



www.lsc.ohio.gov

OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.J.R. 1
136th General Assembly

Resolution Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Blessing

Emily E. Wendel, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Proposes an amendment to the Ohio Constitution to increase the membership of the House of Representatives from 99 to 153 and to increase the membership of the Senate from 33 to 51, beginning January 1, 2033.
- Requires eight senators to be elected to two-year terms in 2032 so that, in the long term, the state's system of placing half the Senate seats on the ballot every two years is maintained.
- Specifies that if a person serves a two-year Senate term under the proposal, that time in office does not count against the person for purposes of calculating term limits.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Increase in General Assembly membership

The resolution proposes an amendment to the Ohio Constitution to appear on the ballot at the general election on November 3, 2026. If adopted by a majority of the electors voting on the amendment, it takes effect immediately but is not implemented until 2033.

The proposal increases the membership of the House of Representatives from 99 to 153 and increases the membership of the Senate from 33 to 51. As under the existing Constitution, all members are to be elected to represent single-member districts with roughly equal populations, with each Senate district containing three House districts. Under the proposal, the ideal population of each House district decreases from 119,186 to 77,121, and the ideal population of each Senate district decreases from 357,559 to 231,362, subject to adjustment based on the results of the 2030 U.S. Census.

The proposal requires the membership increases to take effect January 1, 2033, after the next scheduled redistricting process. (The U.S. Census Bureau will release updated population

data by April 1, 2031, and new district maps must be in place in time to hold elections in 2032 for terms beginning in 2033.)¹

Implementation – staggered Senate terms

Currently, 17 senators’ four-year terms are scheduled to begin in 2031, and 16 senators’ four-year terms are scheduled to begin in 2033. In the long term, the proposal maintains the existing system of senators serving four-year terms, with half of the state’s Senate seats on the ballot every two years.

To achieve this arrangement, the proposal requires 34 senators, instead of 16, to be elected to terms beginning in 2033. However, of those 34 senators, 26 are to be elected to four-year terms, and the remaining eight are to be elected to two-year terms. Thereafter, all Senate terms are for four years. The result is that in 2035, 25 four-year Senate terms will begin, and in 2037, 26 four-year Senate terms will begin.

Under the proposal, the Ohio Redistricting Commission must designate all of the following as part of the final General Assembly district plan to be used for elections conducted in 2032:

- For the 17 senators who are mid-term, the districts they will represent for the remainder of their terms;
- The 34 Senate districts from which senators are to be elected for terms beginning in 2033;
- In which eight of those 34 Senate districts are senators to be elected for two-year terms.

The proposal specifies that if a person serves a two-year Senate term in 2033-2034, that time in office does not count against the person for purposes of calculating term limits.²

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-28-25

ansjr0001in-136/ks

¹ Ohio Constitution, Article II, Section 2(A) and conforming changes in Article XI, Sections 1, 3, and 4. For more information about the redistricting process, see LSC’s Members Brief, [Redistricting in Ohio \(PDF\)](#), available at lsc.ohio.gov under “Publications.”

² Ohio Const., art. II, sec. 2 and art. XI, sec. 5.