

How to Form an LLC in Ohio Yourself (2026 Costs and Steps)

A free step-by-step guide from BusinessOwner.com. State information verified from official sources on September 15, 2026.

Quick answer

The filing fee is \$99 for both online and mail filings. File your Articles of Organization with the Ohio Secretary of State.

Step 1: Check that your LLC name is available

Search the Ohio Secretary of State's business name records before filing to ensure your desired name is available.

Step 2: Choose a registered agent

You may serve as your own registered agent, which Ohio calls a statutory agent. A natural person who is an Ohio resident may serve if the appointment gives the street and number of the agent's primary residence in Ohio. The agent must sign a written acceptance filed with the articles.

Step 3: File your Articles of Organization

File your Articles of Organization with the Ohio Secretary of State. The filing fee is \$99 for both online and mail filings.

Expedite options are available in addition to the \$99 filing fee:

- Level one (within 2 business days; the only level that may be requested by mail): \$100
- Level two (within 1 business day): \$200
- Level three (within 4 business hours): \$300

Step 4: Create an operating agreement

Create an operating agreement to cover ownership, roles, voting, and what happens if a member leaves.

Step 5: Get your EIN from the IRS

Get your Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the IRS for free at <https://www.irs.gov/ein>.

Step 6: Keep your LLC in good standing

Ohio's Commercial Activity Tax annual minimum tax was eliminated for tax periods beginning on/after Jan 1, 2024. From 2025, taxpayers with \$6 million or less in taxable gross receipts owe no CAT and file no return. CAT above \$6M is a gross-receipts tax, not a minimum tax.

Frequently asked questions

How much does it cost to form an LLC in Ohio?

The filing fee is \$99 for both online and mail filings.

Can I expedite my LLC filing in Ohio?

Yes. Level one (within 2 business days; the only level that may be requested by mail) costs an additional \$100. Level two (within 1 business day) costs an additional \$200. Level three (within 4 business hours) costs an additional \$300.

Who can serve as a registered agent in Ohio?

A natural person who is an Ohio resident may serve. The appointment must give the street and number of the agent's primary residence in Ohio, and the agent must sign a written acceptance filed with the articles.

Want us to file it for you? \$249 plus state fees.

Want the whole business set up? Book a call with BusinessOwner.com.

Sources

Official sources, last verified September 15, 2026:

- [Section 111.16 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-111.16)
<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-111.16>
- [Section 1706.16 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-1706.16)
<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-1706.16>
- [Section 1706.09 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-1706.09)
<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-1706.09>
- [Rule 111:1-2-01 - Ohio Administrative Code | Ohio Laws](https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-111:1-2-01)
<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-111:1-2-01>
- [dam.assets.ohio.gov: CAT_2023-01_info_release.pdf](https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/tax.ohio.gov/commercial_activities/information_releases/CAT_2023-01_info_release.pdf)
https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/tax.ohio.gov/commercial_activities/information_releases/CAT_2023-01_info_release.pdf
- [IRS: Get an employer identification number](https://www.irs.gov/ein)
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