State Government 101 - Vocabulary

**Amendment**: Change in a bill. Can be added in committee or on the floor

**Bill**: Legislation introduced by members of the General Assembly. Example: House Bill 49

**“The Budget”**: The 2-year state operating budget that is passed in odd numbered years. Must be passed and signed by the Governor by July 1

**Caucus**: Used as both a noun and a verb.

- **Noun**: Members who belong to a particular party in the legislature, e.g., House Republican Caucus.
- **Verb**: To hold a meeting, e.g., The Senate Democrats caucus before session.

**Chairman**: Member of the majority who heads a standing committee responsible for deciding which bills to be heard.

**Chamber**: Another term to refer to the two bodies that make up the legislature—Senate and House.

**General Assembly**: Term used for each two year legislative session, as well as the general term for the Ohio legislature.

**Gerrymandering**: The drawing of political boundaries to give a political party an advantage.

**Joint Resolution**: Used to place constitutional amendments on the ballot for voter approval when passed by 3/5th vote of each chamber.

**Lame Duck**: Period after an election before the new General Assembly begins. Controversial legislation is normally passed during this time.

**LSC**: The Legislative Service Commission (LSC) is a nonpartisan agency responsible for research and bill drafting.

**Majority**: political party that holds the majority of seats.

**Minority**: political party that holds minority of seats.

**Ohio Revised Code**: contains all of the laws that are passed by the legislature.

**Ranking Member**: highest serving minority member on a legislative committee.

**Representative**: one of the 99 members of the Ohio House. Represents a district of 116,000 constituents.

**Senator**: one of the 33 members of the Ohio Senate. Represents a district of 350,000 constituents.