



Jon Husted is the 53rd and current Ohio Secretary of State, serving as the state's top election official as well as being the first stop for entrepreneurs wishing to do business in the Buckeye State. He was elected in 2011, having previously served in the Ohio Senate as well as four terms in the Ohio House of Representatives, the final two terms as Speaker of the House.

In 2013, the Washington Post's blog "The Fix" named Secretary Husted one of their "Top 10 Rising Stars in America." He's also been recognized by the Association of the United States Army for his work to help military voters and their families cast a ballot, 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 (UD), where he also was a member of the 1989 Division III National Championship Football Team.



After his graduation from UD, Secretary Husted remained in the Dayton area 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

In his first term as Secretary of State, Secretary Husted reduced costs by \$14.5 million compared to his predecessor and cut the office's staff by 32 percent. While overall state spending has increased by 17 percent, spending in the Secretary of State's Office has been reduced by 16 percent.



These steps toward government efficiency gave Secretary Husted the distinction in 2015 of being the only statewide officeholder to request a cut, not an increase in his annual budget. Most recently, it resulted in the announcement that Husted will run the Secretary of State's Office without the use of tax dollars for the remainder of his term in the office.

## 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 give students opportunities outside of the classroom and encourage participation in the STEM disciplines of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine.

Secretary Husted has also been a champion for making extracurricular activities available to all students, believing that they play an important role in the educational experience by teaching students important life skills, such as hard work, leadership and teamwork.

## SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURS AND DRIVING INNOVATION

Secretary Husted has revolutionized the way the state interacts with businesses by establishing Ohio Business Central, an online portal where 100 percent of Ohio-based businesses can be formed through a paperless process, reducing the time required for starting a new business by 75 percent. The process also generated savings for the office, which Secretary Husted returned to entrepreneurs by reducing 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.

## 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. This included the first-ever statewide absentee ballot application mailing to raise awareness for the state's expansive opportunities for casting a ballot.

Secretary Husted has also improved Ohio's voter rolls by removing over a half-million deceased voters and eliminating over 1.6 million duplicate registrations.

Secretary Husted has long been a proponent of Online Voter Registration and launched the program on January 1, 2017 after receiving legislative approval. It is expected to save millions of dollars for local governments while making registration more secure and simpler for voters. This system 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, earning Ohio designation as an the All-Star State by the Military Voter Protection Project.



## DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### **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](http://www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov).