



## DEATH PENALTY IN OHIO

### 1803-1897

- 1803-1884** Death sentences are carried out by hanging in individual counties.
- 1885** Hanging executions begin at the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus.
- 1897** The state's electric chair is put into use.

### 1897-1963

- 1897 – 1963** 312 men and three women die in the electric chair. Donald L. Reinbolt of Columbus is the last person executed (March 15, 1963).

### 1963-1974

- June 29, 1972** U.S. Supreme Court overturns the death penalty due to application concerns. The 65 prisoners on Death Row in Ohio have their sentences reduced to life.
- 1974** Ohio re-establishes the Death Penalty mandating its' use for certain crimes.

### 1974-1981

- July 3, 1978** Ohio law ruled unconstitutional (Lockett). The sentences of 100 inmates are reduced to life.

### 1981-1991

- January 1, 1981** Ohio again reinstates the death penalty based upon "guided discretion." Leonard Jenkins becomes the first person sentenced (October 19, 1981).
- April 15, 1988** Ohioans to Stop Executions is established.
- January 11, 1991** Governor Richard Celeste commutes the death sentences of eight inmates: Debra Brown, Rosalie Grant, Elizabeth Green, Beatrice Lampkin, Leonard Jenkins, Willie Jester, Donald Maurer, and Lee Seiber.

### 1991-1999

- July 2, 1993** Lethal injection is added as an execution option.
- November 8, 1994** Voters amend the Ohio Constitution to shorten death penalty appeals.
- June 28, 1995** Ohio legislature adds "Life Without Parole" option for aggravated murder.
- November 7, 1995** Voters amend the Ohio Constitution, limiting the Governor's authority in providing clemency.

## 1999 (Governor Taft)

February 19, 1999



Wilford Berry is executed by lethal injection for the death of Charles Mitroff, Cleveland, Ohio. (VOLUNTEER)

## 2001 (Governor Taft)

June 14, 2001



Jay D Scott is executed by lethal injection for the death of Vinnie Prince, Cleveland, Ohio.

November 21, 2001

**Governor Taft signs bill eliminating the use of the electric chair.**

## 2002 (Governor Taft)

February 19, 2002



John Byrd Jr. is executed for the death of Monte Tewksbury, Cincinnati, Ohio.

April 26, 2002



Alton Coleman is executed regarding the deaths of Tonnie Storey, Cincinnati, Ohio, Marlene Walters, Norwood, Ohio, Vernita Wheat, Chicago, Illinois, and Tamika Turks, Gary, Indiana.

June 20, 2002

**U.S. Supreme Court's *Adkins* ruling prohibits the execution of persons with mental retardation.**

Sept. 25, 2002



Robert Buell is executed for the death of Krista Lee Harrison, Marshallville, Ohio.

## 2003 (Governor Taft)

February 12, 2003



Richard Fox is executed for the death of Leslie Keckler, Bowling Green, Ohio.

April 29, 2003



David Brewer is executed for the death of Sherry Byrne, Beavercreek, Ohio.

June 18, 2003



Ernest Martin is executed for the death of Robert Robinson, Cleveland, Ohio

June 26, 2003

**Governor Taft commutes Jerome Campbell to *Life Without Parole***

## 2004 (Governor Taft)

**January 14, 2004**



Lewis Williams Jr. is executed for the death of Leoma Chmielewski, Cleveland, Ohio.

**February 3, 2004**



John Glenn Roe is executed for the death of Donette Crawford, Columbus, Ohio.

**March 30, 2004**



William Wickline is executed regarding the deaths of Christopher and Peggy Lerch, Columbus, Ohio

**June 8, 2004**



William Zuern is executed for the death of Phillip Pence, Hamilton County

**July 14, 2004**



Stephen Vrabel is executed for the deaths of Susan and Lisa Clemente, Struthers, Ohio. (VOLUNTEER)

**July 20, 2004**



Scott Mink is executed for the deaths of William and Sheila Mink, Union, Ohio. (VOLUNTEER)

**October 13, 2004**



Adremy Dennis is executed for the death of Kurt Kyle, Akron, Ohio.

## 2005 (Governor Taft)

**March 1, 2005**

**U.S. Supreme Court in Roper v. Simmons abolishes the death penalty for Juvenile offenders under age 18.**

**March 8, 2005**



William Smith is executed for the death of Mary Bradford, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**September 8, 2005**

**John Spirko receives a Reprieve by Governor Taft until November 2005 to review DNA evidence.**

**September 27, 2005**



Herman Ashworth is executed for the death of Daniel Baker, Newark, Ohio. (VOLUNTEER)

**October 25, 2005**



Willie Williams is executed for the deaths of William Dent, Eric Howard, Alfonda Madison and Theodore Wynn, Youngstown Ohio.

