



OHIO CIVICS REFRESHER

*The Statehouse and YOU
How does this work?*

Slides will be sent after session
Reach out to us at Ohio@redwine.blue



MEET TEAM OHIO

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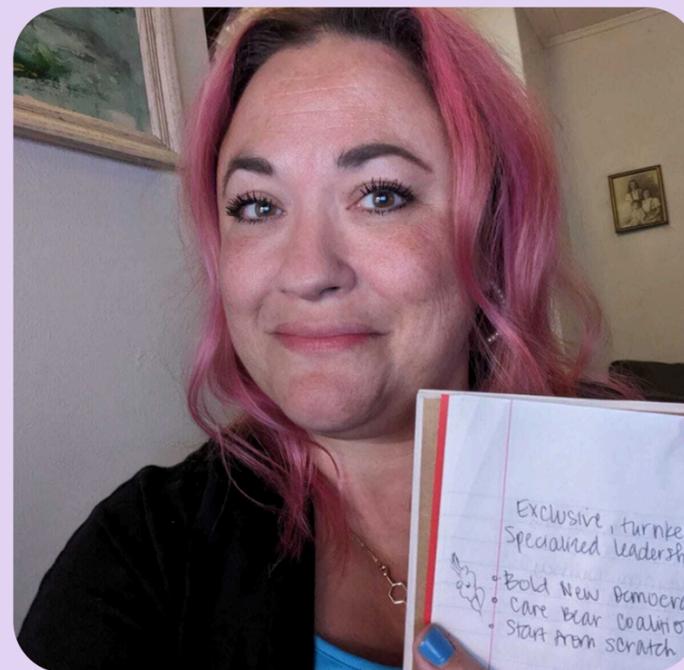
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email us at OHIO@redwine.blue

HOW WE DO IT

OUR MISSION

Red Wine and Blue Team Ohio provides an inviting and actionable pathway to political literacy and civic engagement about common-sense issues facing suburban women. We build community through approachable content, friend-to-friend organizing, and personal storytelling.



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WHAT IS

FRIEND TO FRIEND ORGANIZING

**The simple, proven concept
that people talking to their
friends and family is more
effective than strangers
talking to strangers.**



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WHAT ARE THE OHIO

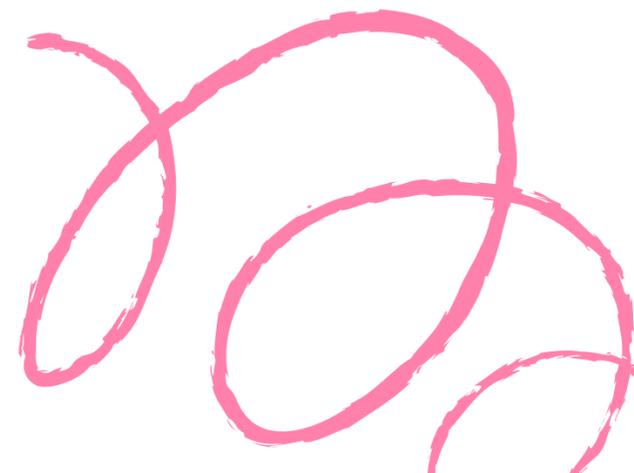
BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT?

Legislative: Makes laws

Executive: Administers laws

Judicial: Interprets and enforces laws

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THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

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WHAT IS THE OHIO

EXECUTIVE BRANCH?

- Includes the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of State, Attorney General, Treasurer of State, State Board of Education and the Governor's Cabinet
- Everyone in the executive branch serves a 4 year term with a limit of 2 consecutive terms
- The governor is the chief executive offices of state government

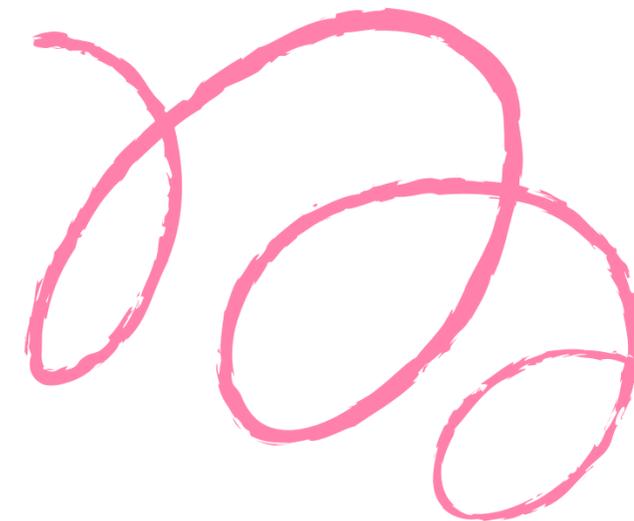


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WHAT IS THE OHIO GOVERNOR

RESPONSIBLE FOR?

