New Business Filings Up In Ohio

Five Years in a Row
24% increase from 2009 to 2014





Business Services By The Numbers

195,618

BUSINESS FILINGS APPROVED

155,239

UCC FILINGS APPROVED

17,909

APOSTILLES PROCESSED

9,370

GOLD SEAL CERTIFICATIONS PROCESSED

7,231

MINISTER LICENSES APPROVED

Giving Back

In fiscal year 2015, Ohio Secretary of State employees donated nearly 4,000 pounds of food to the MidOhio Foodbank.



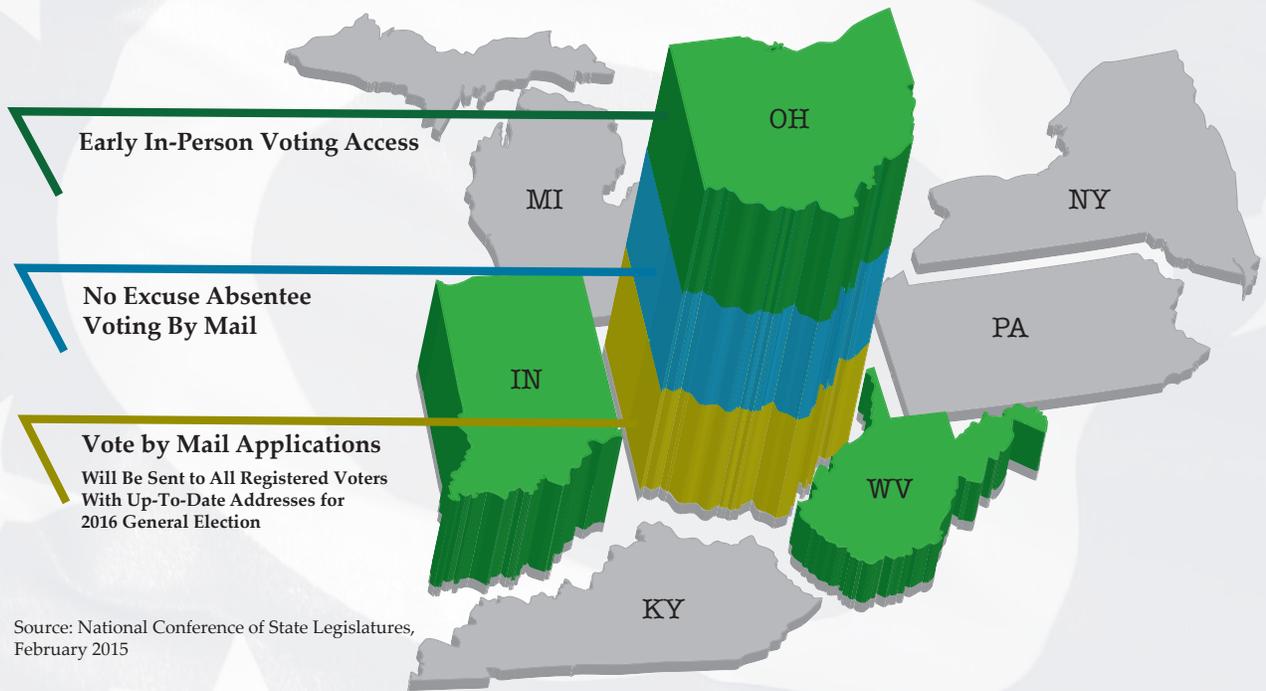
IT'S EASY TO VOTE AND HARD TO CHEAT

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State



Ohio is a Leader in Voter Access

Ohio is one of the easiest states in the union in which to cast a ballot. During a Presidential Election, Ohioans have 207 hours of early, in-person voting where they can cast a ballot in person before Election Day. A registered voter can also vote absentee by mail for four weeks without leaving the comfort of home.



Reducing Lines on Election Day

Secretary Husted will send a statewide absentee ballot application mailing ahead of the 2016 Presidential Election in order to encourage more Ohioans to participate in the election while reducing wait times at the polls on Election Day. This program builds on the successful statewide mailings that were done ahead of the 2012 Presidential Election and the 2014 Gubernatorial Election.

During the 2012 Presidential Election, one in three voters, or 1.87 million Ohioans, chose to cast their ballot prior to Election Day. In 2014, nearly 865,000 individuals cast their ballots early, representing nearly one in four voters.

