



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,

2011 is the year for redistricting. Once every ten years Congressional and state legislative district lines are redrawn as a result of the national census, which occurred in 2010. Here in Ohio we will lose two congressional seats due to population shifts.

A bi-partisan panel of Ohio House and Senate members has recently begun the process of Congressional redistricting by holding five hearings around the state for public input. The citizen participation and interest we have seen at these hearings is encouraging. It is crucial that the redistricting process be fully transparent and open to the public to protect the best interest of all Ohioans. The backroom deals of years past should not be tolerated, because the district lines that are drawn in the coming weeks will largely determine who will make our laws for the next decade. Citizens must take advantage of this opportunity to hold legislators accountable.

The gerrymandering of districts to protect incumbents at the expense of fairness must be removed and more accountability created. Creating more competitive districts will force greater accountability to voters. It is crucial that we work to draw districts that are as competitive as possible, are compact, and keep communities of interest together, in order to give equal voice to all voters.

As the process of drawing district lines moves forward we must work to protect Ohioans' civil rights and the diversity of our great state, in compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Voting Rights Act applies to all states and prohibits practices that would deny or abridge anyone's right to vote based on race, color, or minority language status. All voters must be assured an equal opportunity to participate in the political process and to elect candidates of their choice.

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 A. Boyd".

Barbara Boyd
State Representative

CONTACT

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Protecting Our Great Lake

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

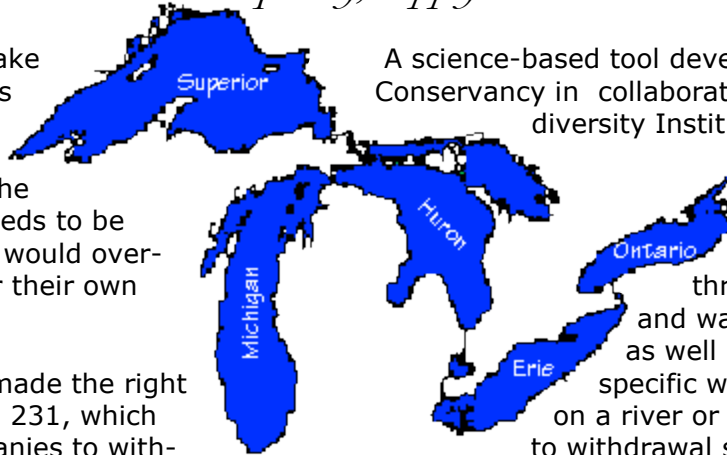
When you look out over Lake Erie, you see what appears to be an endless supply of water and natural beauty that should last forever. The reality is that Lake Erie needs to be protected from those who would over-use this great resource for their own profit.

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").

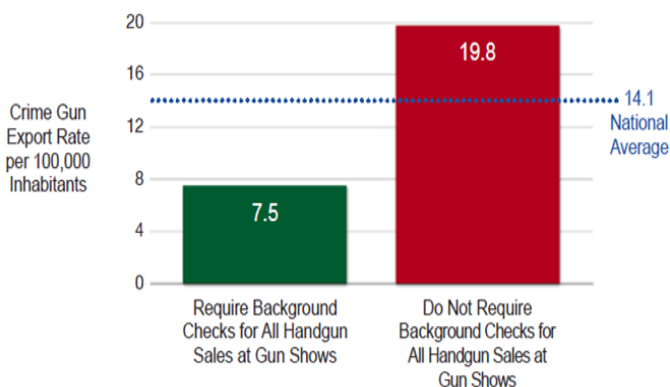
The City of New York investigated 7 gun shows in 3 states (including Ohio) involving buys from 47 gun sellers using hidden cameras.

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

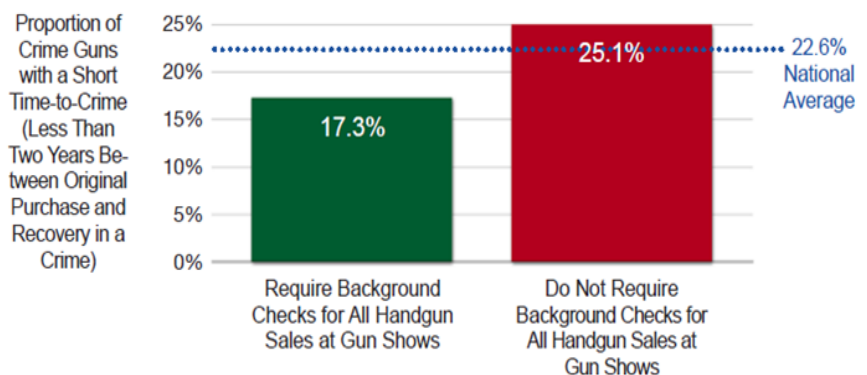
19 of 30 private sellers – 63% – broke the law by completing a sale to a buyer who they thought could not pass a background check.