- Proposing the state budget
- Appointing state department directors
- Appointing members of boards and commissions
- Signing into law or vetoing bills passed by the Ohio G.A.



WHO'S WHO

OHIO EXECUTIVE BRANCH



MIKE DEWINE (R)

GOVERNOR
TERM LIMITED IN 2026



JIM TRESSEL (R)

LT GOVERNOR



FRANK LAROSE (R)

SEC OF STATE
TERM LIMITED IN 2026



DAVE YOST (R)

ATTORNEY GENERAL
TERM LIMITED IN 2026



THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

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WHO'S WHO

OHIO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



MATT HUFFMAN (R)

SPEAKER OF THE
HOUSE



DANI ISAACSOHN (D)

MINORITY LEADER



ROB MCCOLLEY (R)

SENATE PRESIDENT



NICKIE ANTONIO (D)

MINORITY LEADER

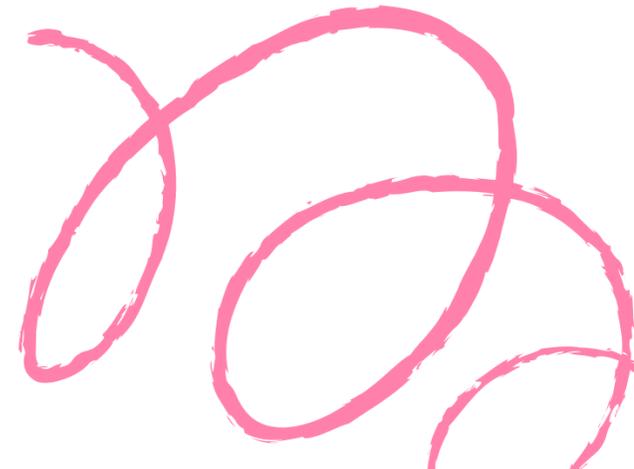
WHAT IS THE OHIO

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH?

- Ohio has 33 Senators who are elected to 4-year terms, with a term limit of 2 consecutive terms. 17 of the 33 seats are up in 2026.
- Ohio has 99 House Representatives who are elected to a 2-year term, with a term limit of 4 consecutive terms
- Together, the Ohio House and Senate are referred to as the General Assembly (or G.A.)

WHAT IS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESPONSIBLE FOR?

- G.A. debates proposed bills to adopt as law in Ohio
- The Statehouse operates in a 2-year terms - any bill that doesn't pass by the end of the G.A. dies and has to be reintroduced in the next G.A.
- Session is the time of year when legislators are working, and the times they're actually in the chamber voting on bills
- A lame duck session occurs between the election and the new G.A. beginning - Mid Nov through Mid Dec
- More on how bills become laws in a bit!





THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

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WHAT IS THE OHIO

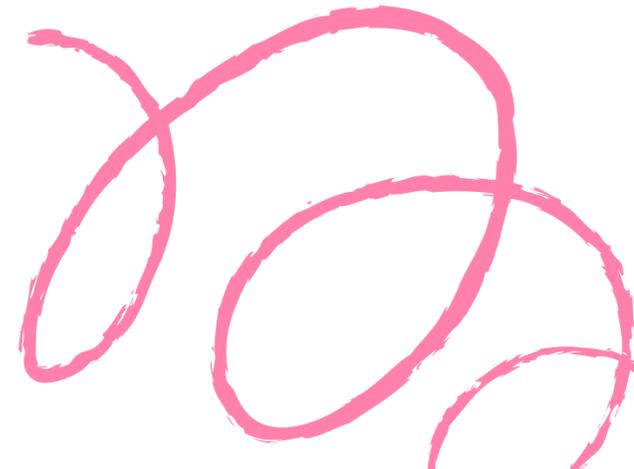
JUDICIAL BRANCH?

- Ohio Supreme Court is made up for 1 chief justice and 6 justices, serving 6 year terms
 - While there are no term limits, justices must be elected before age 70
- Judicial branch also includes the 12 Ohio district courts of appeal, common pleas courts, county courts of claims, and municipal courts

WHAT IS THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

RESPONSIBLE FOR?

- The Supreme Court has appellate jurisdiction in cases involving:
 - Questions arising under the Ohio or US constitution
 - Originating in the courts of appeals
 - Conflicting opinions on the same question from multiple courts of appeals
 - ALL cases where the death penalty has been imposed



WHO'S WHO

OHIO JUDICIAL BRANCH



PATRICK F. FISCHER



R. PATRICK DEWINE



DANIEL R. HAWKINS



MEGAN E. SHANAHAN



JENNIFER BRUNNER



JOSEPH T. DETERS



SHARON L. KENNEDY

CHIEF JUSTICE



VOTING IN OHIO

Key Primary Election Dates

- **April 6:** Deadline to register to vote
- **April 7-May 3:** Early in-person voting at Board of Elections (see hours below)
- **NOW through April 28:** request an absentee ballot. Requests must be returned to your Board of Elections by 8:30 pm on 4/28.
- **May 5th is Election Day:** Vote from 6:30 am-7:30 pm. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Board of Elections by 7:30 pm.