One Vote Matters

As Ohioans, we are reminded every few years of the important role we play in the balance of Congress and in deciding who will lead from the White House.

Although when many around the country think of Ohio, they think of our historic role in national politics, it's important to remember that over the past two years, 75 races throughout the state have been decided by just one vote or tied. These are mayoral races, city council contests and levy questions to decide how schools and roads will be funded.

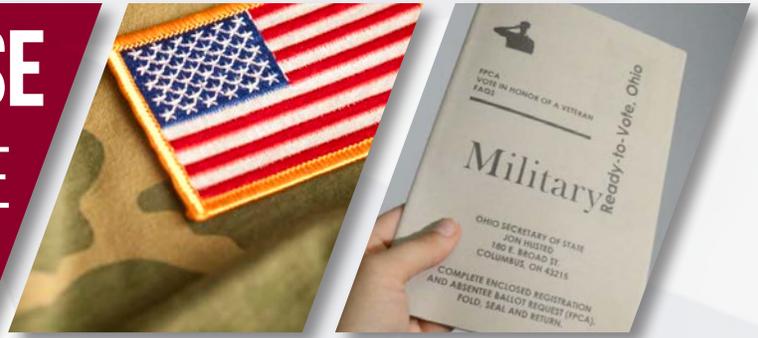
In the Secretary of State's Office, "good enough" is not good enough, which is why we've worked hard over the past few years to modernize and streamline Ohio elections to ensure every voter has the opportunity to have their voice heard.



**"As Ohio goes,
so goes the nation."**

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State



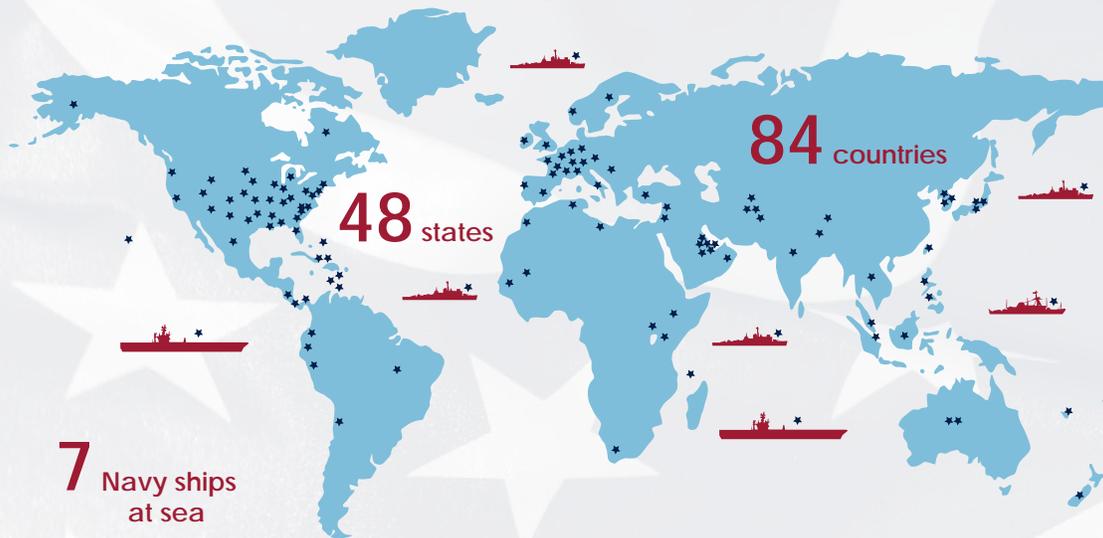
Military & Overseas Voting

In 2011, Secretary Husted launched the Military Ready-to-Vote (MRV) program to help service members and their families vote. As part of the initiative, military voters can access information and materials on a dedicated website, www.OhioMilitaryVotes.com, and also utilize a specially designed brochure which allows them to fill out the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), a form that registers them to vote and allows them to sign-up for absentee ballots for the remainder of the calendar year.

The MRV program also uses an email alerts system to provide information on what's on the ballot, important deadlines and how to track their completed ballots back to the county board of elections.

The Secretary of State's office works with local military units, bases and military support organizations to distribute military-specific voting materials to Ohio troops. To assist Ohioans living overseas (but not serving in the military), Secretary Husted also launched the Ohio Voter Passport (OVP), a companion program to MRV.

