

## Elections and Terms of Office During the Civil War Period for Ohio and U.S. Offices

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**Background:** Election schedules and terms of offices at the Federal and State level have changed in various ways since the Civil War period, such as the direct election of US Senators. In my reading of Civil War history, I have often been confused by the timing of Congressional elections, or by the different dates for State elections and Federal elections, or by the timing of Congressional sessions. The general information and the table below are my attempt to understand how elections and terms of office worked at that time, and to specify the dates during the Civil War at which these specific events took place. I will welcome comments or corrections from readers.

### General:

Elections for Governor and the Ohio General Assembly were held on the second Tuesday of October in odd-numbered years (1859, 1861, 1863) under the provisions of the 1851 Constitution. Two-year terms of office for the General Assembly began on the first Monday of January following election, and the Governor's two-year term began on the second Monday in January. County officers were elected on the same election day, but for three-year terms of office (e.g. Treasurer, Sheriff, Coroner, Probate Judge, Clerk of the Court, County Commissioners, Prosecuting Attorney, and Infirmary Director in Athens County).

Elections for Presidential Electors were held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November in 1860 and 1864. The Electoral College's voting in the state and counting of the votes in Congress occurred in December and January. Inauguration was on March 4<sup>th</sup> for the four-year term of office.

Elections for U.S. Representatives from Ohio were held on the second Tuesday of October in 1858, 1860, 1862, and 1864. The two-year term of office began on the following March 4<sup>th</sup>. Sessions of Congress began nine months later on the first Monday in the following December, so that a newly-elected Representative did not attend a session of Congress until a year after being elected. Ohio had 21 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives for the 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> Congresses (elected in 1858 and 1860), but was reduced to 19 seats by reapportionment after the 1860 Census for the 38<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> Congresses elected in 1862 and 1864.

U.S. Senators were elected by the Ohio General Assembly. The six-year term of office began on March 4<sup>th</sup> of 1861 or 1863, depending on the specific seat. (The term of office of one-third of the U.S. Senate expires each two years.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Reference (full citation in References section)</u>
12 October 1858	Election for U.S. Representatives in 36 <sup>th</sup> Congress. Ohio delegation of 21 seats (6 Dem, 14 Repub, 1 Free Soil). Congress: 237 Representatives (114 Repub, 92 Dem, 31 other); 66 Senators (36 Dem, 26 Repub, 4 other).	<i>Biog. Dir.</i> 36 <sup>th</sup> Cong., Ohio. CQ 94-A, 114-A. Norton 7-9, 22 (Constitution of U.S. I:2,4).
11 October 1859	William Dennison, Jr., (Repub) elected Governor. 54 <sup>th</sup> Ohio General Assembly elected (Senate: 22 Repub, 10 Dem; House: 61 Repub, 44 Dem).	Rerick 305. <i>Governors of Ohio.</i> Constitution of Ohio II:2, III:1,2. Baskin 96. Porter 26 Smith 95-96.
9 January 1860	Dennison inaugurated as Governor.	Rerick 305. Constitution of Ohio III:2.

9 October 1860	Election for U.S. Representatives in 37 <sup>th</sup> Congress. Ohio delegation of 21 seats (8 Dem, 13 Repub). After secession, Congress: 178 Representatives (105 Repub, 43 Dem, 30 other); 49 Senators (31 Repub, 10 Dem, 8 other).	<i>Biog. Dir.</i> 37 <sup>th</sup> Cong., Ohio. CQ 94-A, 114-A. Norton 7-9, 22 (Constitution of U.S. I:2,4).
6 November 1860	Election of Presidential Electors with Lincoln (Repub) majority of 59% of electoral votes, 39.8% of popular vote (52% of popular vote in Ohio among five candidates).	Long 2. Brinkley xxv. Norton 99-106 (Constitution of U.S. II:1). Smith 129.
3 December 1860	2 <sup>nd</sup> session of the 36 <sup>th</sup> Congress, lasting until 3 March 1861, expiration of its term.	CQ 94-A, 114-A. Heidler 2482. Norton 24 (Constitution of U.S. I:4).
2 February 1861	Ohio General Assembly elected Salmon P. Chase (Repub) to replace George E. Pugh (Dem) for U.S. Senate, six-year term, 1861-1867.	Rerick 314. Baskin 196. Norton 7-9, 22 (Constitution of U.S. I:3,4). Taylor 109.
4 March 1861	Inauguration of Lincoln. 37 <sup>th</sup> Congress' term of office begins (not in session).	Long 45. CQ 54, 94-A, 114-A. Heidler 5:2481, 2487.
6 March 1861	Chase resigned from the Senate to become Secretary of the Treasury. Ohio General Assembly elected John Sherman (Repub) on 23 March to fill Chase's term (1861-1867).	Heidler 2488. Baskin 196. Norton 7-9, 22 (Constitution of U.S. I:3,4).
4 July 1861	37 <sup>th</sup> Congress begins special session, lasting until 6 August 1861.	CQ 94-A, 114-A. Heidler 2487. Norton 24 (Constitution of U.S. I:4).
8 October 1861	David Tod elected Governor (Union, former Dem). 55 <sup>th</sup> Ohio General Assembly elected (Senate: 26 Repub/Union Dem, 8 Dem; House: 74 Repub/ Union Dem, 23 Dem).	Governors. Rerick 324-325. Baskin 196. Porter 91. Smith 140.
2 December 1861	37 <sup>th</sup> Congress begins its first regular session, lasting until 17 July 1862.	CQ 94-A, 114-A. Heidler 2487. Norton 24 (Constitution of U.S. I:4).
13 January 1862	Tod inaugurated as Governor.	Constitution of Ohio III:2.