Early In-Person Voting Hours

Apr 7-10	Tues-Fri	8:00am - 5:00pm
Apr 13-17	Mon-Fri	8:00am - 5:00pm
Apr 20-24	Mon-Fri	8:00am - 5:00pm
Apr 27	Mon	7:30am - 7:30pm
Apr 28	Tues	7:30am - 8:30pm
Apr 29-May 1	Wed-Fri	7:30am - 7:30pm
May 2	Sat	8:00am - 4:00pm
May 3	Sun	1:00pm - 5:00pm

Request
Absentee Ballot



Voter
Registration &
Polling Locations



Contact us at: ohio@redwine.blue



HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN OHIO

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HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW IN OHIO

STEP 1

A bill is introduced

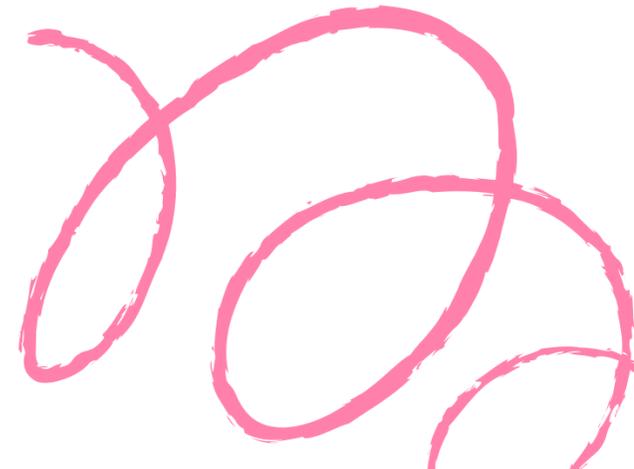
- Can be introduced in the Ohio House or Ohio Senate
 - Sometimes it's introduced in BOTH!
- Bills are numbered in order of introduction
 - HB1 was the first bill in the House this G.A.
 - Bills keep their same name and number throughout the 2-year G.A. term
 - HB1 will continue to be called HB1 when it goes to the Senate

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW IN OHIO

STEP 2

Committee Assignment

- Once a bill is introduced, it's assigned to a committee
 - Senate committees
 - House committees
 - Joint legislative committees
- **Action for you during this step:** contact committee chairs and asked to be placed on their “committee notice list”



HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW IN OHIO

STEP 3

Bills get hearings

- Normal process - committee hearings
 - 1st hearing - sponsor testimony
 - 2nd hearing - proponent testimony (supporter)
 - 3rd hearing - opponent/interested party testimony
 - BUT the number of hearings can change!
- **Action for you during this step:** Demand hearings for good bills!

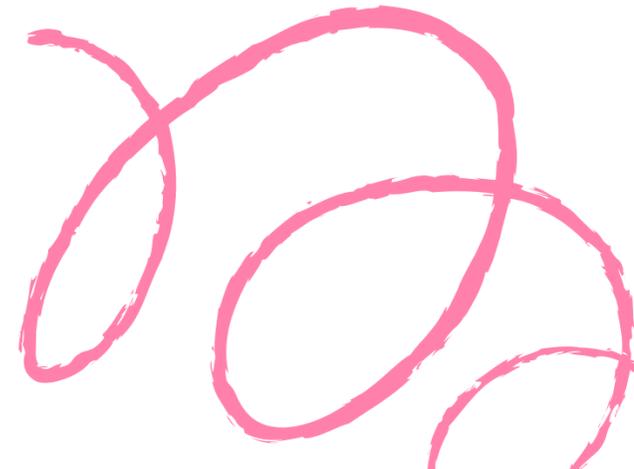


WHAT CAN YOU DO IN OHIO

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CALL OHIO LEGISLATORS

- This is not like calling Congress. You can actually build a relationship with the legislative aide that you talk to!
 - State reps only have 1 aide & State senators only have 2
 - Aides are overworked and underpaid, remember to be kind
- There is only 1 phone line per legislator - they WILL get your message!
- You CAN call legislators in districts where you do not live



