



# A Legislative Report from Rep. Barbara Boyd

9th District of Ohio • Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, University Heights and Parts of Cleveland



Barbara Boyd  
State Representative

## Dear Constituents,

The legislature recently approved and the Governor signed a new state budget for the next two years. It calls for spending \$55.8 billion in General Revenue Funds in 2012 and 2013.

I voted against this spending plan for a number of reasons. I believe it will hurt middle class families, especially with deep cuts to local communities and schools. This generally leaves two choices: raise local taxes or cut services. We are already seeing towns and school districts in Ohio moving to ask for additional tax money to offset these cuts, which only passes the buck on higher spending from the state to the local level.

The Republicans' budget cuts funding to schools by \$2 billion. These cuts will result in fewer teachers, larger classes for our children or more school levies and higher local property taxes (Ohio School Business Administrators; Memorandum to Schools Superintendents, 3/16/11).

Severe cuts to schools could result in student-teacher ratios of 50 to 1, according to Gov. Kasich's top education policy advisor (Columbus Dispatch, 3/24/11).

On average, these cuts mean that districts will have to either raise an additional 1.59 mills to make up the difference or drastically cut education services to their children. According to Innovation Ohio, these cuts could impact 7,149 teachers and would likely result in significant layoffs.

It's not just schools that will be forced to choose between reduced services or increased taxes. The budget cuts over \$455 million (25 percent in 2012 and 50 percent in 2013) from local governments.

There are other problems that I see with this budget as well, which made my decision to vote against it relatively simple.

This is not the way to move Ohio forward.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or suggestions you may have. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Barbara H. Boyd".

**Barbara Boyd**  
State Representative

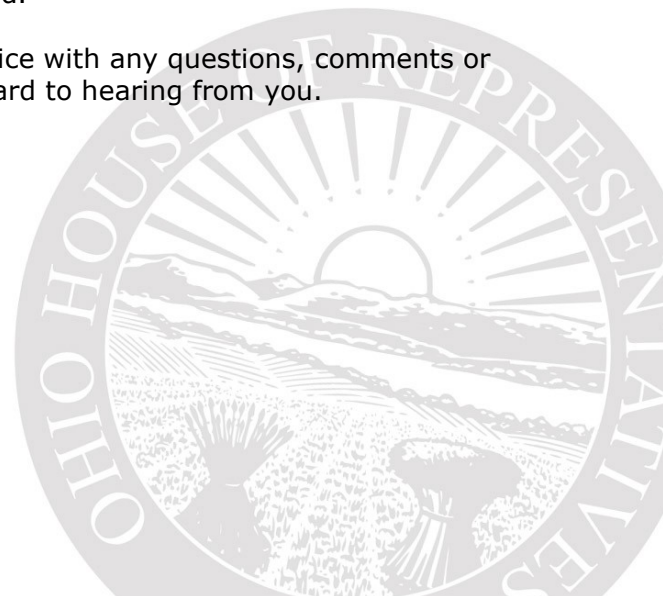
## CONTACT

### Columbus Office

9th District  
77 South High Street  
10th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone: (614) 644-5079  
Toll-free: (800) 282-0253  
Fax: (614) 719-0009

Or E-mail At:  
[district09@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:district09@ohr.state.oh.us)



## Contacting Representative Barbara Boyd

You have several options if you would like to contact Representative Boyd. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions and will do everything we can to help you. We also welcome invitations to speak to your group or organization.



### Via Telephone (Columbus Office)

Direct Phone: (614) 644-5079

Toll-Free Messaging System:  
(800) 282-0253

Direct Fax: (614) 719-0009

### Via Electronic Mail (E-Mail)

To contact the office via e-mail,  
please use the following address:

[district09@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:district09@ohr.state.oh.us)



### Via Postal Mail (Columbus Office)

Hon. Barbara Boyd  
State Representative, 9th District  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street, 10th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

## Important State Contact Information

### Ohio House of Representatives

[www.house.state.oh.us](http://www.house.state.oh.us)

Legislative Information 800-282-0253

### Insurance, Department of

<http://ohioinsurance.gov/>

Consumer Hotline 800-686-1526

Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program  
800-686-1578

### Jobs and Family Services, Department of

<http://jfs.ohio.gov/>

Veteran Services Division 800-253-4060

Unemployment Compensation Hotline 877-644-6562

### Motor Vehicles, Bureau of

<http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/>

General Information 800-589-TAGS

### Public Safety, Department of

<http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/>

Highway Patrol 877-7-PATROL

State Highway Patrol DUI Hotline 800-GRAB-DUI

### Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

<http://www.puco.ohio.gov/>

General Information 800-686-PUCO

### Taxation, Department of

<http://tax.ohio.gov/>

Form Requests 800-282-1782

Individual Taxpayer Assistance 800-282-1780

### Aging, Department of

<http://aging.ohio.gov/home/>

Golden Buckeye Card 866-301-6446

Ombudsman/Elder Rights Unit 800-282-1206



**Save these numbers for  
future reference!**

## Legislators Seek to Toughen Ohio's Animal Cruelty Laws

*Nitro's Law remembers tragic deaths, calls for stiffer punishments for animal abuse*



Photo courtesy Nitro Foundation

Ohio ranks 43rd on the Humane Society's 2010 "Humane State Report."

Someone convicted of animal cruelty in Ohio today receives the same punishment as someone who bashes a mail box with a baseball bat, putting violence against animals on the same level as petty vandalism.

HB 108, or "Nitro's Law," is legislation pending in the Ohio House that would allow for harsher penalties in animal cruelty cases. Nitro's Law was inspired by tragic events at High Caliber K9 in Youngstown, OH, where Nitro (photo above), a pure-bred Rottweiler, and 7 other dogs starved to death after weeks of neglect.

