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OHIO CITIZEN'S DIGEST



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Bob Taft

Ohio Secretary of State

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Ohio Statehood

The story of Ohio's statehood dates back to the Ordinance of 1787 and the creation of the Northwest Territory — a large body of unsettled land that encompassed what is now Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota.

The territory was ruled by a governor, a secretary, and three judges, who were all appointed by Congress. These five officials performed the executive, legislative, and judicial functions of government. It wasn't until 1798 — after the male adult population of the territory reached 5,000 — that the settlers were given the right to elect a house of representatives. The first meeting of the legislature convened in Cincinnati in 1799. The body elected Edward Tiffin as speaker of the House and William Henry Harrison as the territory's representative to Congress.

Though the territorial government was just getting on its feet in 1799, Ohio settlers were already clamoring for statehood. And just a few years later, in 1802, Congress passed an enabling bill that authorized the formation of a state government

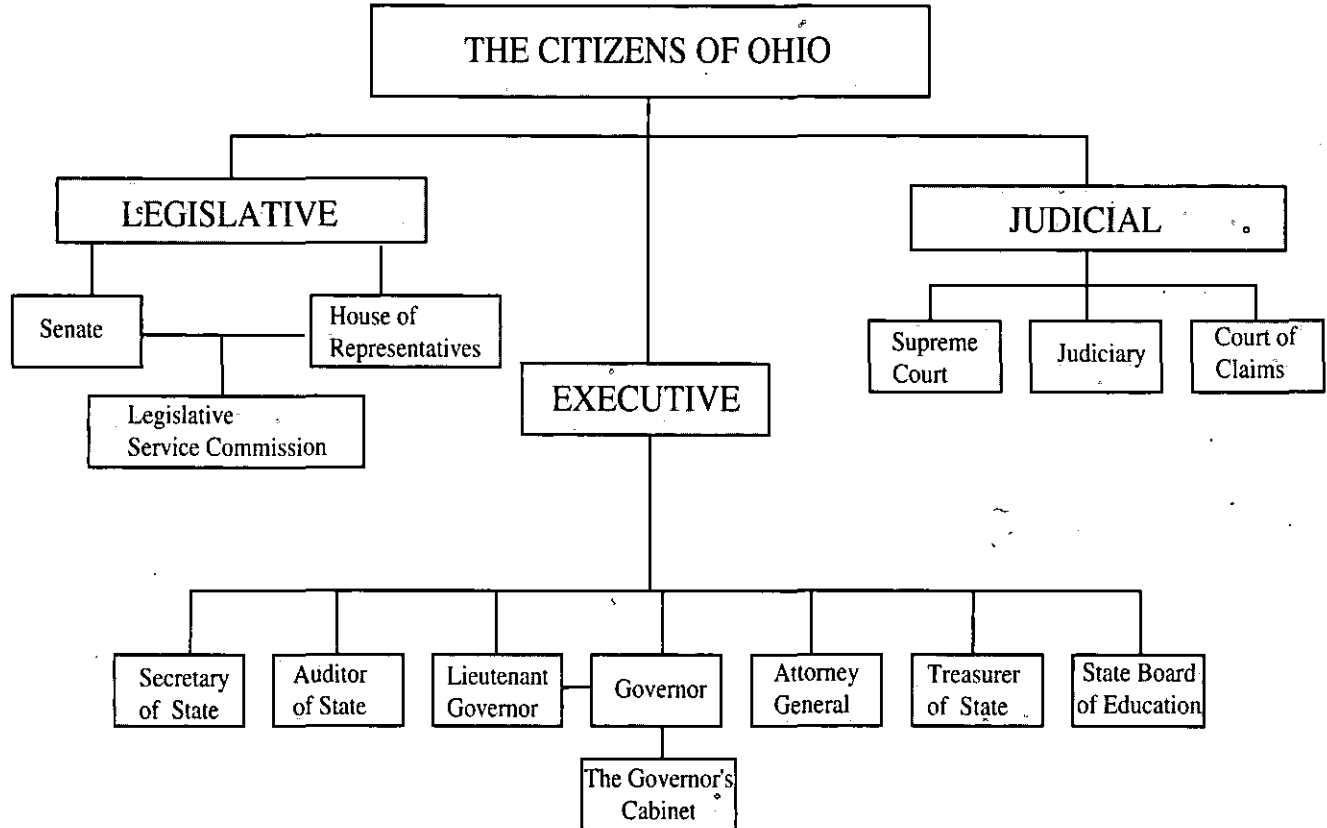
in Ohio. Ohio's first constitutional convention convened in Chillicothe in November of that same year. Ohio was admitted to the Union in 1803.

