



# 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,

Irresponsibility on Wall Street has created economic uncertainty on Main Street. That's why my colleagues and I in Columbus are focused on job creation efforts and consumer issues to protect the pocketbooks of hard working Ohioans.

In the state legislature, we have passed a number of job creation efforts that will bring new jobs and new businesses to Ohio. We have invested in our roads and bridges, which are the lifelines of a healthy economy. This too has expanded the job market across the state.

In addition to helping create jobs now, we've also taken steps to ensure that the next generation is well positioned for success in tomorrow's economy. By replacing Ohio's broken school funding system with one based on student needs, Ohio will better prepare our students for the challenges of the twenty-first century economy.

Keeping college affordable is also important for families and for Ohio's future economic prosperity. We've passed legislation that prevents Ohio's public colleges and universities from raising their tuition by more than 3.5 percent. This will not only protect the pocketbooks of families sending their kids to college, but it will also prepare the next generation for success in an ever-changing, global economy.

We have also been taking action to protect Ohio families that have been hurt by the national housing crisis and provided protections for families coping with difficult healthcare issues like diabetes and autism. We are currently working on legislation that will protect students from starting off their careers in debt by limiting credit card marketing on college campuses.

There have been positive signs lately that the economy is improving, but we must continue to do all we can to hasten Ohio's economic recovery. My fellow lawmakers and I will be doing so by continuing to foster job creation and protecting the pocketbooks of hard-working Ohioans.

There is also a strong emphasis on keeping ourselves and our loved ones safe and healthy during the upcoming flu season. This flu season may also be more infectious given the status of H1N1. Please review and disperse the helpful information which may keep you and your loved ones safe from infection.

## CONTACT

### Columbus Office

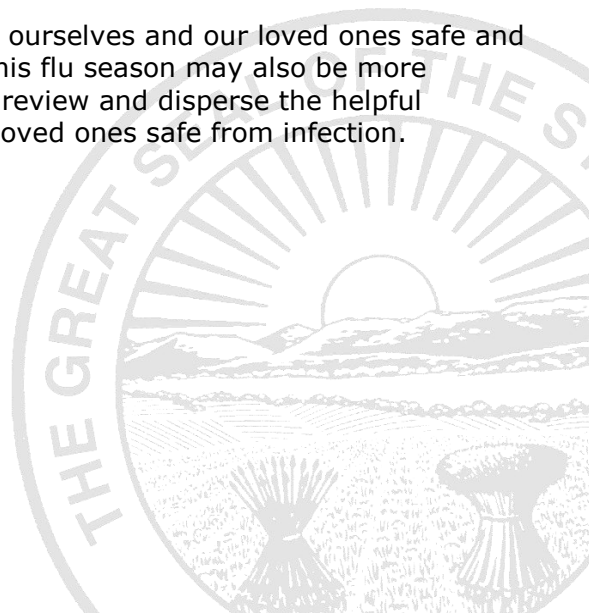
9th District  
77 South High Street  
11th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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)

Sincerely,

**Barbara Boyd**  
State Representative



## How To Contact 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

District Phone/Fax Line:  
(216) 371-3888



### 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, 11th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

## Help is Available to Prevent Foreclosures

### *Important Contact Numbers to Save*

Foreclosures are a devastating threat to our families and our communities. You work hard and make sacrifices to achieve the American Dream of homeownership. But the unexpected—job loss, death of a spouse, illness, divorce, or rising mortgage payments—can threaten that dream. There is help available, however. Below are some phone numbers of groups and organizations that may be able to help you.

United Way Services First Call For Help 216-436-2000 or 2-1-1

Foreclosure Prevention Program of Cuyahoga County 216-443-8182

Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland 216-458-4663

ESOP, Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People 216-361-0718

Hebrew Free Loan Association of Greater Cleveland 216-378-9042

Minneapolis-based Homeowners Preservation Foundation 1-888-9954673

Housing Advocated Emergency Assistance 216-431-7400

Community Housing Solutions 216-231-5815

Court of Common Pleas Foreclosure Mediation Program 216-443-8726

Ohio's Save the Dream Hotline 1-888-404-4674



SAVE THE  
*dream*  
OHIO'S FORECLOSURE  
PREVENTION EFFORT

### **IMPORTANT TIP:**

Contact your mortgage loan servicer at the first sign that you may have difficulty in making your mortgage payment. Explain your circumstances and ask to participate in a workout resolution. Even if the foreclosure process has started, it is not too late to reach out to your servicer.

## Comprehensive Elections Bill Introduced

*Broad Consensus-Building Effort Results in Common-Sense Legislation*

The Ohio House is considering legislation to significantly enhance Ohio's election laws. It comes after nearly a year long process of input gathering and consensus building among top election law experts, state and local elections officials, voting rights advocates, and elected officials from both political parties.