The kennel/training school owner was convicted of misdemeanors, the maximum allowed in cases of violence against animals, and sentenced to just 4 months in jail.

The loss left Nitro's companion family broken-hearted, but determined to do something positive in the memory of their dog.

Tom Siesto, Nitro's owner, recently made the 8 hour trip from his home in New York to Columbus to testify in support of the bill. Siesto has been a vocal proponent of stiffening Ohio's animal cruelty laws since the trial.

He stated repeatedly throughout his testimony that Nitro has yet to receive due justice for the abuse he suffered and that he will not stop pressuring lawmakers until they pass legislation that reflects a more compassionate understanding of the role and value companion animals have in their families.

Another bill stemming from the same incident is being considered in the Ohio Legislature.

Some of the charges in the Nitro case were tossed out of court because of mistakes made by the humane society agents. House Bill 138 requires proof that people have successfully completed a training program with the county recorder before they can be named an agent.

The conversation about animal cruelty laws in Ohio is partly driven by stories like Nitro's, and partly by bigger Questions about whether people who display violent tendencies toward animals may also be more prone to committing violent acts against other people. A number of studies have proven that this correlation does exist.

A study conducted by Northeastern University and the Massachusetts SPCA found that people who abuse animals are five times more likely to commit violent crimes against humans. The majority of inmates on death row at California's San Quentin penitentiary admitted to "practicing" their crimes on animals first.



"Nitro loved to drink water ...he would pick up his metal water bowl when it was empty and throw it to let us know when he needed more ...I can't tell you all how many times I've sat and cried wondering how many times he must have picked up his bowl and thrown it around his kennel...waiting...so thirsty...but nobody ever came to give him any water."

—From Tom Siesto's Testimony in House Criminal Justice Committee

## Summer assistance available for low-income households

*State program can help you pay your summer cooling bill*

Help is available for eligible Ohioans trying to cope with the summer heat. Under the 2010 - 2011 Summer Crisis Program, one-time payments of up to \$175 can be used toward household electric bills.

It is estimated that one in nine Ohio residential utility consumers experienced a disconnection of either their electric or gas service for non-payment in the past year. While a disconnection notice is not required, assistance is available for households with an annual income that is at or below 200 percent of the 2011 federal poverty guidelines.

In addition to the income guidelines, applicants must also:

- Have a member in the household who is 60 years of age or older; or
- Have a member who has a medical necessity verified by physician documentation.

To apply for the Summer Crisis Program, consumers need to contact their local community action agency. The community action agency determines the level of benefits that can be provided.

The program is available from July 1 until August 31, 2011. For additional information or to locate the nearest community action agency, contact the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) consumer hotline at 1-800-282-0880 or TDD 1-800-686-1557 or via the Internet at [www.energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://www.energyhelp.ohio.gov).

For additional information on all available assistance programs or to obtain help in avoiding a disconnection, consumers should contact the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) toll free at 1-877- PICKOCC (1-877-742-5622) or visit the OCC website at [www.pickocc.org](http://www.pickocc.org).

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## Beat the Heat

*Summer Cooling Tips from the Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel*

- Exterior shading – planting trees, shrubs, and tall plants – works to keep heat from reaching your home. Plant preferably on the south and west sides of your home.
- Interior shading – like blinds, drapes, and window treatments – help block heat from entering your home.
- Reduce the number of lights and appliances you use during the warmest part of the day to keep heat down.
- Ceiling fans are most effective in large rooms – make sure the fan blades are moving in a counter-clockwise direction so that air blows towards the floor.
- Use a fan and dehumidifier in conjunction with an air conditioner to increase the effectiveness of the air conditioner.

If you own a window air conditioner, reduce the amount of air that it needs to cool by closing the room's door and keeping windows closed.

- Open bathroom windows and keep the door closed when showering to vent the heat and humidity outside.
- Reduce use of heat producers: turn off incandescent light bulbs and electronics; use a microwave instead of a conventional oven; do not use a dishwasher's dry cycle – let the dishes air dry; and air dry clothes when possible.
- Drink plenty of water. Wear loose, light-colored clothing. If you cannot get to a lake or swimming pool, let a sprinkler water you and your plants. Basements are usually cooler than the rest of the house and are a great place to take refuge from the heat.

# Legislative Survey

REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA BOYD  
AUGUST 2011

*Your views on issues facing state government are important to me. Please take the time to share your opinion on the following topics. I look forward to hearing from you!*

**1. Do you believe it would be a good idea to shorten the number of days voters can vote early in-person or by mail?**

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

If so, list them:

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Do you support a statewide ban on texting while driving?**

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

**3. Do you believe that when the state enters into a public-private partnership, records should be open to the public to see how state dollars are spent?**

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

**4. Should Ohio's state parks be open to oil and natural gas drilling?**

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

**5. Should guns be permitted in places such as bars or college campuses?**

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

**6. Should Ohio end binding-arbitration with public employee unions?**

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

**7. Do you support saving Ohio money by sending some non-violent offenders to community corrections facilities and programs instead of state prisons?**

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

**8. Please list what you believe to be three of Ohio's biggest strengths:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Comments:**

\_\_\_\_\_

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*Please fold and return this form to me at the address listed on the other side.*

*If you would like to receive my e-newsletter and other legislation information, please provide your email address:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_



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**Thank you for completing this legislative survey.  
Please don't hesitate to contact my office  
with any issues or opinions you may have!**

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(PLEASE FILL IN YOUR ADDRESS)

PLACE STAMP  
**HERE**  
POST OFFICE  
WILL NOT  
DELIVER  
WITHOUT  
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Hon. Barbara Boyd  
State Representative, 9th District  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

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