



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,

We have heard a great deal in recent months about the working class and why it is so important to Ohio's well being. Ohio is a broad and diverse state where the cost of living varies among our cities along with income levels. Therefore, it is difficult to easily define middle class just by income level.

Ohio's working class is hard at work on Main Street and High Street. They are at work on their family farms, they are educating our children, protecting our streets, and they are working to build bridges and expand roadways. This is Ohio's working class, working hard for the future of their families and Ohio.

This great country was founded, in part, on the principle that our society would not be dominated by social class. Many of the early European settlers fled their homelands to get away from the oppression of a "ruling class" and create new opportunities for their families and future generations.

The great shining promise of America is that our citizens have hope. Whatever your circumstance, it is possible to create a better life for you and your family. Keeping that promise, however, requires that I, as a public servant, work diligently to ensure those opportunities are available not only for you, but for your neighbors.

One of my core priorities is to make sure all Ohioans have the ability to obtain and sustain the American Dream. This is done in many ways, but it comes down to ensuring equal access to economic opportunities----such as jobs, job training programs and education.

It is vital that every one of us has an equal opportunity to succeed. That's why it is so important to fight against attempts to put up barriers that would keep us from achieving our dreams.

Drastic spending cuts to education, police and fire protection, mental health services and long term care for seniors only hurts our ability to move ahead, and widens the gap between the wealthiest Ohioans and the working class.

It is a difficult fight, but a vitally important one for our future and the future of our state.

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".

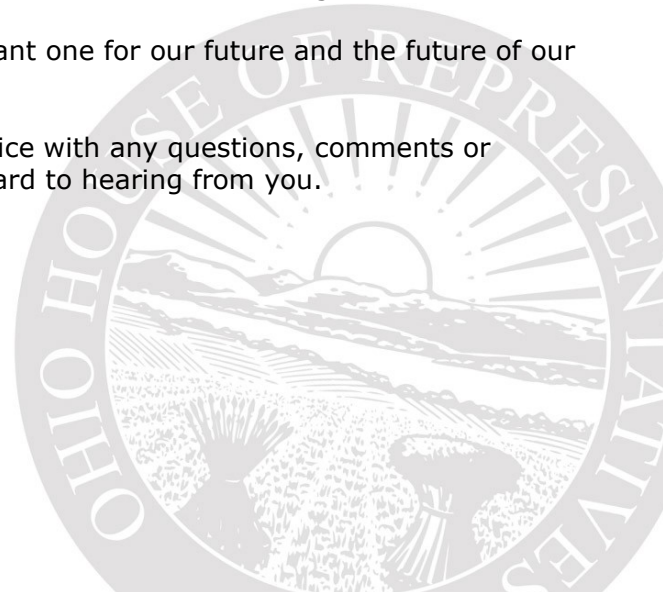
Barbara Boyd
State Representative

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



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!**

Protecting Our Great Lake

Efforts to make sure water quality, supply in Lake Erie is protected

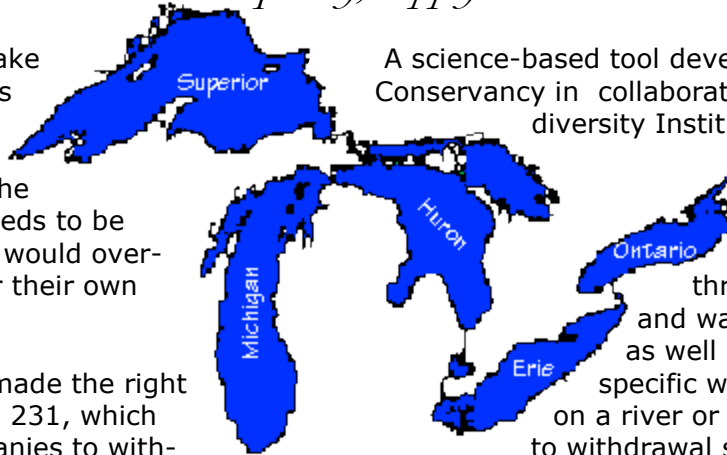
When you look out over Lake Erie, you see what appears to be an endless supply of water and natural beauty that should last forever. The reality is that Lake Erie needs to be protected from those who would over-use this great resource for their own profit.

That's why the Governor made the right decision to veto House Bill 231, which would have allowed companies to withdraw dangerous amounts of water from the lake and its tributaries for commercial use without regulation or oversight.

A different bill, House Bill 257, is now pending in the Ohio House. It offers a common-sense, bipartisan approach. It uses scientific models to set water diversion, and allows a framework for long term predictable withdrawal rates that balance the needs of everyone involved.

The legislation deals with more than just water in Lake Erie. It also takes into account water that flows into the lake from the rivers and streams that feed into it.

Lake Erie is unique in ways that make it more vulnerable than other Great Lakes. Lake Erie basin users withdraw more water than from any of the other Great Lakes. As the shallowest and warmest of the lakes, Lake Erie is the most fragile. It also has the most limited and constricted flows coming into the lake as any of the Great Lakes.