Since the launch of these programs, the Secretary of State's Office has received more than 3,000 FPCA forms from military and overseas voters in:



Military Ready to Vote (MRV) is an award-winning program for which Secretary Husted was honored by both the Military Voter Protection project and the Association of the United States Army.



Protecting Ohio's Law Enforcement Communities

Secretary Husted launched the Shielding Our Protectors program to help public safety officials remove their voting residence from public view. Police, firefighters, EMT and many other officials have used the program to ensure their families stay protected.

Many public safety associations have promoted the Shielding Our Protectors program, including the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and Buckeye State Sheriffs Association.



PROTECTING THE VALUE OF YOUR VOTE

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State



Eliminating Fraud

In January 2015, Secretary Husted instructed boards of elections (Directive 2015-01) to report all irregularities from the recent election in order to conduct the second-ever voter fraud report, the first having also been conducted by Secretary Husted following the 2012 General Election. Of the 44 irregularities identified by the boards of elections and by the Secretary of State through participation in the interstate crosscheck system, 14 individuals were referred to law enforcement for investigation and potential prosecution.

“Voter fraud exists, it is rare and we are holding people accountable.”
- Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted

Non-Citizens on the Voter Rolls

Voting is a right reserved for citizens of the United States and it is important to ensure only eligible individuals are registering to vote in Ohio. In the second-ever non-citizen report, Secretary Husted found an additional 145 non-citizens who had illegally registered to vote in Ohio.

SINCE 2011...





Maintaining The Voter Rolls



VERIFIED & REMOVED 410,000 DECEASED OHIOANS FROM THE VOTER ROLLS

RESOLVED 340,000+ DUPLICATE VOTER REGISTRATIONS

CONTACTED 1.2 MILLION VOTERS TO UPDATE THEIR INFORMATION

Be on the Front Lines of Democracy

Election Day serves as one of the most important monuments in honor of our nation's greatest philosophy – that elected officials should lead only with the consent of the people they govern.

It takes an army of people across the state who are willing to serve in order to make Election Day an organized operation so every Ohioan can easily cast their ballot and rest assured that their vote will count. We need more than 40,000 individuals to staff polling places, which is why Secretary Husted continues to make recruitment of Precinct Elections Officials (PEO) a priority.

Through the PEO in Ohio program, Secretary Husted has recruited an additional 5,200 potential poll workers since April 2012 and distributed more than \$1.5 million in poll worker training funds since 2011.



VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State 



Redistricting Reform

Since serving as Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted has been a champion of reforming the way the state redraws legislative districts. Through his steadfast advocacy, the General Assembly approved House Joint Resolution 12 in December 2014, which places the issue before Ohio voters during the 2015 General Election.

If the proposal gains voter approval in November, the result will be fairer Statehouse representation, less partisan gridlock and the opportunity for more thoughtfully-crafted public policy.

“ We need to stop the partisan gerrymandering, draw more competitive districts and make government work again. ”

- Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted





Online Voter Registration

The goal that drives our work in the Secretary of State's office is to make it easy to vote and hard to cheat. One important tool in this effort is the implementation of online voter registration in Ohio.

Secretary Husted has pressed the General Assembly for more than five years to authorize the process, which has been implemented in 28 other U.S. states and Washington D.C. under both Democratic and Republican leadership. A bill granting authorization for online voter registration awaits consideration by the Ohio House of Representatives after the Ohio Senate overwhelmingly approved the measure on June 24, 2015.

Online voter registration has proven to save between 50 cents and \$2.34 per registration when compared to the traditional paper method. Between 2011 and 2014, local governments could have saved a combined \$2.8 to \$13.2 million had the system been in place. It would also establish increased security for our voter rolls and provide a significant service to eligible Ohio voters.

Secretary Husted has gained bipartisan support for the proposal from individuals and groups throughout the state and nation, including the Ohio Association of Election Officials, the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio, the 32nd Chief of Staff of the United States Army, General Gordon Sullivan (U.S. Army, Retired), the Association of the United States Army, the Federal Voting Assistance Program and many others.

