

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 the 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.

