



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,

Your state government is just that; yours. And for that reason you have a right to know what your government is doing at all times. That's why it is important to have an open, accountable and transparent state government.

There have been a number of disturbing examples where openness is not being observed, including putting major new policy directives into the state budget without any public hearings, exempting JobsOhio from public records and allowing lobbyists to work directly with the non-partisan Legislative Services Commission to write bill language.

The House is currently considering the 'Taxpayer's Right to Know Act' (HB 113) which requires that all records from the performance or assistance of a public-private partnership with state functions are public records, and that such entities must conduct official business in open meetings.

There will also be legislation introduced this fall to roll back attempts to make it easier for officials to stonewall public records requests.

There is also a bill to limit special interest groups' access to the bill-writing process. House Bill 294 – The Commonsense Transparency Bill – prohibits outside parties and individuals from meeting with the Legislative Services Commission (LSC) without a member of the General Assembly or their staff present. LSC is the non-partisan agency that assists the legislature in writing the specific language of bills. The Commonsense Transparency Bill also specifies any form of written, oral, or electronic communication as a meeting that must include either a member or their staff.

While communication between lawmakers and LSC is confidential, the legislation would clarify state law that communications between outside groups or individuals and LSC would be considered public records. These steps will ensure that the process of developing legislation in Ohio is open and accountable.

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!**

Redrawing District Lines in Ohio

Voters should pick their politicians, not the other way around

2011 is the year for redistricting.

Congressional and legislative districts will be redrawn as a result of the 2010 National Census. In Ohio, two congressional districts will be lost because other states added more people than Ohio in the past decade.

State leaders are in the process of creating new congressional and state legislative districts. The districts they draw in upcoming weeks will largely determine who will make our laws for the next decade.

Historically, following the census, the political party in favor has gone in the backroom to draw new districts designed to give their political party the greatest possible advantage. And they have been very successful. In 18 of the last 20 elections, the political party that elected the most state representatives was the party which had drawn the lines to create the districts.

Led by the League of Women Voters of Ohio, Ohio Citizen Action and the Midwest Democracy Network, 25 Ohio organizations have banded together to seek fair, accountable and nonpartisan redistricting — and provide the tools for you to make this happen.

Recently, a competition was launched that gives private citizens access to the same census and election data used by the politicians to draw congressional and legislative maps. These maps will be scored by objective nonpartisan criteria including measuring the degree to which maps create districts that preserve county and municipal boundaries, are compact and are politically balanced.

In order to promote quality competition, prize money will be awarded to those who draw high-scoring maps. More importantly, the winning maps will be submitted to the Ohio Legislature and Apportionment Board.

\$5,000 in cash prizes will be shared by

the authors of the highest scoring plans and will include cash scholarships for the top plans created by high school and college students.

The wonders of modern computer technology now allow public participation in a way that was never before possible.

Plans submitted during the competition will be scored using four objective criteria:

1. Preserving County Boundaries—measuring the number of counties which are unnecessarily split into separate districts. This helps keep communities of interest together and makes it easier for citizens to understand in which district they live.
2. Compactness—measuring the geographical compactness of the districts. This discourages bizarrely-shaped legislative districts which unnecessarily spread voters apart.
3. Competitiveness—measuring the number of districts which are truly competitive. This gives Ohioans a stronger voice in choosing their representatives.
4. Representational Fairness—measuring the degree to which a plan unfairly favors one political party over another. This encourages plans in which the number of district which favor each political party reflects the statewide political balance.

All you need to participate is a computer and access to the Internet. Log on to www.drawthelineohio.org and start drawing. Act soon. The competition deadlines are fast approaching.



Drawing district lines to favor one party or another is often called Gerrymandering, as in the political cartoon (left) from 1812. It represents the Massachusetts districts drawn by Gov. Elbridge Gerry. Critics said it looked like a salamander, which morphed into Gerrymander as a play on the governor's name.

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 "carmageddon," 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.

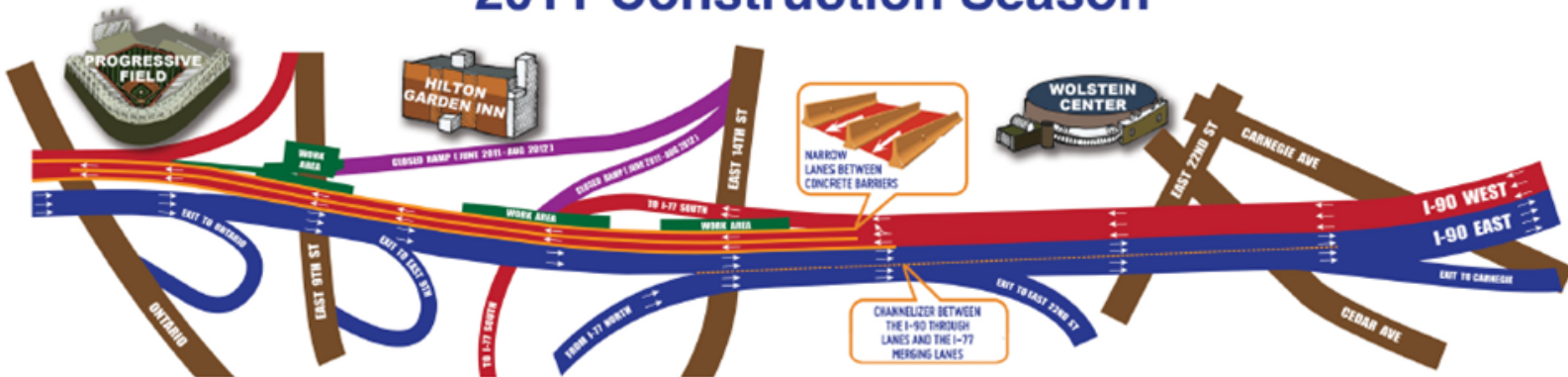
The first bridge originally had a swing section to allow high-masted ships to pass.

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
SEPTEMBER 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:

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 _____



TAPE HERE

**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

FOLD UNDER