“It's easier, it's cheaper, it's more accurate and it's more secure. There is simply no reason we shouldn't act on making online voter registration a reality in Ohio”

- Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted



ENGAGING OHIO

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State



Ohio Business Profile

The Secretary of State's Office is the first stop for any new Ohio business. We are doing everything we can to make Ohio the best place to start and maintain a new business and recruit from an outstanding workforce.

In 2011, Secretary Husted launched the Ohio Business Profile program to highlight the work of some of the great companies in the Buckeye State. Each month, OhioBusinessProfile.com features a number of businesses centered around a common theme. To date, more than 330 businesses from around the state have been profiled for creating interesting products, offering outstanding service, contributing to their communities and employing Ohioans. Selected businesses are promoted through our website, social media outlets and press releases.



330 Ohio-based businesses featured

employing more than 27,000 workers

in roughly 25 industries

Grads Vote

Each spring, through the Grads Vote program, Secretary Husted travels to schools across the state to encourage Ohio's newly-eligible voters to become active participants in our democracy. In addition to the school visits, the office sends a voter registration form to every graduating high school student in the state. In 2014, more than 158,000 voter registration packets were delivered to 1,197 schools.

“Apathy is poison to democracy, which is why we need to get our young people engaged and civically active – the future of self-government depends on it.”

- Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted

Civic Engagement

As the Secretary of State maintains the state's official records - and in response to the passage of Senate Bill 165 (129th General Assembly) - Secretary Husted launched programs to make accessing important documents and pieces of Ohio's history easier for educators, students and all other Ohioans.

The [Historical Documents](#) page on the Secretary of State's website provides access to the Declaration of Independence, Northwest Ordinance, the Constitutions of the United States and Ohio, state laws, historical election results, elected official rosters, and much more. Prior to establishing online access to these documents, the Secretary of State's Office was responsible for printing copies of the Ohio Constitution and all laws passed by the General Assembly each session to ensure the information was publically available. By making these records available online, Secretary Husted has saved more than \$200,000.

[OhioFoundingFathers.com](#) was established by Secretary Husted in 2013. The founding fathers webpage is an interactive site for Ohioans of all ages to learn about the people who laid the foundations of our state and nation. Visitors are encouraged to test their Ohio knowledge by taking the [“Do You Know Ohio”](#) quiz, after which they can share their scores with family and friends on social media showing others how well they know their state.



STAY CONNECTED

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State



General Office Contact Information

(614) 466-2655
(877) SOS-Ohio (877-767-6446)
TTY: (614) 466-0562
TTY Toll-free: (877) 644-6889
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov

Elections Division

(614) 466-2585
(877) SOS-OHIO (877-767-6446) x2
TTY: (614) 728-3295
TTY Toll-free: (877) TTY-OHIO (877-889-6446)

Campaign Finance Section

(614) 466-3111

Communications and Outreach

Media Inquiries

(614) 466-2729

Publications Requests

(614) 466-3613
(877) SOS-OHIO (877-767-6446) x4

Military Liaison

www.OhioMilitaryVotes.com
(877) SOS-OHIO (877-767-6446) x4

Ohio Business Profile Coordinator

www.OhioBusinessProfile.com
(877) SOS-OHIO (877-767-6446) x4

Business Services Division

Walk-in Client Service Center
180 E. Broad Street, Suite 103 (ground floor)
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Ohio Notary Public Commission

(614) 644-4559
(614) 466-2566
Fax: (614) 644-8820

Business Filings

(614) 466-3910
(877) SOS-FILE (877-767-3453) x1

Apostilles & Authentications, Ministers Licensing and Non-Resident Alien Land Registration

(614) 728-9200

Social Media



www.facebook.com/OhioSOSHusted



twitter.com/OhioSOSHusted



www.youtube.com/user/OhioSOSHusted



<http://www.ohiochannel.org>

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State 

The background features a large, faint seal of the Secretary of State of Ohio. The seal is circular with a sunburst at the top and a landscape with a river and hills at the bottom. The text "THE SECRETARY OF STATE" is arched across the top, and "THE SEAL OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE OHIO" is arched across the bottom. A star is positioned at the bottom center of the seal.

Jon Husted

Ohio Secretary of State

A white cursive signature of "Jon Husted" is overlaid on the right side of the text.

Jon Husted

This report was compiled pursuant to ORC 149.01 and was designed and produced internally by Secretary of State staff.