Chillicothe served as the temporary capital for the new state until 1810 when the legislature moved the capital to Zanesville. The capital was shuttled back to Chillicothe in 1812, while the legislature searched for a more centralized location. The legislature finally decided to build a new capital on "the high banks of the Scioto River." Columbus became Ohio's permanent capital in 1816.



Ohio's capitol building stands on the corner of State and High streets in downtown Columbus. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as one of the state's most historically and architecturally significant buildings.

STATE OF OHIO ORGANIZATION CHART



Ohio Government

Today, Ohio's state government contains three branches: *executive*, *legislative* and *judicial*.

The 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. The Cabinet members serve as directors for the many state agencies and are appointed by the Governor.

The Legislative branch consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Together, these bodies are referred to as "The General Assembly." Ohio's House of Representatives has 99 members; the Senate has 33. The Legislative Service Commission, a staff of trained legal experts and personnel, drafts proposals for new laws and law changes.

The Judicial branch comprises the Ohio Supreme Court; numerous judiciary bodies — including 12 courts of appeals, courts of common pleas in each county, municipal courts, and many county courts; and the Court of Claims.



Creating new laws and changing old ones is one of the most important functions of state government. Any proposal for a new law or for changing an existing law must begin as a bill in Ohio's General Assembly.

Most bills require a majority vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives to pass. Emergency measures require a two-thirds majority; constitutional amendments must receive a three-fifths majority to be placed before the voters. If a bill passes in both chambers, it is then presented to the Governor to be signed.

The Governor has 10 days to sign or veto a bill. If signed, the bill becomes law. If vetoed, the bill is sent back to the General Assembly. At this point the bill can only become law if at least three-fifths of the legislators vote to override the Governor's veto. A bill can also become law if the Governor fails to take any action on it within 10 days.

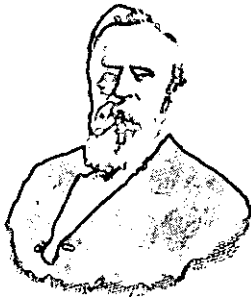
Ohio Presidents

Eight U.S. Presidents came from Ohio -- earning Ohio the nickname "the Mother of Presidents."



WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON
(1841)
9th President
Whig
Birthplace: Berkeley Plantation,
Virginia*

ULYSSES SIMPSON GRANT
(1869-1877)
18th President
Republican
Birthplace: Point Pleasant



RUTHERFORD BIRCHARD
HAYES
(1877-1881)
19th President
Republican
Birthplace: Delaware

JAMES ABRAM GARFIELD
(1881)
20th President
Republican
Birthplace: Orange



BENJAMIN HARRISON
(1889-1893)
23rd President
Republican
Birthplace: North Bend



WILLIAM MCKINLEY
(1897-1901)
25th President
Republican
Birthplace: Niles

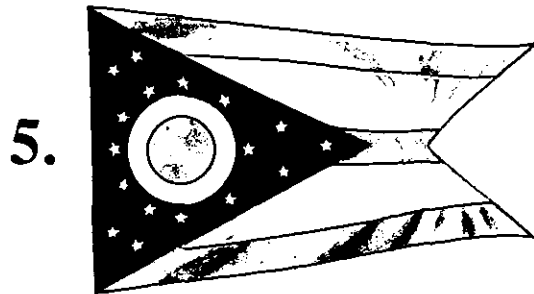
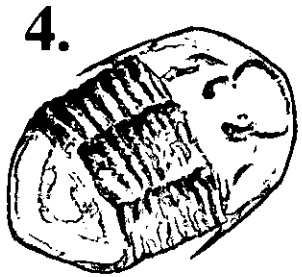
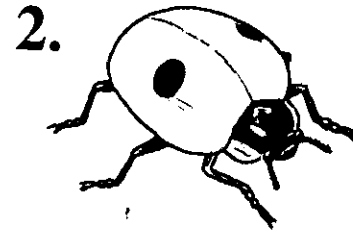
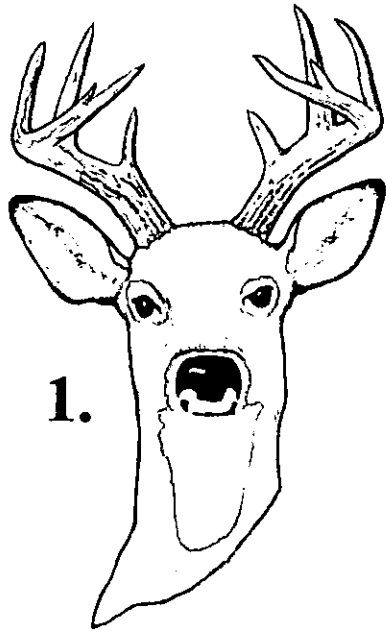
WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT
(1909-1913)
27th President
Republican
Birthplace: Cincinnati