**November 7, 2005**

**John Spirko receives a Second Reprieve until January 19, 2006.**

**November 29, 2005**



John R. Hicks is executed for the death of brandy Greene, Cincinnati, Ohio

## **2006 (Governor Taft)**

**January 9, 2006**

**John Spirko receives a Third Reprieve until July 19, 2006.**

**February 7, 2006**



Glenn L. Benner is executed for the deaths of Cynthia Sedgwich and Trina Bowser, Summit County

**May 2, 2006**



Joseph L. Clark is executed for the death of David Manning, Lucas County. The execution is botched, taking 80 minutes to conclude.

**June 19, 2006**

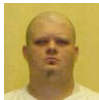
**John Spirko receives a Fourth Reprieve until November 29, 2006.**

**July 12, 2006**



Rocky Barton is executed for the death of Kimbirli Jo Barton, Warren County.  
**(VOLUNTEER)**

**August 8, 2006**



Darrell Ferguson is executed for the deaths of Thomas King, Arlie Fugate, and Mae Fugate, Montgomery County. **(VOLUNTEER)**

**October 23, 2006**

**John Spirko receives a Fifth Reprieve until April 17, 2007.**

**October 24, 2006**



Jeffrey Lundgren is executed for the deaths of Dennis, Cheryl, Trina and Karen Avery, Kirtland, Ohio

## 2007 (Governor Strickland)

January 19, 2007

Governor Strickland grants short Reprieves to Kenneth Biros, James Filliggi and Christopher Newton.

March 27, 2007

John Spirko receives a Sixth Reprieve until September 18, 2007.

April 24, 2007



James Filliggi is executed for the death of Lisa Huff Fillaggi, Lorain County. (VOLUNTEER)

May 25, 2007



Christopher Newton is executed for the death of Jason Brewer, Richland County. It takes over 90 minutes to find a vein. It appears he suffocated to death. (VOLUNTEER)

July 30, 2007

John Spirko receives his Seventh Reprieve until January 24, 2008.

September 24, 2007

American Bar Association releases Ohio Death Penalty Recommendations calling upon Governor Strickland to halt executions pending a State Study.

September 25, 2007

Supreme Court agrees to hear Kentucky case regarding Lethal Injection. De-facto moratorium occurs until Summer 2008.

## 2008 (Governor Strickland)

January 7, 2008

Kenneth Ritchey released by pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter. He returns to Scotland

January 9, 2008

Governor Strickland commutes John Spirko's sentence to life without Parole

April 16, 2008

U. S. Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of Lethal Injection in *Baze* decision

October 14, 2008



Richard Cooley is executed for the deaths of Wendy Offredo and Dawn McCreery, Summit County

November 19, 2008



Gregory Bryant-Bey is executed for the death of Dale Pinkelman, Lucas County

## 2009 (Governor Strickland)

February 12, 2009

**Governor Strickland commutes Jeffrey Hill's death sentence for killing his mother, Emma Hill, to 25 years to life after pleas from family members not to execute.**

June 3, 2009



Daniel Wilson is executed for the death of Carol Lutz, Lorain County

July 14, 2009



John Fautenberry is executed for the death of Joseph Daron, Hamilton County.

July 21, 2009



Marvallous Keene is executed for the deaths of Joseph Wilkerson, Danita Gullette, Sarah Abraham, Wendy Cottrill, and Marvin Washington, Dayton.

August 18, 2009



Jason Getsy is executed for the death of Ann Serafino, Hubbard. The Parole Board had recommended clemency due, in part, to disparity in his sentence. The Governor did not follow this recommendation.

September 15, 2009

**Romell Broom's execution was stopped after one hour and twenty minutes when problems inserting the needle into Mr. Broom's arms and legs persisted. At least 12-18 attempts were made to find a supportable vein. Mr. Broom was reported to be in great pain throughout the process.**

Oct/Nov 2009

**Lawrence Reynolds Jr. and Darryl Durr receive Governor reprieves until March & April 2010**

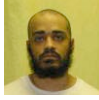
December 8, 2009



Kenneth Biros is executed for the death of Tami Engstrom, Trumbull County. He is the first person in the U.S. to be executed by a one drug lethal injection.

## 2010 (Governor Strickland)

**January 7, 2010**



Vernon Lamont Smith, nka Abdullah Sharif Kaazim Mahdienneth, is executed for the death of Sohail Darwish from Toledo.

**February 4, 2010**



Mark Brown is executed for the deaths of Isam Salman and Hayder Al-Turk from Youngstown.

OHIOANS TO STOP EXECUTIONS (OTSE) IS A STATEWIDE NETWORK OF PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS UNITED BY A DESIRE TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY AND TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE, HUMANE ALTERNATIVES TO ITS USE. OTSE IS COMMITTED TO DIALOGUE AND EDUCATION ABOUT THE DEATH PENALTY. MEMBERS ALSO WITNESS THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE DEATH PENALTY THROUGH CONTACT WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND THE MEDIA, AND BY ORGANIZING ACTIONS SUCH AS PEACEFUL MARCHES AND PRAYER VIGILS. OTSE PUBLISHES THE NEWSLETTER STOPPIT.



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