



# HOW THINGS WORK AT THE OHIO STATEHOUSE: THE BASICS

**The Ohio Senate has 33 senators - 7 Democrats and 26 Republicans.**

President:

**Matt Huffman (R)**

Minority Leader:

**Nickie Antonio (D)**

**The Ohio House has 99 members - 32 Democrats and 67 Republicans.**

Speaker of the House:

**Jason Stephens (R)**

Minority Leader:

**C. Allison Russo (D)**

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

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

1<sup>st</sup> hearing:

sponsor (legislator) testimony

.....  
2<sup>nd</sup> hearing:

proponent (supporter) testimony

.....  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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 are 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](mailto:HowThingsWorkOH@gmail.com)



# HOW THINGS WORK AT THE OHIO STATEHOUSE: RESOURCES

Ohio Senate Dems:

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

Ohio Senate GOP:

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

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

Ohio House GOP: [Ohiohouse.gov/republicans](http://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](http://ohiochannel.org)

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

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Ohio Political Reporters:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc2ab6p6>

See who is donating to your legislators:

[sos.state.oh.us/campaign-finance](http://sos.state.oh.us/campaign-finance)

Track Ohio lobbying groups:

[JLEC-OLIG.state.oh.us](http://JLEC-OLIG.state.oh.us)

## [Legislature.ohio.gov](http://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](http://Ohiohouse.gov) & [Ohiosenate.gov](http://Ohiosenate.gov)

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

## [Codes.ohio.gov](http://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](http://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.

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