House Bill 260 will promote greater civic engagement in our elections by making comprehensive, common-sense changes to Ohio's election laws.

It will streamline Ohio's election laws to make it easier on voters and local elections officials who are often frustrated by litigation and piecemeal procedural changes shortly before Election Day.

The *Elections Enhancement Bill* was developed in coordination with Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, who earlier this year held two statewide elections summits on a range of topics from early voting to provisional balloting.



### **Enhance Opportunities for Voter Registration**

This legislation will implement a process for correcting voter registration errors. It specifies a process for the cancellation of voter registration due to death, incompetence, or incarceration as these cancellations are required under current Ohio law. And, it provides for improved enforcement of the National Voter Registration Act (the "Motor Voter" Act) to help standardize the process for registering thousands of Ohio voters.

### **Simplify and Improve the Absentee Voting Process**

HB 260 offers additional methods for applying for an absentee ballot, including online applications. It improves the process for delivering ballots to voters and for accepting returned ballots. This legislation also expands the number of in-person early voting locations. And it decreases the period for in-person early voting to 18 days before a general election.

### **Enhancements for the Statewide Voter Registration Database**

Under this bill, Ohio will require that data from the statewide voter registration database would be checked against data from the BMV and Social Security Administration, as required by the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA). It also ensures that a non-match could not, on its own, be the basis for disenfranchising a voter.

### **Reform Provisional Balloting**

Unfortunately, Ohio has one of the highest provisional voting rates in the country. This bill limits the reasons voters are required to cast a provisional ballot and increases the instances where that ballot is counted. Additionally, HB 260 modifies the wrong precinct rule and modernizes change-of-name or address laws so that these voters no longer will be required to vote provisionally.



*Common sense elections enhancement bill (House Bill 260) would make voting more accessible for Ohioans.*

## Ohio House Considers Ban on Texting While Driving

*Studies Show It Is More Dangerous Than Other Distractions*

Consider this the next time you are driving. How safe would it be if you took your eyes completely off the road for five full seconds? Count the time off to see just how long that is. Take into account in that length of time; you've driven the length of a football field.

It sounds like an invitation to an accident or worse, but it's what happens when someone is texting while driving. New studies not only show that the practice is dangerous, but it is far riskier than other driving distractions.

The Ohio House of Representatives is currently considering a law that would make it illegal to send text messages while driving. Backers note that a texting driver not only risks their own life, but those of drivers and pedestrians all around them. At least 14 states including California, New Jersey and Alaska already ban texting while driving, and others are considering it.

We are certainly texting more. The cell phone industry says Americans send 110 billion

messages a month, 10 times the number just three years ago.

And while it may seem obvious that paying more attention to a little keypad instead of the road would be risky, there are a growing number of studies that prove just how dangerous the practice can be.

The American Automobile Association, for example, recently found that someone sending a text message is 50-percent more likely to be in an accident.

The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute put cameras in truck cabs, and found drivers were 23 times more likely to be in a crash while they were texting. At the University of Utah, researchers put students

in a driving simulator and found they were 8 times more likely to crash while texting. That study, to be published in *The Journal for Human Factors*, also found that drivers took their eyes off the road for around five seconds when texting.

If texting while driving is so dangerous, why are people still doing it?

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found 87% of people they surveyed believe texting drivers are a "very serious" safety threat, about the same percentage who feels the same way about drunk drivers. 95% of the people in their 2009 Traffic Culture Index poll say texting behind the wheel is unacceptable, yet 21% say they have recently done it.

Backers of an Ohio texting ban believe these statistics prove the need for a statewide law outlawing the practice.



Photo courtesy AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

## Chairwoman Boyd's House Health Committee Update

*Bills Being Considered; Health Care Grant Money Coming to the District*

The Ohio House Health Committee is back in session with its first return meeting on September 30, 2009 and a stacked agenda of seven bills, including:

House Bill 206 proposed by myself and Representative Scott Oelslager (R-51<sup>st</sup> District) is a bill that would allow for APNs (Advanced Practice Nurses) to be able to prescribe Schedule II drugs, which include: opiates, stimulants, and others to increase access to affordable and high quality health care. This bill was voted out of the Health Committee.



House Bill 122 proposed by myself is a bill that would establish standards for physician designations by health care insurers.

