



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,

Summer in Ohio means a great many opportunities for outdoor activities. If you are like me, you'll spend some time in one of our wonderful parks and recreation areas. But our natural areas may not always be so natural.

I voted no on legislation in the Ohio House (HB133) that would permit drilling for oil and natural gas in our state parks and other public lands.

Our predecessors had the foresight to set aside and invest in lands for public park use. Investments were made then, and have been made since, to ensure that the public park system in Ohio would thrive into the future. These individuals understood the value of parks, both from an environmental and an economic standpoint. Superior parks improve the quality of life in Ohio and in turn help drive economic growth.

We should not endanger these parks by permitting drilling. Recent spills and accidents in Pennsylvania serve as proof that this activity poses a threat to these valuable resources. As stewards of our state parks, we have a duty and responsibility to protect these cherished areas.

The revenue projections for drilling in our state parks are speculative at best, and pale in comparison to the damage this bill will cause due to the private exploitation of our state's natural treasures.

The Ohio State park system does not belong to us, the General Assembly. The parks belong to you, the people of Ohio. We are simply the stewards of these state assets. We owe it to the future generations of Ohioans to be responsible public stewards. We should work to preserve public parks instead of adulterating them for private profit.

I understand the importance of a having a secure domestic energy policy at both the state and national level. However, citizens should not be made to sacrifice our beloved parks that improve the quality of life of people in this state. Past generations saw fit to protect these public areas for our benefit, and we have a responsibility to future Ohio generations to do the same.

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".

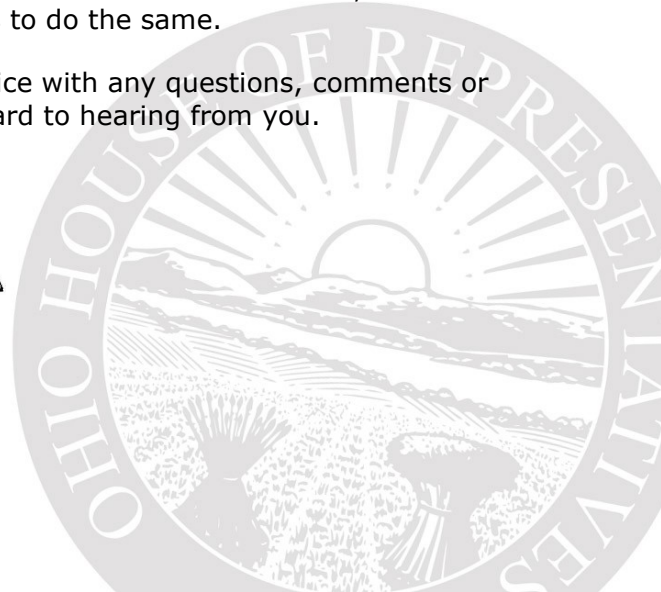
Barbara Boyd
State Representative

CONTACT

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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



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



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

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!**

Legislation Protects Your Right to Vote

Poll worker error should not keep your ballot from being counted

When you go to the polls to vote, you have a responsibility to show up at the right polling place, and the Board of Elections has a responsibility to count your vote.

Sometimes, your name doesn't show up on the precinct's voter rolls (for example if you've recently moved). You might be asked to fill out what is called a "provisional ballot," which will be counted once the situation is resolved.

But occasionally, people show up in the right location, but are directed by poll workers to the wrong precinct or sign-in table. Or perhaps the voter shows up in the wrong place and is not told to go to the correct building which might be nearby. While mistakes are rare, they can happen. And in a state with 5 or 6 million people voting, these relatively rare errors can add up!

A bill pending in the Ohio House would make sure provisional ballots are counted if they are cast in the correct polling location but in the wrong precinct. It would ensure that a voter isn't punished because of a poll worker's failure to direct the voter to the correct building or sign-in table.

Sponsors say it is unacceptable that we do anything less than go full measure to ensure every voter's ballot is counted. Looking for opportunities to exclude ballots is a direct assault on our democratic process and the rights of all citizens of this state.

The bill will also make state standards uniform across Ohio. Currently, different counties use different criteria for deciding whether a provisional ballot should be counted. And the courts have issued conflicting opinions because of the lack of a statewide

standard. Poll workers provide a great public service, but they are human and we all make mistakes. You should not lose your right to vote because someone else makes a mistake.

There is already a form printed on provisional ballot envelopes that a poll worker is required to complete. But the current form does not collect the information that would allow full time election workers to later determine whether the poll worker sent the voter to the right place and, ultimately, whether the ballot should be counted. This bill simply revises that form to capture this essential info.



Ohio is sadly one of the least voter-friendly states in the country. Ohio accounts for about 15% of the total number of ballots that are thrown out for this particular technicality and we can do much better. (Election Assistance Commission 2008 Election Day Survey) A state with as proud a history as Ohio has in our country's democracy ought to have a much better record of counting its citizens votes. The U.S. constitution requires we treat all equally. The bill outlines a way for boards of election to correct

innocent errors and count only those votes on the ballot for the races the voter was eligible to vote in. So no one can go across town and vote in someone else's school levy.

This is a simple fix to a major problem that has cost Ohio hundreds of thousands of dollars in litigation over excluded votes, not to mention the toll this takes on the public's confidence in our elections. In a time when we do not have a dollar to spare on such matters, it is time to end this needless hassle for voters and election workers.

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.

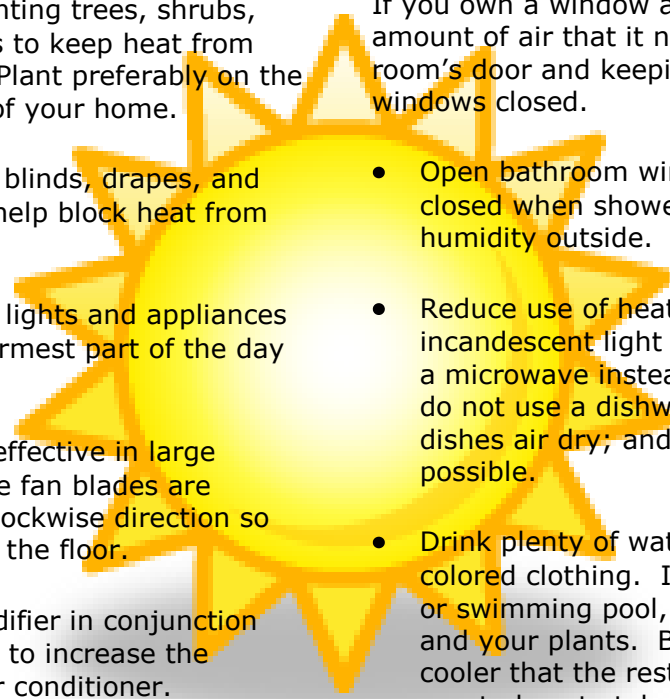
To apply for the Summer Crisis Program, consumers need to contact their local community action agency. The community action agency determines the level of benefits that can be provided.

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.

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.

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.
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Legislative Survey

REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA BOYD
JULY 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. Are there any areas of state spending that should be protected from budget cuts?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

If so, list them:

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

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

3. Should partnerships between Ohio government and the private sector be subject to public record laws?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

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

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

5. Should Ohio maintain a social service safety net to protect its most vulnerable citizens?

- 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:

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!**

FOLD UNDER AND SECURE WITH TAPE

(PLEASE FILL IN YOUR ADDRESS)

PLACE STAMP
HERE
POST OFFICE
WILL NOT
DELIVER
WITHOUT
PROPER
POSTAGE

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

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