



HOW THINGS WORK AT THE OHIO STATEHOUSE: THE BASICS

**The Ohio Senate has 33 senators.
9 Democrats. 24 Republicans.**

President:

Larry Obhof

Minority Leader:

Kenny Yuko

**The Ohio House has 99 members.
38 Democrats. 61 Republicans.**

Speaker of the House:

Larry Householder

Minority Leader:

Emilia Sykes

**Once a bill is introduced, it is
assigned to a committee.**

**Usual process: three committee
hearings, then a full floor vote.**

1st hearing:

sponsor (legislator) testimony

2nd hearing:

proponent (supporter) testimony

3rd hearing:

opponent/interested party testimony

TESTIFYING FOR OR AGAINST A BILL

- Email your testimony and witness slip to the chair's office ideally 24 hours in advance.
- See our Facebook page for a testimony template.
- Download witness slips from our Facebook page or request from the committee chair's office.
- Submit a witness slip with your testimony.
- In committee – plan to wait a few hours to speak.

WHAT MAKES GOOD TESTIMONY

- Short and sweet.
- Compelling – personal story or professional expertise/data.
- Consider your audience. You're trying to persuade Republicans.

SITTING IN A COMMITTEE

- Live tweeting/Facebooking is okay.
- Photos are usually okay.
- **NOTE:** The Chair may kick you out for photos. If that happens, let us know. Contact the committee's ranking member.
- You cannot record video or audio without permission.

STAY INVOLVED YEAR-ROUND

- Call/email your legislator – suggest bill ideas, share opinions on bills.
- Testify for or against bills.
- You can testify 1.) in-person or 2.) written-only.
- When available, watch/share committee hearings online.

CONTACT US

Facebook: "How Things Work at the Ohio Statehouse"

Twitter: @HowThingsWorkOH

Email: HowThingsWorkOH@gmail.com



HOW THINGS WORK AT THE OHIO STATEHOUSE: RESOURCES

Ohio Senate Dems:

[OhioSenate.gov/Senators/Democrat-Caucus](https://ohiosenate.gov/Senators/Democrat-Caucus)

Ohio Senate GOP:

[OhioSenate.gov/Senators/Republican-Caucus](https://ohiosenate.gov/Senators/Republican-Caucus)

Ohio House Dems: [Ohiohouse.gov/democrats](https://ohiohouse.gov/democrats)

Ohio House GOP: [Ohiohouse.gov/republicans](https://ohiohouse.gov/republicans)

Each senator/rep has their own **press release page** as well.

You can watch the Ohio channel online for free:

ohiochannel.org/

You can listen to Columbus WOSU (NPR station) online for free: wosu.org/listen-live/

SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCES

Ohio House Democrats

@[OHHouseDems](#) (Twitter) @[OhioHouseDems](#) (Facebook)

Ohio House Republicans

@[OHRGOPCaucus](#) (Twitter) @[OHRGOPCaucus](#) (Facebook)

Ohio Senate Democrats

@[OhioSenateDems](#) (Twitter) @[OHSenateDems](#) (Facebook)

Ohio Senate Republicans

@[OhioSenateGOP](#) (Twitter) @[OHSenateGOP](#) (Facebook)

Ohio Political Reporters:

See the “files” section of our Facebook page to download the list. Or use this link: [Twitter.com/HowThingsWorkOH/lists/ohio-reporters-to-follow](https://twitter.com/HowThingsWorkOH/lists/ohio-reporters-to-follow)

Ohio Advocacy Organizations

See the “files” section of our Facebook page to download the list. Or use this link: [Twitter.com/HowThingsWorkOH/lists/ohio-advocacy-groups](https://twitter.com/HowThingsWorkOH/lists/ohio-advocacy-groups)

Legislature.ohio.gov

- Primary place to look up legislation, check status of all legislation, etc..
- Cross links to a lot of House and Senate Information.
- Find the schedule of when the House and Senate are in session.
- Find the Senate and House Journals, the official record of each legislative day.

Ohiohouse.gov and Ohiosenate.gov

- Track your Representative and Senator.
- View Committee pages and schedules.
- Find press releases and caucus “blogs.”

Codes.ohio.gov

- Find the entire Ohio Revised Code (all the laws passed by bill, numbered and organized by subject).
- Find the entire Ohio Administrative Code (all the rules enacted by agencies as authorized by bill).
- REMINDER: check to see when the code section you are looking at was last amended.

LSC.ohio.gov

- The Legislative Service Commission is a nonpartisan agency that drafts bills and provides supporting research.
- LSC writes summaries and fiscal analyses for each bill.
- LSC also provides detailed background information on the budget.

Additional Resources

- See who’s donating to your legislators: sos.state.oh.us/campaign-finance/
- Track Ohio lobbying groups: [JLEC-OLIG.state.oh.us/](https://jlec-olig.state.oh.us/)

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