



Jon Husted is the 53rd and current Ohio Secretary of State, a position he has held since 2011. In this role, he serves as the state's top election official and supports entrepreneurs wishing to do business in the Buckeye State. Prior to being elected to statewide office in 2010, Secretary Husted served in the Ohio Senate and the Ohio House of Representatives, including as Speaker of the House for four years.

In April 2017, Secretary Husted was honored by the Ohio Chapter of Americans for Prosperity with the Taxpayers' Torch Award for his exceptional stewardship of taxpayer dollars and demonstrating conservative leadership in bringing about a more efficient, more effective government. In 2013, the Washington Post's blog "The Fix" named him one of their "Top 10 Rising Stars in America." Secretary Husted has also been recognized by the Association of the United States Army for his work to help military voters and their families cast ballots, no matter where they are in the world.

Raised in Montpelier, Ohio, Secretary Husted earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Dayton, where he also was a member of the 1989 Division III National Championship Football Team.

Following graduation, Secretary Husted remained in Dayton where he served as Vice President for Business and Economic Development at the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Above all his responsibilities, Secretary Husted considers his most important role as that of husband to his wife Tina and father to his children, Alex, Katie and Kylie.



LOWER COSTS, LESS GOVERNMENT

Throughout his time in public service, Secretary Jon Husted has been committed to conservative principles, lower taxes and the elimination of wasteful spending.



A commitment that was clearly demonstrated in the most recent state budget when Secretary Husted successfully championed a proposal that eliminated the need for any tax dollars to run the Secretary of State's Office for the last two years of his term – saving taxpayers nearly \$5 million. This effort was made possible thanks to all the work Secretary Husted has done during his tenure to lower costs and streamline operations. These efforts have included cutting costs by \$14.5 million during his first term – a 16 percent decrease during a time when state spending increased by 17 percent – and reducing the office's staff by 40 percent to date.

Secretary Husted also has the distinction of being the only statewide officeholder in 2015 to request a cut, not an increase in his annual budget.

While serving as House Speaker, Secretary Husted spearheaded the passage of the most fiscally conservative budget in 40 years, which included landmark reforms to the state tax code and the largest income tax cut in Ohio's history.

SUPPORTING OHIO'S CHILDREN

Having been adopted as a child, Secretary Husted has been a longstanding advocate for adoption and helping to pair children with healthy and loving families.

When serving as House Speaker, Secretary Husted championed the passage of the Ed Choice and Choose Ohio First Scholarship Programs in order to provide students with opportunities outside of the classroom and encourage participation in the STEM disciplines of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine.

Drawing on his own experience as a student athlete, Secretary Husted has also been a champion for making extracurricular activities available to all students in school, believing that they play an important role in the educational experience. Through participation in sports, band and clubs, students learn important life skills, such as hard work, leadership and teamwork.

DRIVING ENTREPRENEURS AND SUPPORTING INNOVATION

Since his election as Secretary of State in 2010, Secretary Husted has revolutionized the way the state interacts with businesses by establishing Ohio Business Central, an online portal where all Ohio businesses can now be formed and maintained through a paperless process, reducing the time required for starting a new business. The process also generated savings for the office, which Secretary Husted returned to entrepreneurs by cutting the costs associated with forming a business by 21 percent, making Ohio the lowest-cost state in the region to start and maintain a business.

In 2016, Secretary Husted launched a partnership with the Cleveland Sight Center to run the business services call center. The results have been dramatic as 20 percent more calls are now being answered, wait times have been reduced by 96 percent and hours of operation have been expanded.

In 2015, Secretary Husted partnered with Google's "Let's Get Our Cities on the Map" to put additional tools into the hands of new and growing Ohio businesses. The initiative pairs entrepreneurs with tools to build a website, reserve a free domain name, have their office locations registered with Google's map and search features, and get advice from industry experts.

EASY TO VOTE AND HARD TO CHEAT

Secretary Husted made it easier to vote in Ohio by establishing uniform, statewide rules so every voter would be treated equally, regardless of where they live. This included the first-ever statewide absentee ballot application mailing in 2012 to raise awareness for the state's expansive opportunities for casting a ballot.

Secretary Husted has also taken important steps towards improving the accuracy of Ohio's voter rolls by removing over a half-million deceased voters and eliminating over 1.6 million duplicate registrations. In addition to safeguarding our elections, these steps have led to an increase in the number of absentee and provisional ballots that are counted.

Recognizing how technology could be used to further improve the voting experience in Ohio, Secretary Husted worked to bring online voter registration to Ohio. In January 2017, online voter registration became a reality in Ohio after Secretary Husted successfully secured legislative approval. The new system is expected to save millions of dollars for local governments while making registration more secure and easier for voters. This new service is similar to the Online Change of Address System Secretary Husted launched in his first term, which has already been used by nearly a half-million voters.

Secretary Husted's Administration has also made it easier for military families to cast a ballot, no matter where their service takes them, through the establishment of the Military Ready-to-Vote and Ohio Voter Passport Programs, which together earned Ohio the All-Star State designation by the Military Voter Protection Project.



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 (PACs), state political parties and legislative caucus campaign committees.

Ohio Redistricting Commission

The Secretary of State is a member of the Ohio Redistricting Commission, which meets every 10 years following the decennial census. The seven-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 four members, two Republican and two 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. Additional information is available on the duties and requirements of notaries in Ohio, as well as guidelines for newly commissioned notaries public on our website at www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov.