



Accountancy Board of Ohio
Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2010

Introduction

The Accountancy Board of Ohio is the state government agency established by the legislature in 1908 to regulate the practice of public accounting in Ohio. The Board is responsible for examining and licensing certified public accountants, licensing public accountants, registering public accounting firms and enforcing the provisions of Chapter 4701 of the Ohio Revised Code as passed by the Ohio General Assembly and Agency 4701 of the Ohio Administrative Code as adopted by the Board.

The Board is entirely self-sustaining and does not spend any tax dollars. Revenue is generated from fees collected for license applications, license renewals and other services. The Board reimburses certain other state agencies for services rendered.

The Ohio Attorney General is the statutory legal counsel to the Board. An Assistant Attorney General represents the Board in administrative hearings and court proceedings.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Accountancy Board of Ohio is to assure that the services received by Ohio's citizens and businesses from CPAs and PAs licensed by the Board, will always be performed in an ethical and professional manner and to strictly and fairly enforce Ohio's statutes and rules.



“No colony in America was ever settled under such favorable auspices as that which has just commenced at the Muskingum. If I was a young man, just preparing to begin the world, or if advanced in life and had a family to make provision for, I know of no country where I should rather fix my habitation.” - George Washington

Vision Statement

It is the vision of the Accountancy Board of Ohio to become the regulatory agency that provides quality service to the public through the effective use of technology and the implementation of best business practices.



Message from the Board Chair Mark B. LaPlace, CPA

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as Chair of the Accountancy Board of Ohio.

The past year was a year of transition and uncertainty. The changes currently taking place in the accounting profession may seem overwhelming to many in the profession; especially during the past year's recession and poor economic times.

The Accountancy Board as a regulator of the profession in Ohio has to be knowledgeable and reactive not only to current changes but more importantly, to those on the horizon. In order to do this effectively, it is imperative that we meet on a regular basis with our counterparts in other states through the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) organization to thoroughly discuss these current and future issues from a regulatory standpoint. We are fortunate in that several current and past members of the Board are active in the various committees of NASBA and many of those have held leadership positions in that organization.

We are recognized as a national leader in the accounting regulatory environment. Recent years, the Board took the lead role in promoting the efficacy of an interstate mobility statute for CPAs from other states. Today, we can say that nearly every state has adopted mobility provisions in its accountancy law. This past year the Board went online with the NASBA Accountancy Licensing Database (ALD), consisting of licensing records from many state accountancy boards. The ALD is an important tool for the effective enforcement of the state accountancy laws. Also, the Board awarded a five-year high of \$314,312 in scholarship commitments this past fiscal year to assist students in the fifth year of study for CPA certification. The Board received excellent assistance from the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) and the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants (OSCPA).

I want to thank each member of the Board and staff for their devotion in working toward our mission. It has been my privilege to serve as Chair and work with these exceptional individuals. The success and achievements of the Board this past year are due, in large part, to the hard work of our small, but dedicated staff. The Board is very appreciative of the staff's efforts this past year.

The upcoming Chair will provide the sound leadership we need to tackle the challenges facing us. I look forward to the opportunity awarded me for future service to this Board so that we may collectively address the emerging issues.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark B. LaPlace".

Mark B. LaPlace, CPA
Chair

Members of the Accountancy Board of Ohio

The Board is composed of nine members, eight of whom are certified public accountants and one who is a member of the general public. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints each member to a seven-year term. Board members are compensated hourly only for time devoted to the Board's affairs, and are reimbursed for certain expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

Chair



Mark B. LaPlace, CPA

Term 2/24/2006—10/20/2012

Mr. LaPlace, licensed since 1982, is a partner at GBQ Holdings, LLC of Columbus, Ohio.

Vice Chair



Robert L. Benroth

Term 7/8/2005—10/20/2010

Mr. Benroth is the Putnam County Auditor and is based in Ottawa, Ohio. Mr. Benroth also serves as the Board's public member.

Secretary



Greta J. Russell, CPA

Term 11/17/2006—10/20/2013

Ms. Russell, licensed since 1981, is a University Controller at The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Past Chair



James A. Landaker, CPA

Term 12/3/2004—10/20/2011

Mr. Landaker, licensed since 1974, is President of Landaker & Associates, Inc. of Westerville, Ohio.

Member



Margaret A. Houston, CPA

Term 1/8/2008—10/20/2014

Ms. Houston, licensed since 1987, is a senior lecturer for the Department of Accountancy at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Member



Robert F. Fay, CPA

Term 2/23/2009—10/20/2015

Mr. Fay, licensed since 1985, is the owner of Robert F. Fay, CPA of Canton, Ohio.

Member



Wayne Michael Fritz, CPA

Term 2/23/2009 - 10/20/2015

Mr. Fritz, licensed since 1980, is a partner at Deloitte & Touche, LLP of Columbus, Ohio.

Member



Michael S. Comer, CPA

Term 10/21/2009—10/20/2016

Mr. Comer, licensed since 2005, is a partner at KPMG, LLP of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Member



James J. Carroll, CPA (Inactive)

Term 11/4/2009—10/20/2016

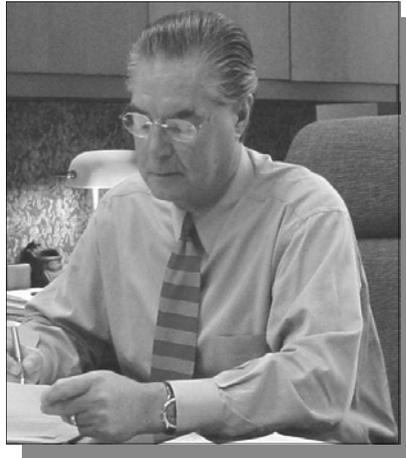
Mr. Carroll, licensed since 1973, is a member of Cors & Bassett LLC of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Accountancy Board Staff As of June 30, 2010

EXECUTIVE OFFICE



Robert D. Joseph, Ph.D., CPA
Assistant Executive Director
(614) 466-1660



Ronald J. Rotaru
Executive Director
(614) 995-0192



Tracey F. Fithen
Executive Assistant
(614) 644-9037

ENFORCEMENT & DISCIPLINE



Jesse J. Dixon
Investigator
(614) 728-3004



Faith Ottavi
Investigator
(614) 752-2468

OPERATIONS STAFF



Vicky Cahill
Receptionist
(614) 466-4135



Luann Rager
CPA Licensing/ Renewal



Karen Salyer
CPA Certification
Firm Registration
(614) 752-7472



Kelly Kelly
Clerk
(614) 752-8248



Marblehead Lighthouse



Ohio County Map

ATTORNEY GENERAL

John E. Patterson
General Counsel, Assistant State Attorney General



Licensing and CPA Examination Fiscal Year 2010

The total of CPA certificates issued since the Accountancy Board's inception in 1908 was 47,431 as of the end of fiscal year 2010. A total of 6,842 PA registrations were issued from 1959 to 1993. In 1993, the General Assembly passed legislation that discontinued the registration of public accountants.

In order to obtain the CPA certificate, a candidate needs to complete the three "E's" of education, examination, and experience.

Prior to January 1, 2000, the educational and experience requirements for the CPA certificate were as follows:

- Either (1) a baccalaureate degree with 24 semester hours in accounting courses, or (2) successful completion of the equivalency examination.
- Successful completion of the CPA examination.
- Two years of experience performing accounting or accounting-related duties acceptable to the Board.

After January 1, 2000, the educational and experience requirements for the CPA certificate were as follows:

- A baccalaureate degree and 150 semester hours of college credit including 30 semester hours in accounting and 24 semester hours in business courses other than accounting courses. In lieu of 150 semester hours, an associates or baccalaureate degree and a passing score on a special examination approved by the Board. The special examination is the Graduate Management Admission Test and the required total score is 620.
- Successful completion of the CPA examination.
- One year of experience performing accounting or accounting-related duties acceptable to the Board.

[REDACTED]

For more complete information concerning the computer-based CPA exam please refer to the Board's website at the following address <http://acc.ohio.gov/cpaexam.htm>.

CPA Certificates Issued

Fiscal Year	Examination	Reciprocity	SB 316 *	Total
2010	729	135	0	864
2009	715	116	0	831
2008	739	167	2	908
2007	590	192	1	783
2006	580	176	1	757
2005	628	130	1	759
2004	720	145	6	871
2003	546	92	10	648

(*) Senate Bill 316, effective April 16, 1993, eliminated the registration of new public accountants. Some currently licensed public accountants, who met certain criteria specified in the new law, were awarded the certificate of "Certified Public Accountant" without passing the CPA examination. These individuals are listed in the table above under the heading "SB 316."

