

Ohio US Senate 2026

THE ISSUES

SHERROD BROWN

DEMOCRAT



JON HUSTED

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT



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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Legal. Supports “abortion access for all women.” Voted to prohibit governmental restrictions on abortion access in 2022. In 2018 voted against banning abortions at 20 weeks of pregnancy. Supported the ballot initiative to protect abortion in Ohio’s state constitution. Opposed the overturning of Roe v. Wade.	Ban. Sponsored a bill to prevent federal funds from covering abortions and to prohibit them in federal health facilities. Supports “defending the rights of women, children, and the unborn.” Opposed the ballot initiative to protect abortion in Ohio’s state constitution. Supported the overturning of Roe v. Wade.
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority?	Mostly yes. In 2021 said , “Now is the time to tackle” climate change. Voted for \$369 billion in clean energy tax credits. In 2024 opposed EPA’s increased greenhouse gas restrictions on coal-fired power plants: “ This is an unrealistic, unachievable rule” that would “cause job losses” and “raise energy costs.”	No. Voted to end Biden-era clean energy tax credits. Supports repealing EPA’s greenhouse gas emissions standards for coal-fired power plants. Introduced a bill that would cut energy conservation requirements for consumer products and commercial equipment.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	Supports giving law enforcement “the resources, training, and support they need.” Introduced a bill to provide de-escalation training. Sponsored a bill to end racial profiling. In 2020 sponsored a bill to end chokeholds and ban no-knock warrants.	Supports funding law enforcement and giving them “more tools to convict criminals.” As Lt. Governor, proposed investing in programs to support first-responders. “We need to value the men and women who wear the uniform.”
ECONOMY Cut or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?	Mixed. Voted for \$1 trillion in infrastructure funding. Sponsored a bill to ease environmental rules to boost the semiconductor chip industry. “We need to create jobs , invest in our small businesses and American manufacturing.”	Mixed. Voted to increase defense spending. Voted to cut existing USAID foreign aid and funding for NPR and PBS. Introduced a bill to ease federal regulation on welfare funding. Supports “cutting bureaucratic red tape” to “make it easier to do business in Ohio.”
EDUCATION Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	No. Said that vouchers have moved “money out of public education into religious schools and other private schools.” Vouchers have “really undermined what state government should be doing and that is funding public education.” Wants “to make sure our public schools have the resources they need.”	Yes. Supports school choice tax credits “for students seeking a faith-based education.” Helped create Ohio’s EdChoice scholarship, which provides state funding for students to attend private school. “School choice empowers parents and helps meet the individual needs of each child.”
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulations?	Tighten. Sponsored a bill to protect and restore the Great Lakes. Voted to maintain a rule reducing air pollution from new heavy-duty engines and vehicles. Voted to fund cleaning up heavily polluted Superfund sites. Voted against authorizing oil and gas leasing in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge.	Loosen. Introduced a bill to loosen regulations on critical minerals mining. Voted to end a 20-year protection against mining for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Voted to undo regulations on companies emitting seven major hazardous pollutants.

ISSUES	BROWN (D)	HUSTED (R)
GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun laws?	Tighten. Sponsored a ban on assault weapons. Voted to expand background checks and encourage states to pass red flag laws. Would “ continue pushing for commonsense gun safety legislation.”	Loosen. Sponsored a bill to allow concealed carry of guns across state lines. Responding to a Minneapolis church shooting, “I don’t believe at this point that the gun law is a solution to this problem [mass shootings].”
HEALTHCARE Increase or decrease government support for healthcare?	Increase. Would “keep fighting to make health care more affordable and accessible.” Supports the Affordable Care Act. Voted to cap Medicare out-of-pocket costs and allow the federal government to negotiate lower drug costs. Sponsored a bill to cap patient insulin costs at \$35 a month or less.	Decrease. Voted to cut Medicaid. Voted against extending Affordable Care Act tax credits, saying the ACA is “ dysfunctional ” and makes health care “ less affordable.”
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration?	Wants to “strengthen the border” and “provide additional resources to border agents.” Voted to expedite asylum claims and increase DHS authority to process aliens. Opposes ICE “targeting of innocent families.” In 2017, supported a path to citizenship for DACA young people.	Supports “securing the border and adding more agents.” Voted to increase ICE funding by \$75 billion . “ICE agents ...do a really good job” in keeping “people safe.” No position found on a path to citizenship for DACA young people.
IRAN WAR Support the war in Iran?	No. Says the conflict puts the “country’s safety and security at risk.” The war “is costing Ohio taxpayers \$45 million a day as gas, grocery, and diesel prices are through the roof.”	Yes. Voted against requiring Congressional authorization for U.S. military action in Iran in March and April . “What the president did is take decisive action against the brutal regime.”
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize workers?	Easier. Joined a UAW picket line: “I was proud to stand in solidarity with UAW members in Evendale as they fought for a fair contract.” Sponsored a bill to expand & protect employees’ organizing and collective bargaining rights.	Unclear. Supports “bringing good jobs to Ohio” and union members who “know the value of hard work and personal responsibility.” Would “ have an open dialogue with them [unions] and always look forward to working with them.”
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Expand. “We must do everything we can to support our LGBTQ friends.” Voted for federal recognition of same sex marriages. Sponsored a bill prohibiting discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.	Limit. Supported requiring school personnel to reveal LGBTQ youth to their parents and limit the mention of LGBTQ identity in curricula. Supported an Ohio bill to ban gender-affirming care for minors. “Men should not compete in women’s sports.”
MINIMUM WAGE Raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour?	Yes. Supports raising the minimum to \$17 an hour. In 2021 sponsored a bill to gradually increase it to \$15 by 2025. “Today’s workers cannot survive on a minimum wage salary.”	No. Voted against a 2025 proposal to raise the federal minimum wage to \$17 an hour by 2030.
TAXES Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?	Raise. Voted to increase taxes on corporations and the wealthy to pay for family services, health, and environment programs. Opposes giving “tax cuts to the richest people in the country.”	Lower. Sponsored a bill to repeal the federal estate tax. Voted to extend the 2017 Trump tax cuts, which included, among other tax breaks, a break for the very wealthy and the largest one-time cut in the corporate tax rate.
VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier?	Easier. Voted to increase access to voting and end Congressional gerrymandering. “Our leaders should be trying to make it easier to vote, not creating unnecessary barriers.”	Harder. Sponsored a bill requiring that voters show proof of U.S. citizenship in order to vote in federal elections. Proposed a bill to require voters show photo ID in federal elections to prove their identity. “ Passing voter ID requirements is common sense.”

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