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



Work Begins on I-90 in Cleveland

Construction project means closing, lane restrictions

The I-90 construction project is underway, and it will mean big changes in the traffic patterns through Cleveland.

It's not exactly "carnageddon," but the work includes the entire replacement of the Inner Belt Bridge. It will ensure that the span lasts another twenty years, but it will also mean that the bridge is closed for two years while the construction is underway, according to the Ohio Department of Transportation website.

According to the quarterly ODOT newsletter, "I-90 westbound will be reduced to two (2) lanes between E 14th Street and Ontario. I-90 eastbound will have a similar change, also being reduced to two (2) lanes in the downtown section. This lane configuration is likely to remain in place for at least three to six months, possibly longer."

Because of these closings and lane reductions, ODOT strongly suggests drivers find alternative routes.

Additionally, there is concern over the closing of certain exits, such as the Carnegie exit. According to ODOT, there will be a significant number of concrete barriers and channelizers that will enable those merging onto I-90 east bound to safely enter from I-77. However, for safety assurance of those merging from I-77, those traveling eastbound on I-

90 will not be able to exit at E 22nd or Carnegie. Exits that can be used are Ontario, E 9th or Chester. Vehicles still traveling from I-77 northbound will still have access to E 22nd and Carnegie.

Innerbelt Bridge History

The earliest structure at the same location as today's Central Viaduct (as the current I-90 bridge is called) was opened in 1888 after three years of construction for a total cost of \$675,000.

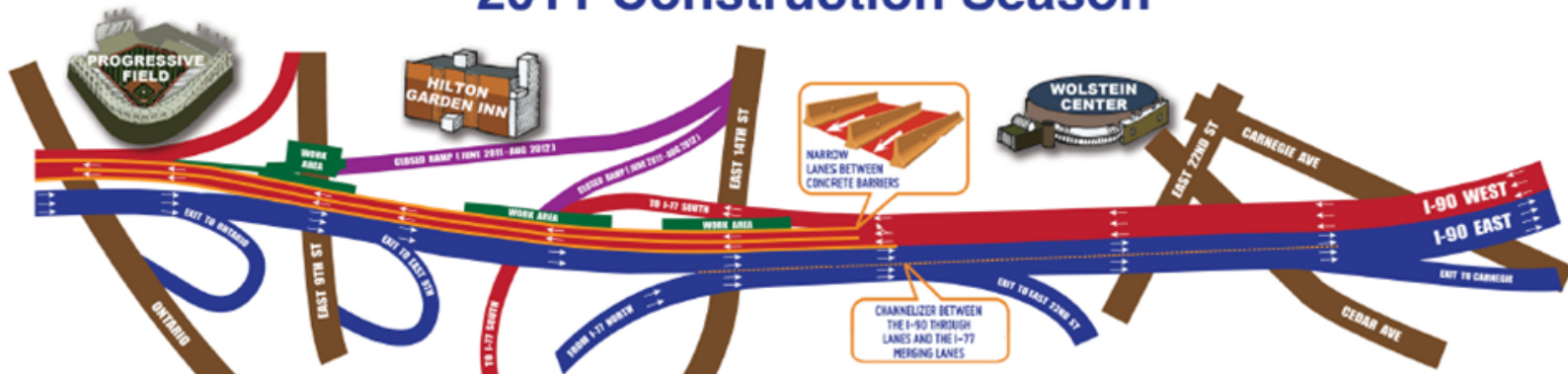
The first bridge originally had a swing section to allow high-masted ships to pass.

In 1912, the draw section of the bridge was replaced with an overhead truss. In 1914, the wooden bridge deck was damaged by a fire in the lumber yard in the Flats below the bridge. The bridge was again carrying traffic by 1915.

The original bridge continued to serve Cleveland traffic until January of 1941, when it was condemned and closed to traffic. While efforts were made to preserve the historic structure, it was torn down and the 500 tons of steel were converted to scrap to be used during World War II.

ODOT info

I-90 Traffic Plan-Downtown Cleveland 2011 Construction Season



ODOT Map

Legislative Survey

REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA BOYD
OCTOBER 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 believe the state's prisons would be better run by private corporations?

- 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. Would you support tax breaks for banks in Ohio?

- 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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