WARREN GAMALIEL HARDING
(1921-1923)
29th President
Republican
Birthplace: Corsica
(now Blooming Grove)

** Although born in Virginia, William Henry Harrison is considered an Ohio President because he settled on a farm in North Bend, Ohio, after the War of 1812 and lived there when elected President.*

Symbols of the State of Ohio



10.



Ohio Symbols

(see illustration on previous pages)

1. The State Animal

The Ohio legislature adopted the white-tailed deer, the state's largest game animal, as the state animal in May 1988. The white-tailed deer can be found in all of Ohio's 88 counties, although about 80 percent of the herd lives in hilly eastern Ohio.

2. The State Insect

In June 1975, the Ohio legislature declared the common ladybug, officially named the Ladybird Beetle as the state insect. The ladybug was chosen for its attractive markings and helpful eating habits.

3. The State Bird

Ohio adopted the cardinal as its official bird in 1933. A permanent resident of Ohio, the cardinal is known for its clear, strong song and brilliant plumage.

4. The State Fossil

Ohio's state fossil is the isotelus, commonly known as the trilobite. This now extinct sea creature existed in Ohio 440 million years ago when salt water covered the state. It resembles the modern horseshoe crab and is about 14 inches long.

5. The State Flag

Ohio's state flag was adopted in 1902. The Ohio burgee, as the swallowtail design is properly called, was designed by John Eisemann. The large blue triangle represents Ohio's hills and valleys, and the stripes represent roads and waterways. The thirteen stars grouped about the circle represent the original states of the union; the four stars added to the peak of the triangle symbolize that Ohio was the 17th state admitted to the union. The white circle with its red center not only represents the "O" in Ohio, but also suggests Ohio's famous nickname, "The Buckeye State."

6. The State Seal

The current design of the Great Seal of the State of Ohio was officially adopted in 1967. In the foreground, a sheaf of wheat represents Ohio's agricultural strength. A bundle of 17 arrows on the left and the 17 rays around the sun symbolize Ohio's status as the 17th state admitted to the union. The background contains a portrayal of Mount Logan, with a three-quarter full sun rising behind it — symbolizing that Ohio was the first state west of the Allegheny Mountains. The Scioto River flows between the mountain and the cultivated fields in the foreground.

7. The State Motto

In 1959, the Ohio legislature adopted the state's motto, "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). An earlier motto, "Imperium in Imperio" (An Empire within an Empire) was adopted in 1865 but repealed two years later because Ohioans thought it too pretentious.

8. The State Flower

The red carnation was adopted as Ohio's state flower in 1904 in memory of President William McKinley, who always wore a red carnation in his lapel.

9. The State Tree

The nickname for Ohio and its inhabitants — Buckeye — became official in 1953 when the legislature named the American Horsechestnut (or the Ohio Buckeye) the state tree. The buckeye tree derives the name from its large brown seeds, which resemble the eyes of the eastern white-tailed deer.

10. The State Beverage

Tomato juice was adopted as the state beverage in 1965. Ohio leads the country in the production of tomato juice and is second only to California in tomato growing.