Accountancy Board of Ohio
Statement of Revenues
July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010

REVENUE

Operational Fees

Individual License Fees	\$1,254,017	
Firm License Fees	33,550	
Certification Fees	<u>26,205</u>	
Total Operational Fees		\$1,313,772

Disciplinary Fees/Misc.

Individual Late Fees	\$162,103	
Firm Late Fees	18,990	
Disciplinary Fees & Fines	<u>29,460</u>	
Miscellaneous Income		\$62
Total Disciplinary Fees/Misc.		<u>\$210,615</u>
Total Revenue		\$1,524,387

Accountancy Board of Ohio
Statement of Expenses
July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010

EXPENSES	
Office Expenses	
Payroll	\$696,675
Building Rent	48,132
State IT Services	28,716
Central Service Agency	26,144
Online Renewal Fees	25,353
Intrastate Service Charges	21,993
Temporary Staff	19,211
State Mail Service	17,724
Telecommunications	8,278
NASBA Dues	6,600
Subscriptions	6,233
New Computer Equipment	6,048
Board Travel Expenses	5,749
Other Expenses	<u>12,959</u>
Total Office Expenses	\$929,815
Scholarship Payments	<u>\$101,502</u>
Total Expenses	\$1,031,317
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	\$493,070

Ohio Permits

Fiscal Year	CPA Permits	PA Permits	Total
2010	20,201	12	20,213
2009	19,937	10	19,947
2008	19,563	12	19,575
2007	19,140	18	19,158
2006	18,980	21	19,001
2005	18,766	26	18,792
2004	18,889	30	18,919
2003	18,871	35	18,906

Total Licenses Issued

Fiscal Year	Permit-1	Permit-2	Permit-3	Total Permits	Reg-1	Reg-2	Reg-3	Total Reg	Grand Total
2010	41	927	6,506	7,474	24	80	3,229	3,333	10,807
2009	58	902	5,965	6,925	34	100	3,062	3,196	10,121
2008	58	959	6,159	7,176	30	90	3,103	3,223	10,399
2007	60	872	5,990	6,922	46	96	3,757	3,899	10,821
2006	53	809	5,740	6,602	26	74	3,265	3,365	9,967
2005	51	825	5,829	6,705	47	75	3,669	3,791	10,496
2004	57	931	5,966	6,954	23	72	3,784	3,879	10,833
2003	44	674	5,487	6,205	9	64	3,612	3,685	9,890

Permit-1 represents one-year Ohio permits (active licenses) issued.
 Permit-2 represents two-year Ohio permits (active licenses) issued.
 Permit-3 represents three-year Ohio permits (active licenses) issued.
 Reg-1 represents one-year Ohio registrations (inactive licenses) issued.
 Reg-2 represents two-year Ohio registrations (inactive licenses) issued.
 Reg-3 represents three-year Ohio registrations (inactive licenses) issued.

Facts About The CPA Examination

The computer-based CPA examination was offered for the first time on April 5, 2004. Unlike the paper-based CPA exam that was offered twice a year, the computer-based exam is available to CPA candidates for the first two months of each quarter during the year. This time period is called an examination window. Unlike the paper-based CPA exam for which a candidate needed to sit for all sections not passed and achieve a minimum score of 50 on sections failed, the computer-based CPA exam sections may be taken in any order and the scores are not dependent upon the scores of any failed sections. The computer-based CPA examination is held at the following sites:

Akron-Stow – (3500 Hudson Drive, Suite 4)
Cincinnati – (11353 Reed Hartman Highway, Suite LL50)
Cleveland-Case Western Reserve University (10900 Euclid Avenue, Sears Building 440)
Cleveland-Strongsville – (15201 Pearl Road)
Columbus-Worthington – (933 High Street, Suite 130B)
Dayton-Beavercreek – (2365 Dayton-Xenia Road)
Mentor – (8880 Mentor Avenue)
Toledo-Maumee (1745 Indian Wood Circle, Suite 110)
Youngstown-Niles – (Square 1 Center, 950A Youngstown-Warren Road, Suite D)

The all-time record for the number of candidates taking the CPA examination during a six month period (4,333) was set in November 1999. The all-time record for the number of candidates passing the CPA examination during a six month period (786) was set in November 1989.