14 October 1862	Elections for US Representatives in 38 <sup>th</sup> Congress. Ohio delegation of 19 seats (14 Dem, 5 Repub). Congress: 186 Representatives (102 Repub, 75 Dem, 9 other). 50 Senators (36 Repub, 9 Dem, 5 other).	Rerick 335. <i>Athens Messenger</i> 30 Oct 1862. <i>Biog. Dir.</i> 38 <sup>th</sup> Cong., Ohio. CQ 95-A, 114-A. Norton 7-9, 22 (Constitution of U.S. I:2,4).
1 December 1862	37 <sup>th</sup> Congress begins its second session, lasting until 3 March 1863, expiration of its term.	CQ 94-A, 114-A. Heidler 2487. Norton 24 (Constitution of U.S. I:4).
22 January 1863	Ohio General Assembly elected Benjamin F. Wade (Repub) for his 3 <sup>rd</sup> term in the U.S. Senate, 1863-1869.	Rerick 337. <i>OH Sen Jrnl</i> 46-47. Baskin 196. Norton 7-9, 22 (Constitution of U.S. I:3,4). Taylor 110.
4 March 1863	38 <sup>th</sup> Congress' term of office begins (not in session).	CQ 54. Heidler 2491.
13 April 1863	Ohio General Assembly enacted legislation (SB 143) that enabled qualified voters in military service to vote for county, state, congressional, and Presidential elections at any location where there were at least 20 voters. (Extended to municipal elections in 1864.)	Reid 238-241. "An Act...military service...". <i>OH House Jrnl</i> 229. <i>OH Sen Jrnl</i> 343. <i>Athens Messenger</i> 20 August 1863.
13 October 1863	John Brough elected Governor (Union, former Dem) over Vallandigham. Soldiers voting in the field for the first time gave Brough nearly 40% of his vote margin; 44,000 Ohio soldier ballots received. 56 <sup>th</sup> Ohio General Assembly elected (Senate: 29 Repub, 5 Dem; House: 74 Repub, 23 Dem).	Rerick 339. Baskin 196. Howe 47-48. Porter 183. Smith 162-164.
7 December 1863	38 <sup>th</sup> Congress begins its first session, lasting until 4 July 1864.	CQ 95-A, 114-A. Heidler 2491. Norton 24 (Constitution of U.S. I:4).
11 January 1864	Brough inaugurated as Governor.	Constitution of Ohio III:2.
11 October 1864	Election for U.S. Representatives in 39 <sup>th</sup> Congress. Ohio delegation of 19 seats (2 Dem, 17 Repub). 191 Representatives (149 Union, 42 Dem); 52 Senators (42 Union, 10 Dem).	<i>Athens Messenger</i> 6 Oct 1864. <i>Biog. Dir.</i> 39 <sup>th</sup> Cong., Ohio. CQ 95-A, 114-A. Norton 7-9, 22 (Constitution of U.S. I:2,4).

8 November 1864	Election of Presidential Electors with Lincoln (Repub) majority for his second term, with 91% of electoral votes, 55% of popular vote (53% of popular vote in Ohio). Over 50,000 Ohio soldier ballots received, 81% for Lincoln.	Long 594. <i>Athens Messenger</i> 3 Nov 1864. Smith 705-706. Norton 99-106 (Constitution of U.S. II:1).
5 December 1864	38 <sup>th</sup> Congress begins its second session, lasting until 3 March 1865, expiration of its term.	CQ 95-A, 114-A. Heidler 2491. Norton 24 (Constitution of U.S. I:4).
4 March 1865	Lincoln inaugurated for second term. 39 <sup>th</sup> Congress' term of office begins (not in session).	Long 647. CQ 54. Heidler 2482.

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