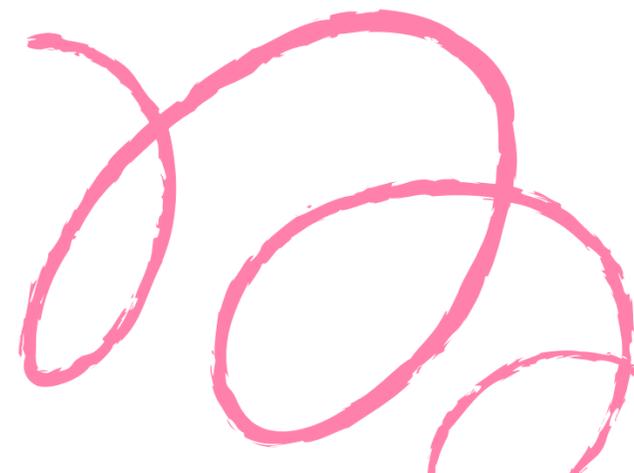
CALL OHIO LEGISLATORS

Some examples:

- Call committee chairs and say, “I’m calling about this bill in your XXXXXX Committee.”
- Call the Senate President, House Speaker, or the Majority Floor Leader (person who sets the voting agenda)
- It will always be MOST effective to call your own legislators
- **So if you are calling your own legislator, let them know!**

TESTIFY IN COMMITTEE

- Best to testify in person for or against bills at the Statehouse
- If you cannot testify in person, can submit written testimony
- Your legislator can help you get on the list of invited testimony
- Many organizations offer testimony training to help you



TESTIFY IN COMMITTEE

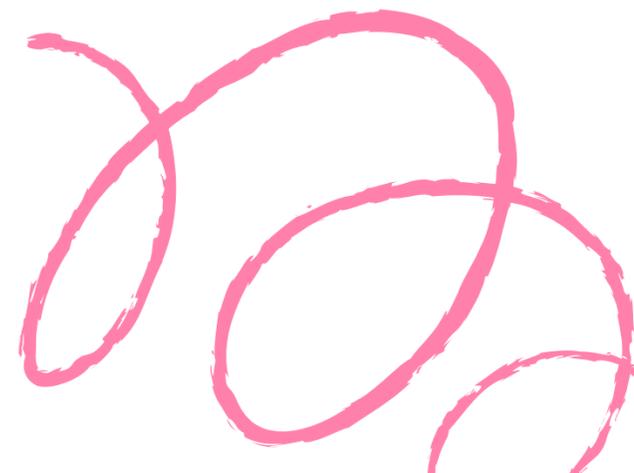
How to submit testimony

1. Write your testimony and proof read it! Have trusted friends help you practice reading it aloud
2. Email your (written or in-person) testimony to the Committee Chair 24 hours in advance
3. Email a completed “Witness Slip” form along with your testimony
4. If you’re testifying in person, practice and show up! For written only, you’re all set!

TESTIFY IN COMMITTEE

What makes good testimony?

- **Short and sweet:** If there's a lot of testimony, you'll likely be limited to 2-3 minutes. Make them count.
- **Consider your audience:** Think of a relative who you know would oppose what you are saying. That's your audience.
- You can watch all House and Senate Sessions AND all committee hearings live on OhioChannel.org – it's free!
- The videos are also archived on the site!



STEP 4

Once it passes out of committee, it gets a full floor vote

- Some bills get through committee but never get to the floor
- If it passes one chamber (House or Senate), it then goes through the full process in the other chamber

STEP 5

- Once it passes both chambers, it goes to the governor to sign or veto
- The legislature can override a governor's veto with a three-fifths vote of both chambers
- When a law is adopted, it is known as a statute and becomes part of the Ohio Revised Code





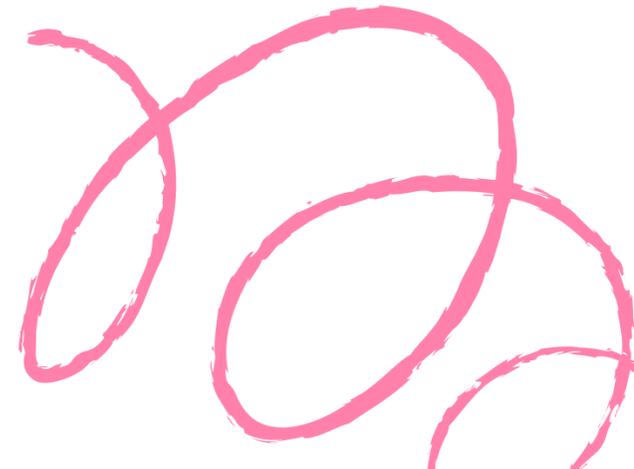
WHAT ABOUT MY LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

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MORE INFORMATION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- County wide positions
 - County Commissioner, Auditor, Treasurer, Prosecuting Atty
 - Clerk of courts, Coroner, Engineer, Recorder and Sherrif
- Mayor
- City Council
- Township Trustee
- School Board





HOW TO GET INVOLVED

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HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

- Find a group doing work that you care about
- Call your legislators!
- Talk to your friends and family
- Join us for more upcoming events

