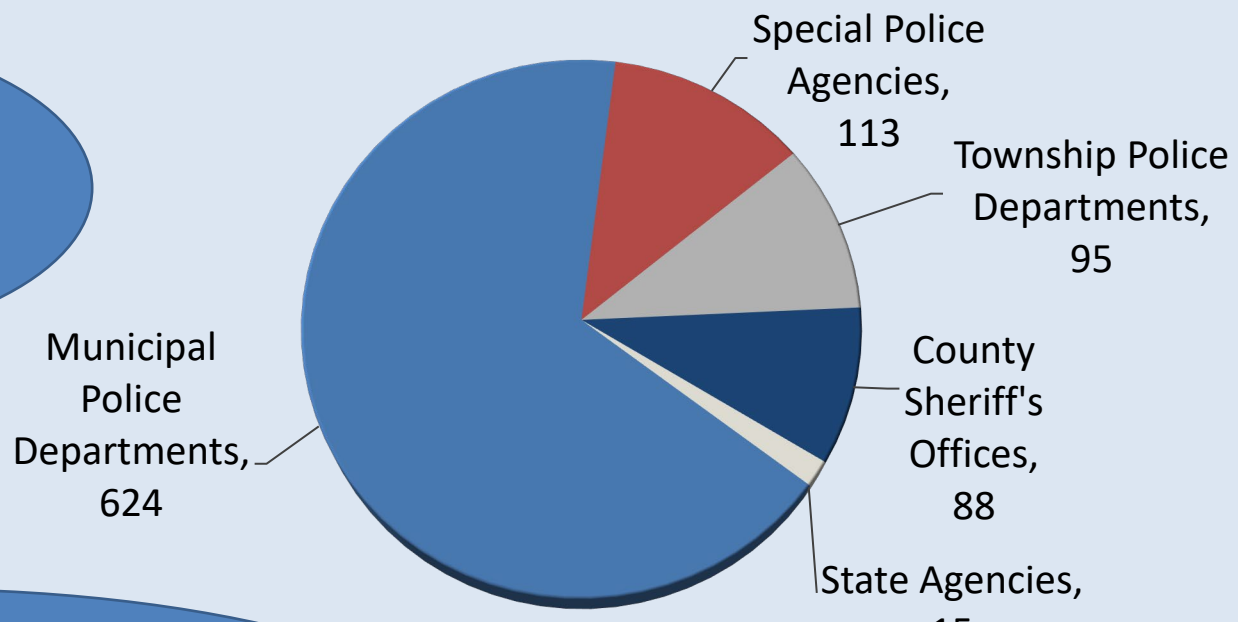
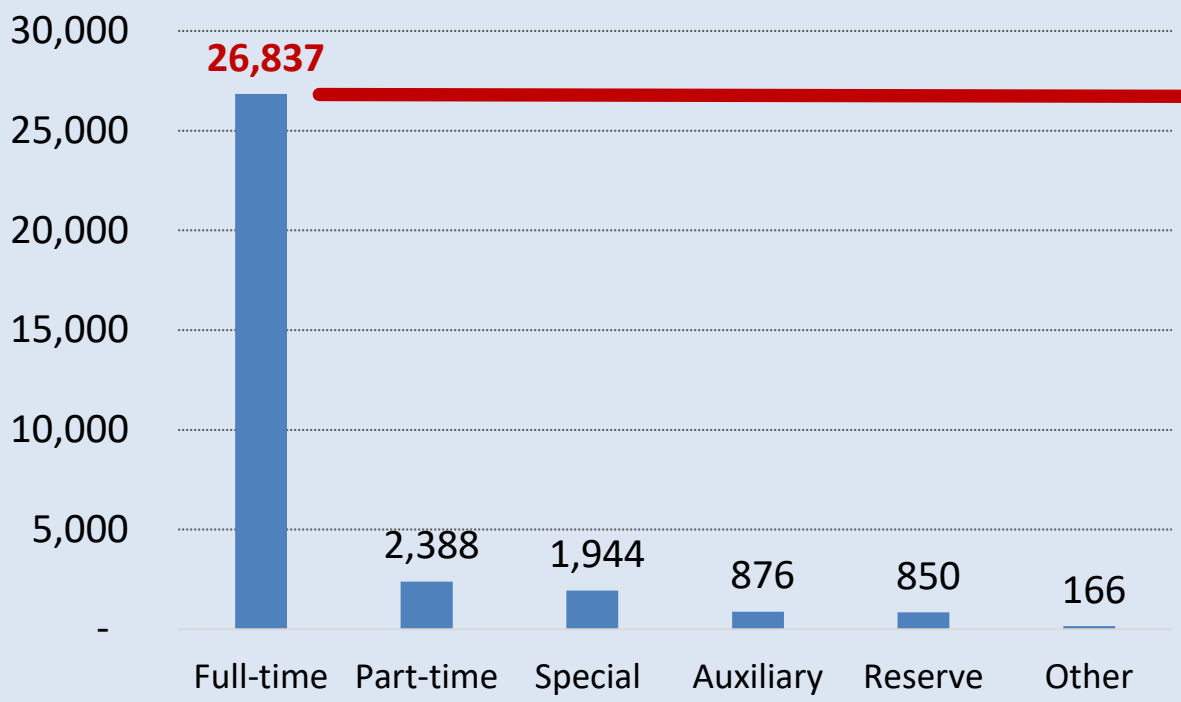
Legislative Budget Office of LSC