11. The State Gemstone

Flint, the state gemstone since 1965, is a smooth hard rock of sedimentary origin. The Indians used flint to make knives, spear points and arrowheads. Later, Ohio settlers used it for flintlock guns and millstones.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The State Song

Beautiful Ohio became the state song in 1969. The music was composed by Mary Earl, and the original lyrics were written by Ballard McDonald. In 1989, the Ohio legislature adopted an amendment to section 5.09 of the Ohio Revised Code that changed the words of the state song. The new lyrics are the work of Youngstown attorney Wilbert McBride.

The State Rock Song

Hang On Sloopy, a favorite of the Ohio State University Marching Band, became the state rock song in 1985. Composed by Celina-born guitarist Rick Derringer, it was first recorded by The McCoys, a rock band from Dayton, in 1965.

Voting

Ohio's first formal count of voters age 21 and over began on Aug. 1, 1803. Ohio's first law requiring registration of voters was enacted in 1845.

Today, although more than 6 million Ohioans are registered to vote, many citizens remain unregistered and ineligible to vote. It's easy to register by mailing a registration form to the Secretary of State or at any of the designated registration sites listed below.

WHO CAN VOTE?

You are qualified to vote if:

- ★ You are a citizen of the United States.
- ★ You are at least 18 or will be at the time of the November election.
- ★ You are a resident of Ohio.
- ★ You have been registered to vote in the precinct in which you reside at least 30 days before the election

WHERE DO I REGISTER?

- ★ At your county board of election office or with the Secretary of State.
- ★ At branch registration offices or locations established by the board.
- ★ At many public high schools or vocational schools.
- ★ At the office of a motor vehicle deputy registrar.
- ★ At any public library.
- ★ At a number of state and county agencies that deal with the public.

- ★ You may also register by mail. You may request registration forms by mail, by telephone, or in person. The registration form may be mailed back to the election board or Secretary of State's office.

- ★ **Mailed registration forms must be postmarked 30 days before an election.**

WHERE DO I VOTE?

- ★ Your ballot is cast at the polling place designated to serve the precinct in which you reside. If you don't know the location of your polling place, contact your elections board.

Fascinating Facts

Geography

Marietta was Ohio's first permanent settlement. It was founded in 1788 by General Rufus Putnam and named in honor of Marie Antoinette, then queen of France.

Chillicothe was Ohio's first capital and the first statehouse there was the first stone building erected in the state.

Ohio was the first state created from the Northwest Territory. The date was Feb. 19, 1803.

Columbus, once the site of a Mingo Indian village, is the present capital of Ohio.

The state of Ohio encompasses **41, 330** square miles.

Ohio owns 2,097,000 acres of **Lake Erie**, and 320 miles of its shoreline.

Ohio contains **88** counties.

Ashtabula is Ohio's largest county with 711 square miles.

Lake is Ohio's smallest county with 232 square miles.

The northernmost point in Ohio is near **Conneaut** at approximate latitude 41 degrees, 58 minutes.

The southernmost point in Ohio is **South Point**, at approximate latitude 38 degrees, 24 minutes.

Ohio ranked seventh among the 50 states in population with **10,847,115**, at the time of the 1990 U.S. Census. The estimated population in 1993 was **11,091,000**.

Columbus is the state's largest city, in both area, 190 square miles, and population, **632,910**.

Education

Ohio University, founded in 1804 at Athens, was the first university in Ohio and the Northwest Territory.

The first dental school in the nation was started in 1828 at **Bainbridge** by Dr. John M. Harris.

The nation's first interracial, coeducational college was founded in **Oberlin** in 1833.

Mary Patterson became the first African-American woman in the United States to earn a master of arts degree when she received it at Oberlin College in 1862.

In 1831, **Dr. Jesse Harvey and his wife, Elizabeth**, established the first tuition-free school for African-Americans in Ohio at Harveysburg.

The **University of Cincinnati** inaugurated the nation's first cooperative system of technical education.

The **Ohio School for the Blind** was the first state school for blind children in the nation.

Van Wert is the home of the nation's first county library, the Brumback Library.

The **Ohio State University** is the nation's largest single university campus.

Ohio is home to:

- 13 public state universities
- 23 community and technical colleges
- 24 university regional campuses
- 48 private liberal arts colleges
- More than 70 specialized colleges
- More than 4,500 public, private and parochial schools

Business, Industry, Labor, Arts and Government

The **American Federation of Labor (AFL)** was founded in Columbus in 1886. William Green, a nationally famous labor leader and native of Coshocton, served as the organization's president from 1924 until 1952.

