


Ohio State Senate

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Ohio State Senate

General Information
Type: Upper house
Term limits: 2 terms (8 years)
2011 session start: January 3, 2011
Website: Official Senate Page
Leadership
Senate President: Tom Niehaus , (R)
Majority Leader: Jimmy Stewart , (R)
Minority leader: Capri Cafaro , (D)
Structure
Members: 33
Democratic Party (10) Republican Party (23)
Length of term: 4 years
Authority: Art II, Sec. 1, Ohio

Constitution

Salary: \$60,584/year

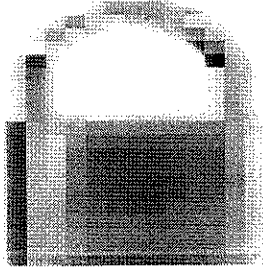
Elections

Last Election: November 2, 2010 (17 seats)

Next election: November 6, 2012 (16 seats)

Redistricting: Ohio Redistricting Commission

Meeting place:



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The **Ohio Senate** is the upper house in the Ohio Legislature, the state legislature of Ohio. There are 33 state senators.

Each member represents an average of 349,591 residents, as of the 2010 Census.^[1] After the 2000 Census, each member represented 344,035 residents.^[2] The senators serve four-year terms with term limits.^[3]

Half of the senate is up for re-election every two years.

Sessions

Article II of the Ohio Constitution establishes when the Ohio General Assembly, of which the Senate is a part, is to meet. Section 8 of Article II states that the regular session is to convene on the first Monday in January of each year, or the following day if that Monday is a legal holiday.

Section 8 also contains rules for convening special sessions of the General Assembly. It empowers the Governor of Ohio or the presiding officers of the General Assembly to convene a special session. For the presiding officers to convene the session, they must act jointly.

2011

See also: Dates of 2011 state legislative sessions

In 2011, the Senate will be in session from January 3 through a date to be determined by the Ohio Legislature.^[4]

2010

See also: Dates of 2010 state legislative sessions

In 2010, the Senate convened its legislative session on January 4th, and it remains in session throughout the year.^[5]

Elections

2010

See also: Ohio State Senate elections, 2010

Elections for the office of Ohio's State Senate were held in Ohio on November 2, 2010.

The signature-filing deadline for candidates wishing to run in these elections was February 18, 2010 (May 3 for independents). The primary election day was May 4, 2010.

Qualifications

Article 2, Section 3 of the Ohio Constitution states: Senators and representatives shall have resided in their respective districts one year next preceding their election, unless they shall have been absent on the public business of the United States, or of this state.

Article 2, Section 5 of the Ohio Constitution states: No person hereafter convicted of an embezzlement of the public funds, shall hold any office in this state; nor shall any person, holding public money for disbursement, or otherwise, have a seat in the General Assembly, until he shall have accounted for, and paid such money into the treasury.

Vacancies

See also: How vacancies are filled in state legislatures

Whenever there is a vacancy in the Senate, the members of the Senate must vote on a replacement. Only members of the party that last held the seat can vote on a replacement. A simple majority vote is needed to approve a replacement^[6].

Term limits

See also: State legislatures with term limits

The Ohio legislature is one of 15 state legislatures with term limits. Voters enacted the Ohio Term Limits Act in 1992. That initiative said that Ohio senators are subject to term limits of no more than two four-year terms, or a total of eight years.

The first year that the term limits enacted in 1992 impacted the ability of incumbents to run for office was in 2000.^[7]

Senators

Salaries

See also: Comparison of state legislative salaries

As of 2010, members of the Ohio Senate are paid \$60,584/year during legislative sessions. Legislators receive no per diem.^[8]

The \$60,584/year that Ohio senators are paid as of 2010 is an increase over the \$58,933.56/year they were paid during legislative sessions in 2007. Per diem is the same.^[9]