A science-based tool developed by The Nature Conservancy in collaboration with the Midwest Biodiversity Institute would enable Ohio Department of Natural Resources officials to accurately determine appropriate water use thresholds based on the size and water quality of the stream, as well as the impact that a specific water withdrawal may have on a river or stream. This directs users to withdrawal sites that can provide sustainable water supplies while avoiding withdrawals in streams that have an inadequate water supply.

Lake Erie by the numbers...

- The Lake supports a \$10 billion tourism industry
- It supports \$1 billion sport fishing industry
- Lake Erie produces more fish for human consumption than all other Great Lakes combined
- 250,000 jobs in manufacturing, tourism and agriculture exist directly because of the Lake

The tool was designed using the U.S. Geological Survey's flow data and more than 20 years of ecological data collected by the state, which links the amount of water withdrawn to a

percentage of flow-sensitive fish and wildlife species that could be lost within a particular river watershed from depleted water flow.

By 2013 each Great Lakes state must develop and implement a water management program.

That is a provision of the Great Lakes Compact, an agreement reached by Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, Minnesota and Pennsylvania. Ohio ratified the deal in 2008. The compact, debated for 10 years, is designed to support current and long term business interests, and explicitly recognizes a need for a balance between economic and environmental interests.



Closing Loophole on Gun Show Sales Proposed

Legislation would ensure proper background and criminal records check

A bill pending in the Ohio House would close a loophole that allows for guns to be easily purchased and sold at gun shows without a proper background and criminal records check.

The legislation would ensure that only responsible citizens are obtaining guns and will help stem the tide of illegal gun trafficking in and out of the state of Ohio.

The bill requires that background checks are conducted on all those making firearms purchases at gun shows and that a record of that check is maintained. Anyone failing a background check would be reported to law enforcement. Failure to conduct a background check would be a misdemeanor under the legislation.

Under current federal law, private sellers, who maintain that they sell guns only occasionally, do not need to be licensed and so are exempt from running background checks regardless of where they sell a gun. This gap in federal background check laws, often called the "Gun Show Loophole," is associated with gun shows because they are a large and central marketplace where purchasers who wish to avoid detection can easily connect with private sellers.



Shoppers at a recent gun show

The vast majority of people who either visit or sell guns at gun shows are law-abiding citizens and dealers.

However, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) reports that 30 percent of guns involved in federal illegal gun trafficking investigations are connected to gun shows ("Mayors Against Illegal Guns").

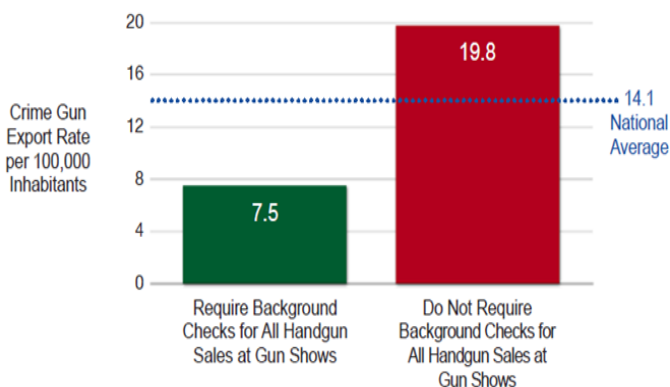
The City of New York investigated 7 gun shows in 3 states (including Ohio) involving buys from 47 gun sellers using hidden cameras.

The investigation videos showed that 35 out of 47 sellers approached by undercover investigators at these gun shows sold guns illegally.

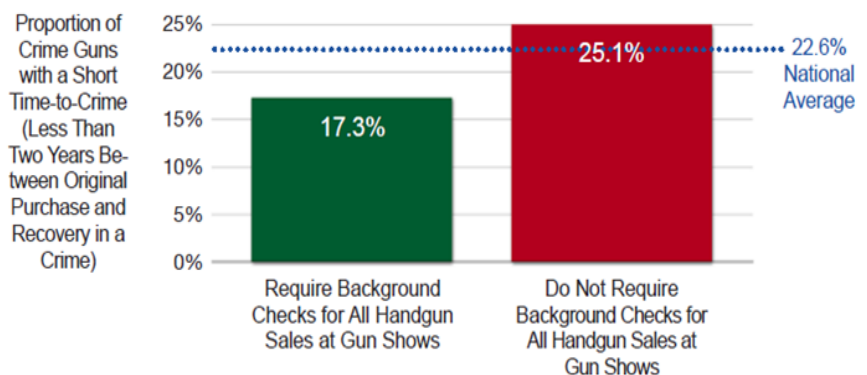
19 of 30 private sellers – 63% – broke the law by completing a sale to a buyer who they thought could not pass a background check.

Meanwhile, the Washington Post recently quoted a self-proclaimed al-Qaeda spokesman calling on terrorists to exploit the gun show loophole.