The bill establishing Labor Day in 1894 was authored by **U.S. Senator James H. Kyle** of Cedarville.

John Mercer Langston is believed to have been the first African-American elected to public office in 1854 when he was elected clerk of Brownhelm, Ohio.

Clark Gable, well-known movie star of the 1940s and 1950s, was born in Cadiz, Ohio, and worked in coal mines in that region as a teenager.

The world's first commercial chick hatchery was founded in Ohio in 1897.

Ohio ranked seventh in the nation in 1993 in export sales with a total dollar value of **\$17.5 billion**. Canada, France and Mexico were the top markets for Ohio goods.

Fomer Ohio Supreme Court Justice **Robert M. Duncan** became the first African-American elected to statewide office in 1970.

Cincinnati is headquarters for the largest soaps company in the nation, **Procter & Gamble Co.**

Toledo is the largest international tonnage port on the **U.S. Great Lakes** as well as the glass capital of the world.

Dr. B. F. Goodrich introduced the rubber industry to Akron in 1870 when he established a factory there for the manufacture of fire hoses. Within 30 years the city became a center for rubber manufacturing and became known as "The Rubber Capital of the World."

There are 42 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Ohio.

Dorothy Dandridge, born in Cleveland in 1922, was the first African-American woman nominated for an Oscar for her portrayal of Carmen in *Carmen Jones* in 1955.

Ohio has 10.3 million acres of cropland producing crops that in 1993 were valued at \$2.7 billion annually.

Soybeans has surpassed corn as Ohio's top crop with 19.3 percent of all cash receipts.

Science and Flight

Brothers **Wilbur and Orville Wright**, who owned a bicycle shop in Dayton, developed the first airplane.

Marine Corps pilot **John Glenn** from New Concord was the first American to orbit the earth in a spacecraft.

Neil Armstrong of Wapakoneta was the first man to walk on the moon.

The process of continuous rolling steel was developed at **Middletown**.

Two Ohioans were key figures in the development of the automobile: Ohio City resident **John Lambert**, who built the nation's first automobile in 1891, and **Charles F. Kettering** of Dayton, who developed the automobile starter in 1909.

X-rays were first used in surgery by **John Gilman** in Marietta.

The first successful blood transfusion was performed in Cleveland in 1905 by **Dr. George Crile**.

The world's first edible greenhouse tomato was developed in **Reynoldsburg**.

W.F. Semple of Mount Vernon patented chewing gum in 1869.

Thomas Alva Edison, a native of Milan, invented the incandescent light bulb, the phonograph, and early motion picture cameras. He was granted more than 1,000 patents in his lifetime.

Sports and Recreation

Fishermen need not dig for worms before early morning light because **Ernest Pflueger** invented artificial bait in 1800 in Akron.

In 1975, **Frank Robinson** became the first African-American to manage a major league baseball team. On opening day, this player-manager hit a home run and led his Cleveland Indians to victory over the New York Yankees.

The **Cincinnati Red Stockings**, formed in 1868, became the world's first professional baseball team.

The **National Football League** was organized in Canton in 1920.

African-American track star **Jesse Owens**, who won four gold medals during the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, grew up in Cleveland and graduated from The Ohio State University.

Branch Rickey, baseball manager who developed the baseball farm system and integrated baseball, was born in Stockdale and graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University.

Annie Oakley, a world champion sharpshooter who traveled with Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show, was born in Darke County in 1860.

GOVERNOR GEORGE V. VOINOVICH

Chief Executive Officer

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR NANCY P. HOLLISTER

SECRETARY OF STATE BOB TAFT

Chief Elections Officer

TREASURER OF STATE J. KENNETH BLACKWELL

Chief Fiscal and Investment Officer

AUDITOR OF STATE JIM PETRO

Chief Accounting Officer

ATTORNEY GENERAL BETTY MONTGOMERY

Chief Legal Advisor

The Secretary of State gets thousands of calls every year asking for information about Ohio's government and history. This booklet answers some of those questions, and highlights some key facts about our state's geography, education, business, industry, arts and more. If you would like additional information, please call or write my office: 30 E. Broad St., 14th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43266-0418; (614) 466-0565.

Sincerely,

Bob Taft

Bob Taft
Ohio Secretary of State