Columbus Skyline

CANDIDATE PERFORMANCE

Before the Computer Based Testing (CBT) was implemented in 2004, the average percentage passing each section of the CPA exam was approximately 28%.

July-August 2009 CPA Examination Window

SECTION	# TAKING	# PASSING	% PASSING
Auditing	459	249	54.25
BEC ¹	528	304	57.58
FAR ²	463	248	53.56
Regulation	470	259	55.11
Total	1,920	1,060	55.21

¹Business Environment and Concepts

²Financial Accounting and Reporting

October-November 2009 CPA Examination Window

SECTION	# TAKING	# PASSING	% PASSING
Auditing	511	292	57.14
BEC ¹	530	259	48.87
FAR ²	502	246	49.00
Regulation	486	225	46.30
Total	2,029	1,022	50.37

¹Business Environment and Concepts

²Financial Accounting and Reporting

January-February 2010 CPA Examination Window

SECTION	# TAKING	# PASSING	% PASSING
Auditing	356	175	49.16
BEC ¹	387	206	53.23
FAR ²	338	153	45.27
Regulation	371	185	49.87
Total	1,452	719	49.52

¹Business Environment and Concepts

²Financial Accounting and Reporting

April-May 2010 CPA Examination Window

SECTION	# TAKING	# PASSING	% PASSING
Auditing	409	186	45.48
BEC ¹	428	208	48.60
FAR ²	364	172	47.25
Regulation	386	213	55.18
Total	1,587	779	49.09

¹Business Environment and Concepts

²Financial Accounting and Reporting

Board Activities and Accomplishments

Fiscal year 2010 Highlights and Calendar of Events

July 10, 2009: The Board conducted nine disciplinary hearings and three reinstatement hearings. The disciplinary hearings resulted from charges related to continuing education verification violations, felony convictions, an IRS suspension, and firm registration renewal noncompliance/unlawful practice.

September 11, 2009: The Board approved two rules for filing. One rule eliminated the extra filing fee for additional public accounting firm offices, and the second rule eliminated Ohio continuing education sponsor registration for sponsors offering home study, computer-based and Web-based programs.

The Board conducted seven disciplinary hearings. The disciplinary hearings resulted from charges related to continuing education verification violations, an SEC suspension, and firm registration renewal noncompliance/unlawful practice.

November 6, 2009 (Annual Meeting): The Board conducted three disciplinary hearings and two reinstatement hearings. The disciplinary hearings resulted from charges related to firm registration renewal noncompliance/unlawful practice and conduct discreditable to the public accounting profession.

December 14, 2009 (Board Retreat): James Carroll became the newest Board member, replacing Robert Shenton. The nominating committee met and recommended the following slate of officers for the 2009-2010 Board term:

Mark LaPlace (Chair)
Robert Benroth (Vice Chair)
Greta Russell (Secretary)

The main topic of discussion was proposed changes to the Board's scholarship program. Other topics of discussion were as follows: (1) Board fees and budget issues, (2) Disciplinary procedures and enforcement manual updates, (3) Communications to licensees and press releases, (4) Rule filing procedures, (5) Fictitious names, (6) AICPA Code of Ethics and reliability project, (7) International financial reporting standards, and (8) Review of accountancy law provisions.

December 15, 2009: David Costello, the Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA), spoke to the Board on several issues facing accounting regulators and the accounting profession.

Mr. Costello noted the following items in his presentation:

- NASBA estimated that all 50 states would have mobility legislation in place by the end of 2011. Mr. Costello mentioned Ohio's 48-year history of permitting interstate mobility of CPAs as a key reason other states passed the legislation.

Board Activities and Accomplishments

Fiscal year 2010 Highlights and Calendar of Events

- There would be 35 states participating in the Accountancy Licensing Database (ALD) by the end of 2010. (**NOTE:** Ohio officially became the 30th state to participate in the ALD as of August 1, 2010.) The ALD is a database of CPAs licensed by all participating states and it is an important resource for accountancy law enforcement.
- The CPA examination contract negotiations among NASBA, representing the accountancy boards, the AICPA, and Prometric are almost complete, and it is expected that a signed contract extending into 2024 will be executed before the end of the year. The contract will have assessment points every five years during which contract provisions may be renegotiated.
- The CPA examination will be offered internationally for the first time, and it is expected that the first examination site will probably be in Tokyo, Japan.
- International Financial Reporting Standards will be tested on the CPA examination for the first time in 2011. NASBA has joined the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) as an “affiliate” member because it cannot actively promote the IFAC agenda. Since countries representing only a small portion of world GNP have actually adopted IFRS in full, the NASBA position is that further research is needed before a decision can be made regarding the adoption of IFRS in the USA.
- NASBA issued a response to the proposed changes in review standards, and one of the objections concerned the exceptions to the independence requirements envisioned by the proposed standards.