Relationship Between Crime Gun Export Rates and State Laws Requiring Background Checks for All Handgun Sales at Gun Shows



Relationship Between Time-to-Crime and State Laws Requiring Background Checks for All Handgun Sales at Gun Shows



Caution Needed Before Privatizing State Services

Taxpayers' rights, safety must be protected

The privatization of government is a risky business. It raises questions of transparency, ethics and accountability. The state must also consider whether the move is in your best interests in both the short and long term. Many ideas such as leasing the Ohio Turnpike or selling prisons appear to offer the state a windfall profit.



The sale or leasing of prisons raises ethical questions of who should maintain control over the business of punishment, and if prisons should be a for-profit business.



The safety record of privately run prisons has also come into question. In 1998, six inmates escaped from a privately operated prison near

Youngstown in broad daylight; five of the six escapees had been imprisoned for murder. [Dayton Daily News, 8/8/2011]

However, the price for this one time cash infusion may be high. Public safety could be put at risk, or, in the case of the Turnpike, the state would lose an annual source of much-needed revenue.

The revenue from a potential privately run Turnpike could also leave the state, as many private operators are based on Wall Street or overseas.

The Ohio Turnpike has helped support local economies for years by creating and maintaining jobs. Communities fear privatization will cause drastic increases in toll costs, and the 241 mile road that stretches Northeast Ohio—through the Snowbelt—will not be as well maintained.

Privatization of state property or functions could create serious economic and safety issues that should be addressed before any such deal is made.

Recently the state decided to take back control of a privately-operated prison here in Ohio, citing cost savings as the reason. However, cost savings and financial needs are the same reasons given to lease and sell these valuable state assets in the first place.

There has also been talk of turning the Ohio Lottery over to a private company. Again, it is important to first investigate whether any such contract makes sense in the long run and we must ensure it doesn't become a sweetheart deal for outside interests.

Privatizing of government property, facilities, services or functions raises numerous questions and concerns and it is crucial that this process be as thorough and transparent as possible before these decisions are made.

Bills pending in the Ohio House that deal with privatizing state facilities

House Bill 213

Prohibits the sale or lease of the Ohio Turnpike.

House Bill 342

Prevents companies that take over privatized state property or functions from outsourcing Ohio jobs out of state or overseas.

House Bill 113

The "Taxpayers' Right to Know" Act requires that all records of public-private partnership with state functions are public records with official business conducted in open meetings.

Find Unclaimed Funds Easily on State Website

Searchable online database reconnects Ohioans to forgotten money



Do you know where all your money is?

Each year, due to death, oversight or forgetfulness, more than 200,000 people and organizations lose track of money, rights to monies or non-

material properties in Ohio. The Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Unclaimed Funds is responsible for the safekeeping and return of money that becomes designated as "unclaimed."

The Division was created to protect Ohioans who have inactive accounts with financial institutions, corporations, proprietorships, partnerships and estates, trusts, charitable organizations, fraternal or cooperative associations, and other entities.

With more 4 million accounts worth approximately \$1,200,000,000 in its custody, the division is diligent in its efforts to locate missing owners and reunite them with their lost assets.

Annually, the division publishes advertisements in newspapers across the state listing owners of

accounts valued at \$50 or more that were reported to the Division during the prior year.

In 1997, the Division put its entire database on its website. This database, which is completely searchable by name, includes accounts from the Division's inception in 1968 for all amounts of money.

To search on-line for funds under your name, visit <http://www.com.ohio.gov/unfd/>, click on the "Online Treasure Hunt" webpage and follow the instructions.

Common Sources of Unclaimed Funds:

- Dormant savings and checking accounts
- Unpaid insurance policies
- Underlying shares of stock
- Unreturned rent and utility deposits
- Forgotten layaway deposits
- Credit memos
- Unclaimed wages or commissions
- Securities
- Undelivered and uncashed stock dividends
- Credit balances
- Uncashed checks
- Intangible contents of safe deposit boxes

Ohio Statehouse Celebrates 150 Years in 2011

Sesquicentennial celebration to include events, re-enactments and exhibits

After 22 years of construction, the Ohio Statehouse was completed in 1861 at the beginning of the American Civil War. One hundred and fifty years later, the Ohio Statehouse continues to serve as the heart of Ohio democracy.

The Statehouse is considered to be one of the most significant architectural accomplishments of the early republic. Its Greek Revival Doric architectural details and proportions give the impression of permanence, elegance and grandeur deserved by the original State Legislature who passed a law on January 26, 1838 to build the new Statehouse. Restored to its 1861 appearance, the Ohio Statehouse maintains its historic character as it continues to function as the center of state government in Ohio.

The Ohio Statehouse will host a variety of special events, re-enactments and exhibits throughout 2011 to celebrate the sesquicentennial of Ohio's Capitol Building. The events will commemorate the lasting legacy and history of the Ohio Statehouse.