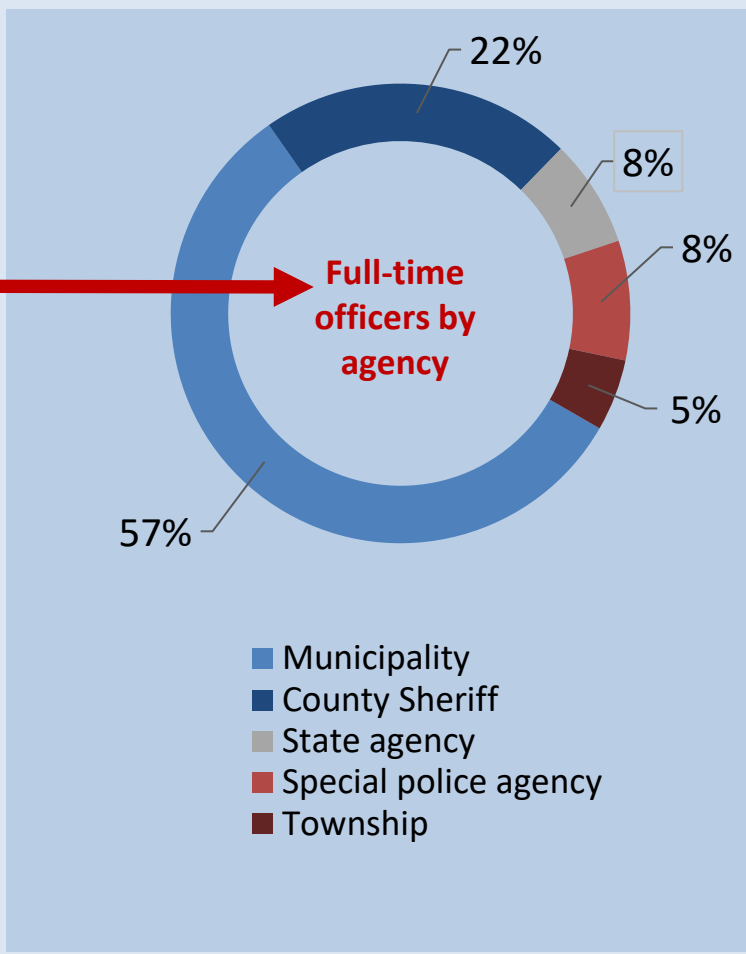
2026 Law Enforcement Snapshot

935 law enforcement agencies operate across Ohio.*



Ohio's state and local law enforcement agencies combined, employ an estimated 33,061 peace officers; 26,837, or 81.2%, are employed full-time.**





Local budget process

- The appropriation and funding process for local police activities is managed at the local level (e.g. county commissioners, city/village council, or township trustees).
- A local law enforcement agency's budget often begins with both a payroll and benefits forecast and an assessment of bargaining agreements.

State support for local agencies

- The state does not directly subsidize the general operations of local law enforcement agencies.
- Local jurisdictions may receive funding via the state's Local Government Fund (LGF) that are then allocated across the jurisdiction's departments and programs.
- Local law enforcement agencies routinely apply for and receive competitively awarded project-specific grants, most frequently from the Department of Public Safety and the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Subsidy funding may also be made available from time to time.

Local funding sources

Local funding and revenue sources differ by county, township, and municipality. Police departments receive funding from a variety of revenue sources.

- Locally collected taxes
- Local special revenue
- Fines and fees
- Municipal bonds
- Forfeitures
- Federal grants

Typical law enforcement agency expenses

- Personnel
- Information technology (IT) services and equipment
- Uniforms and training
- Contractual services

Data Sources: Office of the Attorney General * As of January 6, 2026 **The count is the total of officers as reported by individual agencies. Some officers may be double-counted if they serve more than one agency.