I am also in the works of producing legislation that will require home health care agencies to gain licensure to ensure that our loved ones are being taken care of properly and with qualified personnel. Because of these efforts, on September 24, 2009, The Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice presented me with the "Excellence in Care Award." It is a biennial award designed to recognize a public official who has made a significant contribution to the improvement and advancement of home care and the accessibility of home care to the public. It was held at the Columbus Convention Center and was a great event with many in the home care and hospice business gathered to honor and celebrate the importance of keeping our loved ones healthy and comfortable in home environments. I am extremely honored with this award.



will require home health care agencies to gain licensure to ensure that our loved ones are being taken care of

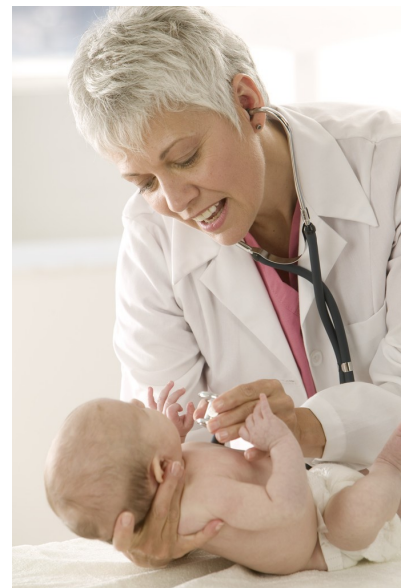
Also in legislation is the House Resolution that I adopted which would designate September "Atherosclerosis Awareness Month."

Atherosclerosis is the progressive buildup of plaque—made of fat, cholesterol, and other substances—in the inner walls of the arteries. The plaque build-up causes the interior of the arteries to constrict, reducing blood supply to vital organs such as the heart and brain, and depriving them of oxygen and vital nutrients. It is a leading cause of coronary heart disease which afflicts 1.26 million Americans every year.

In fact, one American will suffer a coronary event about every 25 seconds, and about every minute someone will die from one as noted by the American Heart Association. Heart disease accounted for 27 % of deaths in Ohio in 2005, while stroke caused 6% of deaths.

The Ohio Department of Health issued a letter to our capital office informing us of funds awarded in our district.

We are pleased to announce that \$532,827.00 in grant funding has been awarded. The University Hospitals of Cleveland's Genetic Services received \$282,228.00. This will service the Regional Comprehensive Genetic Center. The Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center received \$248,599.00 for the Regional Infant Hearing program. This program will provide follow-up and tracking of infants who did not pass their newborn hearing screening & to provide rehabilitative services to infants and toddlers who have been diagnosed as hard-of-hearing.



## Recognizing and Preventing the Spread of H1N1 Flu

*How to Keep Yourself Educated and Healthy This Flu Season*



You know how it starts. You feel a little achy, a little feverish and before you know it, you have a full-blown case of it. It's influenza, commonly known as the flu, and it spreads quickly and causes discomfort for many. This flu season is predicted to be especially active due a new offender: the H1N1 virus.

Also known as "swine flu," the H1N1 virus is a new strain of influenza. The World Health Organization (WHO) designated the H1N1 virus a pandemic in June of this year. The term "pandemic" refers to diseases that are spread over large geographic areas. There were three influenza pandemics in the 20<sup>th</sup> century; H1N1 is the first declared flu pandemic of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Symptoms of the illness are similar to other strains of influenza and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Many people with swine flu also experienced vomiting and diarrhea. The virus is thought to spread mainly person to person through coughing and sneezing, like other stains of the flu. People may also become infected by touching objects or surfaces with the virus on them and then touching their mouths, eyes or noses.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has several recommendations to avoid becoming ill from the H1N1 virus or any other type of flu. Among the suggestions are staying away from those who are ill. If you should become sick yourself, the agency urges

you to stay away from healthy people. This advice is particularly appropriate for schools where tight quarters can lead to large numbers of people getting sick very quickly.

Ohio's colleges and universities have taken precautions to prevent a rapid spread of the virus among students. Flyers explaining how to prevent catching or spreading the flu can be found around many campuses. Some schools have even provided hand sanitizer in dormitories and classrooms and special housing quarters for students who are ill and cannot go home.

Another tool available to prevent infection is a flu vaccine. A seasonal flu vaccine is available now and although it won't protect you from H1N1, it will provide protection against other circulating strains.

For more information on the development of H1N1 vaccine and other flu information, visit the ODH Web site at [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov) anytime, or call ODH's H1N1 information line at 1-866-800-1404 Monday-Friday.

### To prevent catching or spreading the flu , the Ohio Department of Health recommends...

- Cover your mouth or nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue away after you use it.
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow or upper sleeve if you do not have a tissue.
- Wash your hands often with soap or water, especially after you cough, sneeze or use the restroom and before eating. If you do not have soap or water nearby, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth as germs can be spread easily from or to these areas.