Mr. Costello then answered questions from the Board members concerning NASBA activities.

The Board unanimously approved the slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee the previous day.

The Board conducted one reinstatement hearing.

Mr. LaPlace named the following committee chairs for 2010:

Executive Committee: Mark LaPlace

Nominating Committee: Michael Comer

Office Oversight Committee: James Landaker

Licensing Committee: Greta Russell

Disciplinary Advisory Committee: Robert Benroth

Peer Review Oversight Committee: Michael Comer

Education Assistance Committee: Maggie Houston

Board Activities and Accomplishments

Fiscal year 2010 Highlights and Calendar of Events

February 5, 2010: Pursuant to a recent court case involving another regulatory/licensing board, the Board voted unanimously to specifically authorize the Executive Director to accept staff resignations on the Board's behalf.

The Board conducted two disciplinary hearings and one reinstatement hearing. The disciplinary hearings both resulted from charges related to felony convictions.

The online license renewal totals indicated that 96 per cent of the Ohio certified public accountants and public accountants renewed online.

April 17, 2010: The Board conducted two disciplinary hearings and three reinstatement hearings. The disciplinary hearings both resulted from charges related to felony convictions.

The Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants (OSCPA) gave a presentation on the Accounting Career Awareness Program, and requested that the Board approve additional funding for the program. Chair Mark LaPlace suggested that the education assistance committee meet, discuss the issue, and present the committee's recommendations at the next Board meeting.

June 4, 2010: The Board conducted two disciplinary hearings. The disciplinary hearings resulted from charges related to firm registration renewal noncompliance/unlawful practice, and a misdemeanor conviction. In addition, the Board rejected one offer of settlement and agreed to proceed to a hearing on the case in September.

The Board unanimously approved for filing new rules outlining the procedures for accessing confidential personal information.

The Board unanimously approved for filing administrative rule changes related to the Board's scholarship program and continuing education verification.

Based upon the recommendation of the education assistance committee, the Board unanimously approved an increase in funding for the Accounting Career Awareness Program from \$25,000 per year to \$50,000 per year.

Organizational Chart

Governor of Ohio

Board/Commission Member 1

Mark B. LaPlace, PCN 20070609
Robert L. Benroth, PCN 2007060
Greta Russell, PCN 20070611
Margaret Houston, PCN 20070603
Robert F. Fay, PCN 20070606

Michael S. Comer, PCN 2007060
Wayne M. Fritz, PCN 20070610
James J. Carroll, PCN 20070607
James A. Landaker, PCN 20070604

NOTE: "PCN" means "Position Control Number." Each state employee has a unique PCN.

Ronald J. Rotaru
ABO Exec Dir - PCN 2070621

Robert D. Joseph PhD CPA
Adm Asst 4 - PCN 20070622

Tracey F. Fithen - Adm Asst 4
PCN 20070623

Faith A. Ottavi - Investigator
PCN 20070612

Jesse J. Dixon - Investigator
PCN 20070615

Vacancy - Inv Asst
PCN 20070619

Luann Rager - Secretary
PCN 20070618

Karen Salyer - Secretary
PCN 20070617

Vicki Cahill - Secretary
PCN 20070613

Kelly Ann Kelly - Part-time
Clerk 2 PCN 20070620

2 Vacancies - Secretary
PCN 20070614/16

Firm Registration and Peer Review

In 1992, the State of Ohio enacted legislation that required all public accounting firms practicing in Ohio to register with the Board. In addition, those firms that performed financial reporting services (attest firms) were required to undergo a comprehensive peer review in accordance with standards adopted by the Board. The peer review program is designed to assess the quality of the firm's work, its professional staff, and its overall performance in the delivery of services to its clients. A review must be completed for each attest firm at least every three years and additional work may often be required between formal reviews if the firm's review identifies deficiencies. Firms that must obtain a review need to submit proof of its completion to the Board in order to renew their firm registration in Ohio.

The Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants (OSCPA) is the Board's agent in this program and administers the peer review process. The Board and the OSCP work together to assure that the objectives of the peer review program are achieved.

Status Report As of June 30, 2010

Public accounting firms that must undergo a peer review are divided into three groups. One group is reviewed each year and given the opportunity to renew its firm's registration. All firms must renew within a three-year period. In May 2000, the non-attest firms were also divided into three groups. One group of non-attest firms also renews each year during a three-year period.

Firm Registrations by Fiscal Year		
Fiscal Year	Peer Review	Tax/Consulting
FY 2010	510	570
FY 2009	694	601
FY 2008	537	545
FY 2007	584	574
FY 2006	587	580
FY 2005	829	587

Investigations Summary

Fiscal Year 2010

A total of 53 cases were open at the beginning of fiscal year 2010. Of these, 50 were closed in fiscal year 2010 and 3 of these cases remained open at the end of the fiscal year. These remaining cases all involved some type of litigation. During fiscal year 2010, a total of 92 cases were opened and 121 cases were closed, leaving 20 cases open at the end of the fiscal year. Field calls were on average one per day.

Most frequent complaints

Unethical conduct including SEC violations
(professional standards violations, poor quality work, etc.)
Unlicensed practice
Firm registration noncompliance
Retention of client records



Investigative field calls

Fiscal year 2005: 249
Fiscal year 2006: 243
Fiscal year 2007: 269
Fiscal year 2008: 274
Fiscal year 2009: 297
Fiscal year 2010: 167

Disciplinary hearings Fiscal Year 2010

From 1/1/1990 to effective date of Senate Bill 200 (3/30/99): 30
Hearings in Fiscal Year 2010: 25

Scholarship Program

In 1992, the Ohio General Assembly passed legislation authorizing an education assistance program in order to aid disadvantaged students enrolled in the fifth year of accounting study required for the CPA certificate effective January 1, 2000. The Board began collecting a license surcharge January 1, 1995, and began awarding scholarship grants January 1, 1998. The license surcharge was increased on January 1, 2007.

Scholarship Commitments, Grants, and Payments by Fiscal Year			
Fiscal Year	New Commitments*	New Grants*	Grant Payments
FY 2010	\$314,312	\$134,282	\$101,501.52
FY 2009	212,542	181,883	116,136.91
FY 2008	271,282	40,520	62,233.03
FY 2007	278,144	266,221	184,337.97
FY 2006	257,427	162,712	173,057.50

***NOTE:** Commitments represent future funds to be awarded to students who qualify. Grants represent former commitments to students who have completed 120 semester credits of college coursework and are enrolled in the fifth year of a five year program of study leading to CPA certification.

The State Motto - "With God, All Things Are Possible"

During the early 1950s, the Ohio Legislature sponsored a contest to select a state motto. "*With God All Things Are Possible*," became Ohio's state motto on October 1, 1959. James Mastronardo, a twelve-year-old boy, recommended this quotation from the Bible.

In 1997, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a suit against Ohio and its state motto, claiming that this phrase violated the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees religious freedom and a separation of church and state. Various federal courts sided with Ohio, allowing the state to retain the motto. Judges ruled that Ohio's motto does not endorse a specific god and, thus, was not a violation of the First Amendment. Ohio is one of five states with the word "God" in their mottos.

The State of Ohio's
Official Flag



Ohio's official flag was adopted by an act of the Ohio Legislature on May 9, 1902. The Ohio burgee (bûr'je), as the swallow-tailed design is properly called, was drawn by **John Eisenmann**, architect and designer for the Ohio State Pan-American Exposition Commission.

The Ohio flag has three red and two white horizontal stripes. At its staff end is a blue triangular field whose apex is at the center of the middle red stripe; there are 17 white, five-pointed stars grouped around a red disc superimposed upon a white circular "O."

Mr. Eisenmann explained the Ohio flag's symbolism most aptly:

"The triangles formed by the main lines of the flag represent the hills and valleys as typified in the State Seal, and the stripes the roads and waterways.

"The stars, indicating the 13 original states of the Union, are grouped about the circle, which represents the Northwest Territory; and that Ohio was the seventeenth state admitted into the Union is shown by adding four more stars.

"The white circle with its red center, not only represents the initial letter of Ohio, but is suggestive of its being the Buckeye State."

Accountancy Board of Ohio
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